

## **SOP: Hindrances to Fruitfulness**

### **Luke 8:5-8,12-15**

- Not a seed issue—but a soil issue
- From the parable: lack of responsiveness, lack of care, unprotected, instability, temptation, worry, riches/idolatry, pleasures/lusts

## **Reasons Why We Can't/Don't Bear Fruit:**

### **Hardness of Heart**

#### **Mark 16:14**

- An actual heart condition where plaque builds up over time; the heart stiffens and becomes insensitive to electrical impulses
- Dulls the capacity to hear, understand and respond
- It is to be unmoved, unfeeling, unresponsive—to God, His Word, His will
- Not remembering
- Lack wisdom and understanding
- Pride (Pharaoh)
- Resistant to receiving

#### **Ephesians 4:17-19**

- Worldliness
- Legalism
- Longterm suffering/trauma
- Unacknowledged disappointment

### **Unbelief**

- It is not just a lack of belief but every lofty thought or argument raised up against the knowledge of God
- Unbelief is an indication of spiritual peril
- The state of our heart when we continually host a deception—a foothold/stronghold is established

#### **Matthew 13:57-58**

#### **Romans 11:19-20**

#### **Hebrews 3:12**

### **Impatience**

- Tendency to be easily frustrated or irritated
- Rising stress in the midst of a trying situation/trial
- Tends to partner with procrastination (both want immediate results)

#### **Hebrews 6:11-12**

#### **James 5:7**

### **Ability**

- Possession or the means to do something
- Talent, skill or proficiency in a particular arena
- To be entrusted with what God knows you can do
- When our freewill willingly obeys the instructions we receive from the Lord

#### **Matthew 25:14-15**

### **Laziness**

- Unwillingness to exert oneself or work, even when you have the capacity to do so.
- To lack diligence, perseverance, and emotional strength

#### **Matthew 25:25-26**

#### **Proverbs 10:4-5**

Poor is he who **works with a negligent hand**, but the hand of the diligent makes rich. He who gathers in summer is a son who acts wisely, but he who sleeps in harvest is a son who acts shamefully/