

**Rooted**  
**“The Challenge of Growing Stronger Spiritually Strong!”**  
**Matthew 13:4-9, 19-23**

**April 23, 26-27, 2014: Cam Huxford, Senior Pastor**

**I. Why Some People Don't Grow Spiritually Strong.**

1. Some people have hearts that are hard toward the truth. *Zechariah 7:11-12*

- Hardened by their upbringing.
- Repetitive sin can harden people's hearts. *Hebrews 3:13*
- Pride and arrogance can harden people's hearts.

*Daniel 5:20*

- Some hearts are hardened by painful circumstances.
- Some are hardened by hypocrisy they see in Christians.
- Some are hardened because of familiarity.

Jesus Christ loves people with hard hearts. *Hebrews 3:7-8*

2. Some people have shallow hearts.

*John 6:66, 68-69*

Here's the good news...shallow people can grow deep!

The great thing about this soil and our hearts: they can change!

God uses three things to make shallow hearts deep:

- Knowledge of the Bible.
- Christian relationships.

Life-change and spiritual growth both happen best in small groups!

- Compassionate service.

3. Some people have distracted hearts.

*Luke 8:14, 2 Timothy 4:10, Matthew 6:33*

**II. Why Some People Consistently Grow Spiritually Strong.**

Hearts consistently grow strong when they stay open and receptive...and humble and obedient.

Soil can change!

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**Five for the Drive**

A family conversation starter for the ride home.

1. Why are some people more open to spiritual things than other people?
2. In spiritual terms, what kind of soil would you say you are at this point in your life? Hard, Rocky, Thorny, Good?
3. What are the “thorns” and “rocks” in your life which tend to choke out your spiritual growth?
4. How would you describe the root system of your spiritual life right now?
5. What steps could you take to improve the soil of your spiritual life?

## **Ministry Opportunities**

For more information about these and other events, go to [SavannahChristian.com/Events](http://SavannahChristian.com/Events).

### **Foster Care Shoebox Collection**

**Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday, April 30 and May 3-4**

#### **Mission Circle in the lobby**

Many foster children are moved from home to home, longing for a permanent family. They own very little and are attached to hardly anyone or anything. To show compassion to children in our local foster care system, you can donate a shoebox filled with toys and small gifts. We hope that these shoeboxes will remind the children that Jesus sees, loves and cares for them. Bring your filled box to the lobby on collection weekend.

### **Family Fishing Day**

**7 – 11 a.m. Saturday, May 3**

#### **Henderson Lake**

Bring your fishing gear and spend the morning with your family at Henderson Lake. Catch and release only. This is a fun opportunity to invite friends and neighbors who are not connected with the church to spend time with you here.

### **Adoration Prayer Service**

**6 – 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 6**

#### **Adult Ministry Center across the street**

Spend some quality time with the Lord. This adoration prayer service creates a quiet, reflective space where you can lay aside the distractions and busyness of life and focus on Him. In addition to personal prayer time facilitated by a variety of prayer stations, there will be a time of worship and guided prayer.

### **Spiritual Growth Extreme**

**8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Saturday, May 10, May 31, and June 28**

#### **Lighthouse Building across the street**

Do you sometimes wonder where God is or where He is taking you? Do you wish you were closer to Him? Attend this three-session class that will help you connect with Him more deeply. Gain the joy and peace you're looking for in your spiritual life. A fee of \$5 per session covers breakfast and lunch. Sign up at a Connection Kiosk or email Aida at [aperez@savannahchristian.com](mailto:aperez@savannahchristian.com).