

Your Next Step with God's Word
"Taking a Deeper Look"
Luke 8:6,13

1. Taking a deeper look at spiritual **growth**

- The **Process**:
 - Natural: Seed-soil-roots-growth-fruit
 - Spiritual: Word-heart-**faith**-spiritual growth-fruit of the Spirit
- The Problem: no **root**, no **fruit**, no harvest

2. Taking a deeper look at **receiving** the Word

- **Humble Openness**
- **Eager Acceptance**
 - **Welcoming** the Word
 - **Believing** the Word

3. Taking a deeper look at times of **testing**

- What they do:
 - **Deepen** the roots of our faith; OR
 - **Expose** the shallowness of our heart.
- What they are:
 - Times of **difficulty**
 - Times of **pain**
 - Times of **temptation**

4. Taking a deeper look at our **heart**

- **Symptoms** of a shallow, rocky, dry heart
 - **Shallow** understanding
 - Lack of **obedience**
 - Loss of **hunger** for God
 - Flirting with and bound by **sin**
 - Reluctant to **surrender**
 - Unwilling to **forgive**/let go of hurts
 - Sporadic **commitment**

A shallow heart **eventually** becomes a dry heart which eventually becomes a **hard** heart.

- **Solutions** for a shallow, rocky, dry heart
 - Remove the **rocks**: Deal with past **hurts**. **Repent** of unconfessed sin.
 - Deepen the **soil**: **Surrender** to God and His growth process
 - **Water** the plants: Soak in God's **love** and His **Word**