

LIVING *a better* STORY

A SERIES *on* THE PARABLES



THE PARABLE *of* *the* SOWER

MATTHEW 13:1-9

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying:

“A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.

MATTHEW 13:1-9

“Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

”He who has ears, let him hear.”

MATTHEW 13:18-23

”Listen then to what the parable of the sower means:

“When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path.

“The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy.

MATTHEW 13:18-23

“But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away.

“The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful.

MATTHEW 13:18-23

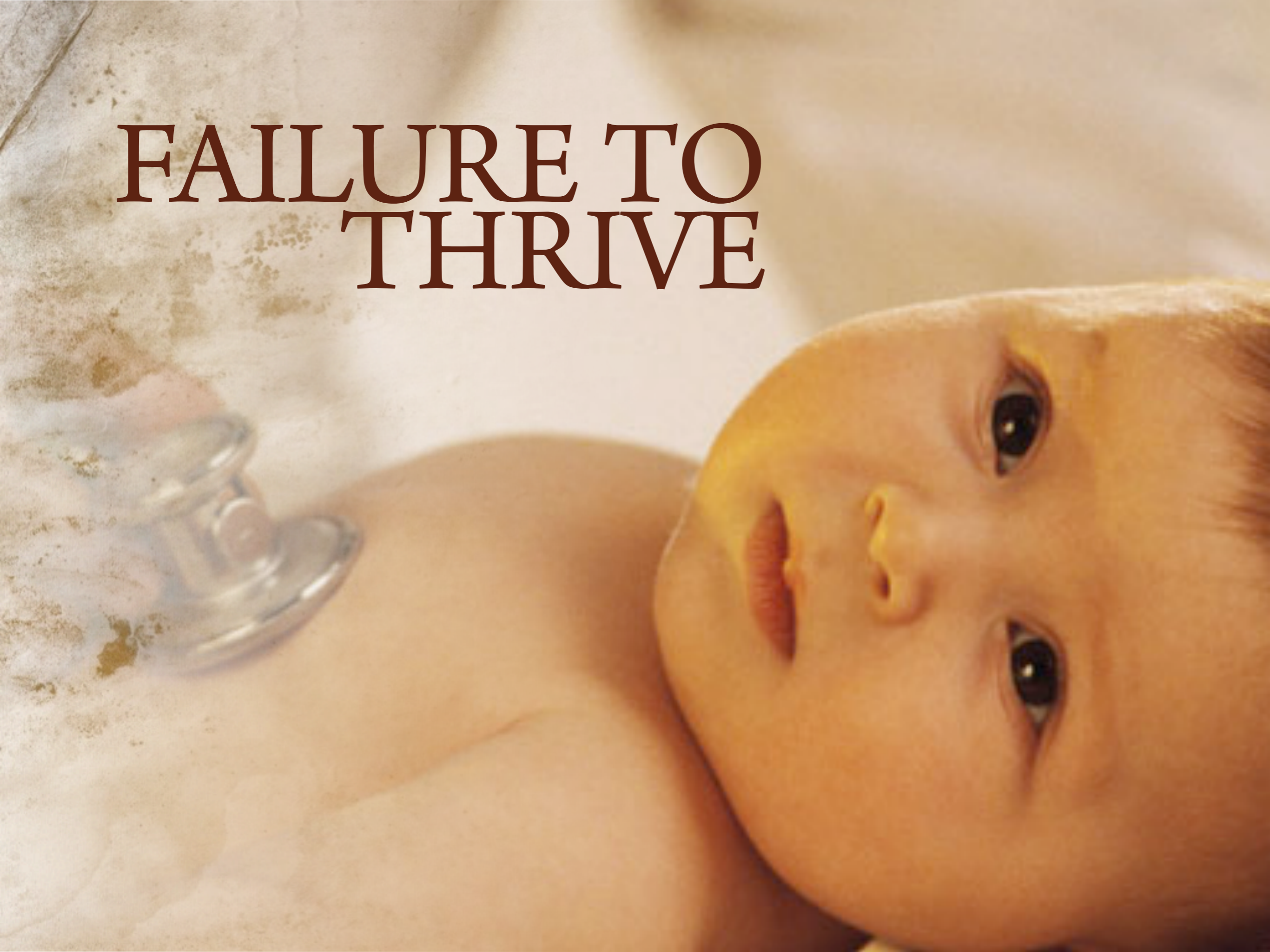
“But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

