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Seeds

I want to follow Jesus, now what?

How do I know when God is speaking to me and how do I respond?

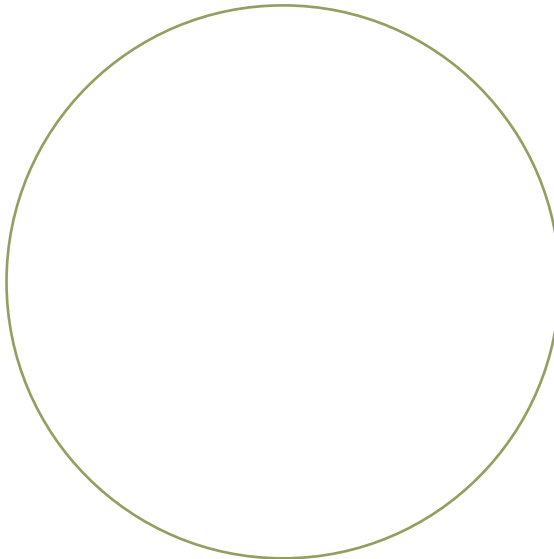
From the moment that you step off “the throne” of your life and allow Jesus to be Master and King, you are submitting and trusting His leadership in your life. To follow Jesus, we are constantly asking these 2 questions:

What is God saying to me?

Whether that be through His word (the Bible), through community, or through prayer, God is always speaking to you.

What am I going to do about it?

When God speaks to us, we have to respond in obedience, otherwise He is not the master of our lives. So when He speaks, we respond.



Mark 1:9-15

Someone responding to the message of Jesus is in a precarious situation. When you hear what God has done for you and what you are guilty of, it's a lot to take in. Indeed, there are many forces at work that make the step of faith and putting your trust in God and what he has done for you difficult:

1. This faith is counter cultural, so you must overcome what people may say or think about your faith.
2. It goes against some of your own habits and the ways you have functioned in life for a long time. Faith in Christ requires you to repeatedly choose new ways of thinking that differ from desires you've developed over the years.
3. There are even spiritual forces working against you believing and placing your faith in Jesus. (Think about the "birds" in the sower parable). These spiritual forces will use anything to push you back to your old ways and keep you blinded to the goodness of God and the joy of His salvation.

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The rest of this booklet is designed to help you sink your roots into Christ and persevere in your faith. It will help you get into the bible and give you some foundational understanding of key topics and core principles of Christianity. God is pursuing you.

If the seeds of God's gospel have fallen into your life, what are the conditions of your soil? Where do you sense the greatest threat to keeping the seed from taking root and producing a crop?

Have you already sensed pushes from these three areas against believing in God and what He has done for you?

Luke 8:4-8, 11-15

⁴ While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: ⁵ "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. ⁶ Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown." When he said this, he called out, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

¹¹ "This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. ¹² Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³ Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. ¹⁴ The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. ¹⁵ But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.



Discuss:

Did you grow up in church?

*Do you remember the first time you
heard the gospel, or heard about Jesus?*

What was your first reaction?

*What influenced your decision
to follow Jesus?*

*If you haven't decided to follow Jesus
yet, what influenced your decision to
learn more about what it means
to follow Him?*