

The Rocky Soil  
Change of Heart – Part 2  
May 8-9, 2021  
Dr. Jeffrey Allen Love

**(Series Key Verse)** *“And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart.”* Ezekiel 36:26 (p.655)

**Matthew 13:1-23**

- Farmer: Jesus
- The Seed: God’s Word
- The Heart: Our Response – the difference in the results is in the soil.

*“Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. But the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn’t have deep roots, they died.”* Matthew 13:5–6 (p.744)

*“The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. But since they don’t have deep roots, they don’t last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God’s word.”* Matthew 13:20–21 (p.744)

- **Sink My Roots Deep And Wide.**

*“Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.”* Colossians 2:7 (p.903)

1. **Receive God’s Word with joy.**

*“So you received the message with joy from the Holy Spirit in spite of the severe suffering it brought you. In this way, you imitated both us and the Lord.”* 1 Thessalonians 1:6 (p.905)

2. **Prepare for the heat through obedience.**

*“Those who obey God’s commandments remain in fellowship with him, and he with them. And we know he lives in us because the Spirit he gave us lives in us.”* 1 John 3:24 (p.943)

**Next Step:** \_\_\_ I am asking God to help me as I begin one new habit this week to sink my roots deep and wide in Jesus.

- Daily time with God
- Participate regularly in weekend services
- Get connected in a group
- Serving on a ministry team
- Getting disciplined or discipling another



Discussion Guide from the Weekend Talk  
From the Weekend Talk of May 8-9, 2021  
**Change of Heart - Part 2: The Rocky Soil**

**Use this guide to discuss the Weekend Talk with your family or friends.**

When Life Groups are in session they use questions like these to go deeper into what we talked about on the weekend. Find out more about Groups (in person and online) at [alivechurch.com/groups](http://alivechurch.com/groups).

#### Conversation Starters

- What does it mean to have “roots” in your life?
- Do you have any roots? Maybe they’re tied to a specific place or location?
  - Do you look forward to getting back there either for a visit or to return permanently?
  - Maybe you are a student and look forward to heading home after being away at college?
- Do you ever feel the need to get back to your spiritual roots because you are feeling weary?
  - How can you do that? Who can help you? “recharge” your spiritual batteries.

#### Quick Review

Looking back at your Talk Notes, was there anything you heard in the service that stood out, challenged, or maybe even confused you?

#### Discussion Starters from the Weekend Talk

Refer to the Talk Notes and related Bible verses from this Weekend’s Talk Notes.

**In his Weekend Talk, Pastor Jeff Love challenged us to ...**

- **Sink My Roots Deep And Wide.**

- **Read Matthew 13:1-23 (p.,744)**
- **Read Colossians 2:7 (p.903)**
- “Deep and Wide” is a children's Sunday School song. The lyrics said, “deep and wide, deep and wide, there's a fountain flowing deep and wide.”
  - It talked about how deep and wide Jesus' love is for us. It was an action song and children enjoyed singing it because the lyrics and actions were so simple. Yet that is the gospel message - so very simple: and we need to let the roots grow down by removing the stones in our hearts by getting rid of the idols in our lives and putting Christ first.

**To sink our roots deep and wide we need to remember to do two things:**

**1. Receive God's Word with joy.**

- Read 1 Thessalonians 1:6 (p.905)
  - Another old children's gospel song. Had these lyrics: “I've got the joy joy joy joy down in my heart, deep, deep down in my heart. Jesus gave it to me, and nothing can destroy it!”
    - When we chose to follow Jesus and we knew the joy of having our sins forgiven, we may have been bouncing around like Tigger, with joy! But as we go on in our lives that Tigger-like joy has somehow diminished or disappeared; like after the first year of some marriages, the excitement fizzled out.
    - How can we reclaim/recapture that Tigger-like joy we first experienced as new Christians? (And, maybe, in our marriages, too!)

**2. Prepare for the heat through obedience.**

- Read 1 John 3:24 (p.943)
  - And another old church song is “Trust and Obey.” The lyrics say, “Trust and obey, for there is no other way to be happy in Jesus than to Trust and obey.”
    - WE can only truly Obey if we truly Trust God.
    - We had the faith to Trust Jesus for the forgiveness of our sin. We need to obey Jesus' words for how we now live out our life in Him...
      - Love one another, and Trust Him, that even if that love is pushed back by others that it is the right thing to do, regardless of the cost. After all, Jesus paid the ultimate price for us.
  - A keyword here is “prepare,” as it means we do this BEFORE the storms and heat come! How do you prepare? See the Next Step!

**Next Step**

**My Next Step:**

\_\_\_\_\_ I am asking God to help me as I begin one new habit this week to sink my roots deep and wide in Jesus.

- Daily time with God
- Participate regularly in weekend services
- Get connected in a group
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Use the link on the app or go to your Connection Card at [www.alivechurch.com/card](http://www.alivechurch.com/card) to indicate you are taking this Next Step so that we can pray for you.

### What's Ahead

- **This weekend we continue our series: *"Change of Heart."*** *What does it take to grow as a follower of Jesus? We must open our hearts, and allow the seed of God's Word to be planted there, and share it with others through discipleship.*
- **Have you signed up for our Alive Church Newsletter?**
  - Sign up here: [www.alivechurch.com/newsletter](http://www.alivechurch.com/newsletter)

\* The Life Transformation Bible is the New Living Translation of the Bible, including many useful tools to help you better understand God's Word, including our own Alive Church Life Transformation Discipleship Plan. They are available FREE. Let us know if you'd like to have one. We also have a Kids Edition of the Bible, as well.