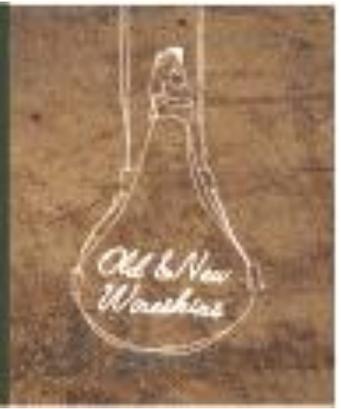


DON'T STOP BELIEVING

@palexevans



This week we are finishing up our series on old and new wineskins the importance of having a soft and pliable heart. Old wineskins that have hardened will burst when new things enter in. In the same way if we become hard-hearted, we miss out on the opportunities of participating in what God is doing within the people around us. We hope at The Collective no one would have an “old wineskin heart” but would receive God’s word and love every day.

Acts 9:3-6 (NLT)

³ As he was approaching Damascus on this mission, a light from heaven suddenly shone down around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?”

⁵ “Who are you, lord?” Saul asked. And the voice replied, “I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting!” ⁶ Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

Matthew 13:4-9,18 (NLT)

⁴ As he scattered them across his field, some seeds fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate them. ⁵ Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn’t have deep roots, they died. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants. ⁸ Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted! ⁹ Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”

¹⁸ “Now listen to the explanation of the parable about the farmer planting seeds: ¹⁹ The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message about the Kingdom and don’t understand it.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you heard or experienced God's voice before? What was it like? Why is it sometimes hard to hear God's voice?
2. Read Matthew 13:4-9,18. These four soils represents the condition of our heart. How has the condition of your heart been lately (which of the four soils represents your heart right now)? How has it affected your current spiritual growth?
3. Have you experienced a circumstance where life threw more at you than you could take? Can you share a time where God expanded you (perhaps painfully) and you had a *new wineskin* moment of growth?
4. There will come times when we are hit with a tragedy or a difficult circumstance that causes the soil of our heart to be pressed down. How can you face these moments with the right heart condition (the right soil) when it happens?
5. To maintain the right "soil" or the right heart condition in life is tough. Often times God uses people around us (mentors, coaches, pastors, co-workers, family, friends) to help us grow. Who is someone that has helped you grow and keep you accountable to a "good soil" and "new wineskin" heart condition?