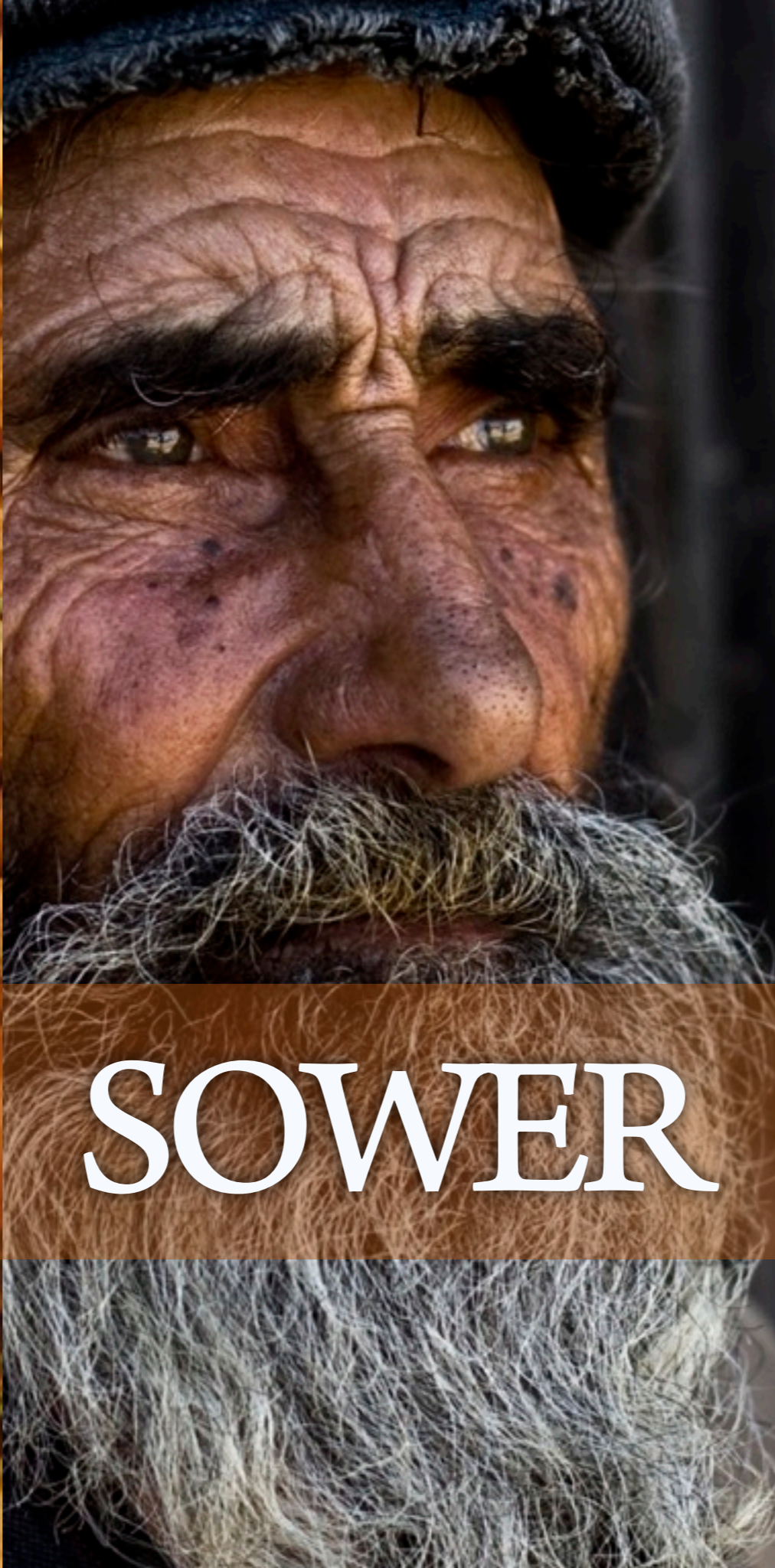


Spiritual Growth

Anything alive & healthy will have
the capacity for growth

FAILURE TO THRIVE





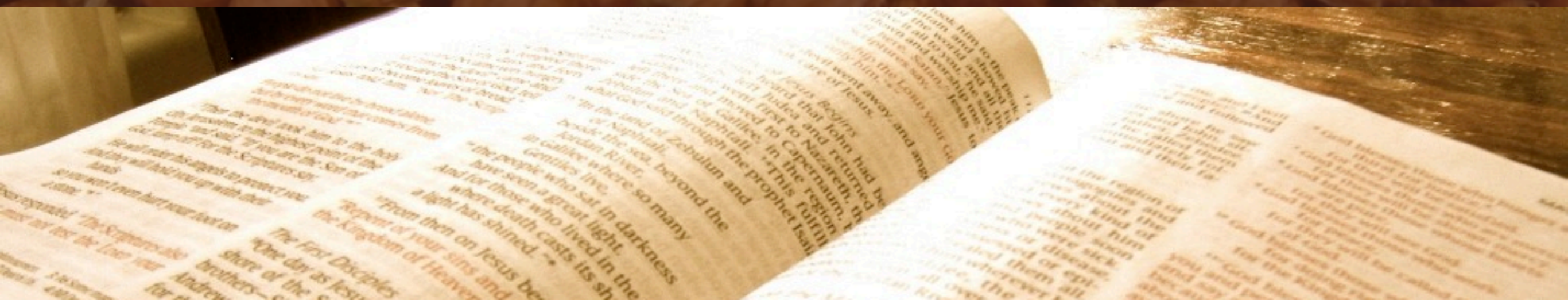
SEED

SOWER

SOIL

VARIABLE?

The Seed
Does **Not** Change



A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of Gandalf the White from 'The Lord of the Rings'. He has a long, flowing white beard and is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. The background is dark and out of focus.

VARIABLE?

The Sower
Does **Not** Change

the **VARIABLE** is
the **SOIL**

If there's no spiritual
growth in your life, you
have a **soil problem**

Hardened Soil

Sin

HEBREWS 3:13

Disappointment

1 PETER 1:3-9

Bitterness

HEBREWS 12:15

Hardened Soil

the Spiritual Growth
Barrier

A CALLOUSED SPIRIT

the Course of Action

REPENT
& RELEASE



Shallow Soil





Shallow Soil

*the Spiritual Growth
Barrier*

A CASUAL ATTITUDE
