

# SPIRITUAL GROWTH



Faith Apostolic Church Of Christ

# ARE YOU TRENDING UPWARD?

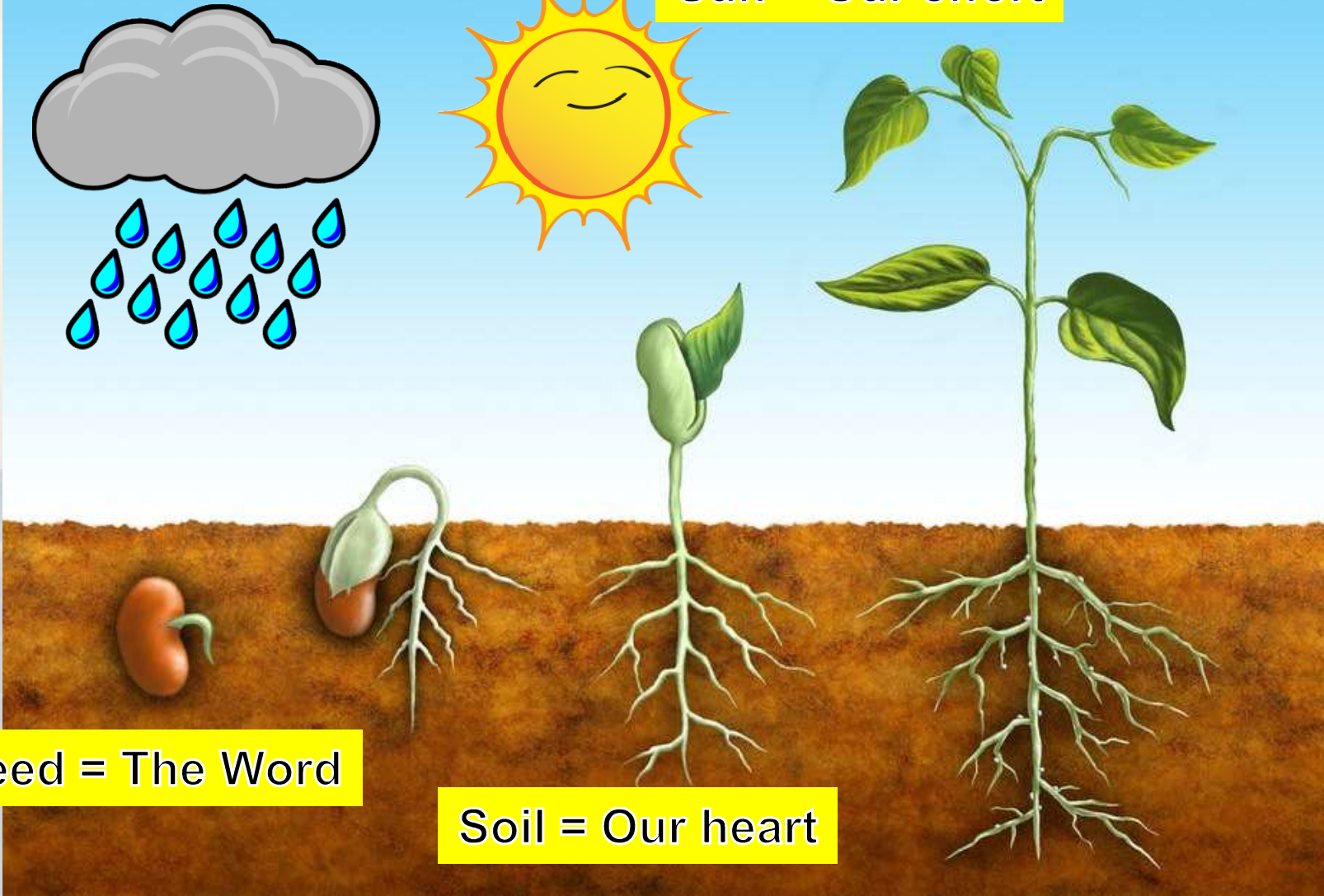


A trend is a general direction into which something is changing

# THE ELEMENTS OF GROWTH

Water = Holy Spirit

Sun = Our effort



Seed = The Word

Soil = Our heart

• **Germination** is the process by which a living organism grows from a seed

# THE ELEMENTS OF GROWTH

## ◉ *God's responsibility for spiritual growth*

- The Word of God - God provides the seed (Word) sown in our heart (Mark 4:14)
- The Holy Ghost - “obeying the truth through the Spirit”  
The Word of God and the Holy Ghost go together in spiritual growth. (1 Peter 1:22-23)
- The growth process - God initiates spiritual growth in us from start to finish (Philippians 1:6)

## ◉ *Our responsibility for spiritual growth*

- Our **effort** toward spiritual things (Luke 13:24)
- Our **desire** toward spiritual things (Matthew 6:21)
- Our **commitment** toward spiritual things (Matthew 6:33)
- Our **receptiveness** toward spiritual things (Matthew 13:19-23, 1 Corinthians 2:14)
- Our **submission** toward spiritual things (Romans 12:1-2)

# THE ENVIRONMENT FOR GROWTH

- In the natural world, for germination to occur, the environmental conditions must be favorable in order to support the growing plant. The soil depth, amount of water, and temperature are all critical conditions that must be met in order for the process of germination to be initiated.
- In like manner, God has provided the church with everything it needs to initiate spiritual growth within the saints: “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:” (Ephesians 4:11-13)

# WHAT IS SPIRITUAL GROWTH?

- An inward transformation in our lives, which results in an outward manifestation of Godly characteristics (fruit).
- As believers spiritually progress from producing “fruit” to “more fruit” (John 15:2). to “much fruit,” God is being glorified (John 15:8).
- What spiritual growth is not:
  - An accumulation of things (Natural blessings) (Luke 12:15)
  - Outward gifts, talents and abilities - (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)
  - Worldly success or greatness (Luke 22:26-27)
  - Profession of works (Matthew 7:21-23)

# RESULTS OF SPIRITUAL GROWTH?

What are the results of spiritual growth?

- ◉ A manifestation of Spiritual fruit from the inside out. “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.” (Galatians 5: 22-23)
- ◉ Brings Glory to God! - “To Him be glory both now and forever.” (2 Peter 3:18)
  - Spiritual growth glorifies Jesus Christ when we keep ourselves separated from sin and the World. (1 Corinthians 1:30-31) (Ephesians 1:12)
  - Spiritual growth glorifies Jesus Christ when we grow in grace and knowledge, for then we become more like Him. (Romans 8:29)