

The Bulwark

AUGUST 2, 2026

“AND OTHER SEED FELL UPON THE GOOD SOIL”

One can easily understand why Kansas is called the “Sunflower State”. Zipping along the Interstate at 70 miles per hour it seems as if there is no end to the hearty plants.

My wife, an avid lover of all things plant related could no doubt tell you that the sunflower is in the daisy family. That not only is it grown simply as a flower but it is harvested for its seeds. There are two types of seeds; one confectionary and the other oil. The confectionary seeds are the ones we snack on while the oilseeds as the name implies are made into oil for cooking.



Amazing what a simple little seed can do. In chapter eight of Luke, Jesus uses seed and soil for a powerful parable. *“The sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell beside the road; and it was trampled under foot, and the birds of the air ate it up. And other seed fell on rocky soil, and as soon as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And other seeds fell among the thorns; and the thorns grew up with it, and choked it out. And other seed fell into good soil, and grew up, and produced a crop a hundred times as great.”* (Luke 8:5-8) Naturally Jesus’ disciples began asking of Him what was the meaning of the parable. Whereupon He began explaining each part of the parable.

The seed is the word of God. When spread out the seed, God’s word can even sprout among the most hardened, but it was short lived (along the roadside). Then there

are those who are represented by the rocky soil. They receive the word with exceeding joy, because they have no firm root, they believe for a little while and then fall away. The seed that fell among the thorns are those who heard the word but are choked by the worries, riches and pleasures of this world. But when the seed is coupled with good soil, the harvest it produces is indeed plentiful.

Now think back to where we started with this article, talking about sunflowers. There is something of a unique nature about them, it is called heliotropism. Young sunflowers follow closely the movement of the sun throughout the day. Turning always in order to be able to face the sun. Once mature sunflowers always face eastward, which allows the face of the flower to warm, which in turn increases visits from pollinator bees, which ultimately results in a greater harvest.

Now flip what was just presented into that which is spiritual. As children of God, the word fell onto

good soil, it has produced as designed. Now as an individual we need to continue to grow and to do so we must ever face toward the Son. Finally as a mature christian our focus and priority will always be directed toward Him. Locked in as it were. Amazing the correlation that can be seen, isn’t it?

The author of Hebrews notes, *“let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”* (12:1-2) The key for us is to focus on Christ and grow daily. (wbe)

A Publication of the Winnetka Ave. Church of Christ

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