toward the things of God

The background of the image is a rocky, dry landscape with many small, light-colored stones and some larger, darker rocks. A dark brown horizontal band runs across the middle of the image, serving as a background for the text.

the Course of Action

REPENT
& RETURN

Distracted Soil



Soil

with weeds and thorns

*the Spiritual Growth
Barrier*

A CLUTTERED LIFE

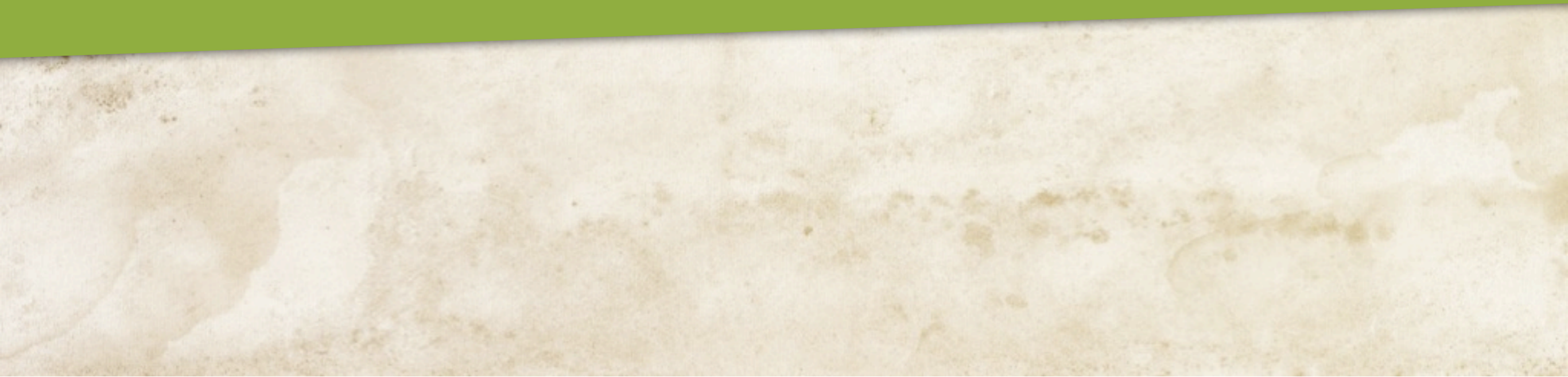


the Course of Action

REPENT
& RE-PRIORITIZE!



Where you cultivate soil that is
soft and **deep** and **uncluttered**





Where you cultivate soil that is **soft** and **deep** and **uncluttered**

Unbelievable **growth** and **fruitfulness** will happen!



“The good soil represents the hearts of those who truly accept God's message and produce a huge harvest—thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted.”

MATTHEW 13:23

*“It’s to my
Father’s glory
that you bear
much fruit.”*

