

LIFE and the Bible

Love.Inspiration.Faith.Eternity



Pastor Jonathan Watson

It's never Too Late for Change

A friend of mine, I'll call him Joe, recently told me how the progression of his faith was much like the *Parable of the Sower* in Mathew Chapter 13, which talks about a farmer who scattered seed on different types of soil. Keep in mind that Joe was 70 years old before his life took a dramatic turn.

Although Joe came from a good family that occasionally attended church, he had a pretty free rein growing up and succumbed to the many temptations of youth, which led to a life of selfishness, arrogance and pride. He likens this beginning to the farmer who when scattering his seed found that some fell along the path and birds came and ate it up. Then just as some of the sower's seed grew quickly but then disappeared because the soil was too shallow, Joe started his own family and made a weak effort to bring God into their life but without great significance. Later

as a middle-age man he met someone who encouraged him to confess his sins, repent and establish a relationship with Jesus Christ. That is when at age 55 Joe bought his first Bible. As he began to read the Bible and found a church to attend regularly, some of the seed began to grow but just like the parable some was *choked by thorns*.

It wasn't until Joe was seventy years old that his life began to take a dramatic change. God began to do His work; pride began to disappear, temptation to sin was still in view, but the *desire* to sin had left and Joe began to think about others, even going out of his way to help them address their needs. Finally, at age 75 Joe began a ministry designed to help others... and his story continues.

Joe says that *coincidentally* immediately after his seventieth birthday he was led to read Jeremiah 29:10-11, "*When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*" The next month Joe and his wife visited Northwest Arkansas and bought a home in Bella Vista. He feels Babylon represents his past and God's promise represents his future.

Joe's point to me was that it is never too late to be saved if you confess, repent, have faith and just let God do the work. God's most recent message to Joe was; "*Cease striving and know that I am God*", Psalm 46:10 (NASB).

As I often say during my radio broadcasts, "God will help you if you let him."

God bless you and have a great day.