

1. Sow a Seed to meet your Need

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Subtitle: Principles of Prosperity

Today we are receiving a special offering towards our new sound system. We have a need in the house, and God wants to use us as instruments to channel funds towards that particular need.

Conversely, most of us have needs in our own personal lives. As people of faith we understand that we can sow a financial seed into a need in the church, and reap a harvest in our own personal lives.

2 Corinthians 9:5–6 (Msg) *So to make sure there will be no slipup, I've recruited these brothers as an advance team to **get you and your promised offering all ready** before I get there. **I want you to have all the time you need to make this offering in your own way.** I don't want anything forced or hurried at the last minute. **6 Remember: A stingy planter gets a stingy crop; a lavish planter gets a lavish crop.***

- Apostle Paul instructed the Corinthian church to get an offering ready
- At the same time, he reminded them about an agricultural principle:
 - *a stingy planter gets a stingy crop*
 - *a lavish planter gets a lavish crop*
- A financial offering into God's Kingdom is like a seed in a farmer's hand
- The amount of the seeds sown determines the amount of the harvest
- Every farmer knows, if he wants to have food in winter for himself and for his family, he needs to sow seed in springtime.

2 Corinthians 9:10 (GNB) *And God, who supplies seed to sow and bread to eat, will also supply you with all the seed you need and **will make it grow and produce a rich harvest from your generosity.***

(CSB) ...***multiply your seed** and increase the harvest of your righteousness.*

- God multiplies our financial seed that we sow, and increases it manifold towards a rich financial harvest in our lives
- ie. One kernel of maize produces hundreds of kernels of maize

Genesis 8:22 (NKJV) *While the earth remains, **seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease.***

- God speaks of four perpetual cycles, including “Seedtime & Harvest”
- Notice: Seedtime comes before harvest
- We have to sow a seed before we can reap a harvest
- Consider the following sequence: “**seed**” then “**time**” then “**harvest**”
- God multiplies our seed during the “time” segment of this process

Proverbs 11:24–25 (NKJV) *There is one who scatters, yet increases more; and there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty. 25 The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself.*

- “Scattering” is reference to spreading seeds on the ground
- A generous person scatters gifts and gets enriched
- Another person withholds more than is right, and ends up impoverished
- One who waters (others) will be watered himself

Ecclesiastes 11:1–2 (NKJV) *Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days. 2 Give a serving to seven, and also to eight, for you do not know what evil will be on the earth.*

- Notice again: ... *you will find it after many days*

Ecclesiastes 11:4 (NKJV) *He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap.*

- A farmer who is overly concerned with the weather will neither sow nor reap
- Do not let adverse circumstances hinder you from sowing your seed
- It is most important to get seed into the ground regardless of the weather

Ecclesiastes 11:6 (NKJV) *In the morning sow your seed, and in the evening do not withhold your hand; for you do not know which will prosper, either this or that, or whether both alike will be good.*

- The Bible encourages us towards a lifestyle of generosity
- We should engage in a constant cycle of sowing and reaping

Philippians 4:15–17 (NASB95) *You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of **giving and receiving** but you alone; 16 for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs. 17 Not that I seek the gift itself, **but I seek for the profit which increases to your account.***

- Paul refers to the giving of an offering as “**giving and receiving**”
- Many people want to give only, but God wants is to “give and receive”
- Paul said: I do not seek your gift, but I seek the profit which increases to your account

Philippians 4:19 (NASB95) *And **my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.***

- It began with Philippians believers meeting the needs of apostle Paul
- It ended with God meeting the needs of the Philippian believers
- They sowed a seed, and God saw to it that they received a harvest

The miracle of provision for the widow of Zarephath

1 Kings 17:8–16 (NLT) *Then the Lord said to Elijah, 9 “Go and live in the village of Zarephath, near the city of Sidon. I have instructed a widow there to feed you.” 10 So he went to Zarephath. As he arrived at the gates of the village, he saw a widow gathering sticks, and he asked her, “Would you please bring me a little water in a cup?” 11 As she was going to get it, he called to her, “Bring me a bite of bread, too.” 12 But she said, “I swear by the Lord your God that I don’t have a single piece of bread in the house. And I have only a handful of flour left in the jar and a little cooking oil in the bottom of the jug. I was just gathering a few sticks to cook this last meal, and then my son and I will die.” 13 **But Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid! Go ahead and do just what you’ve said, but make a little bread for me first. Then use what’s left to prepare a meal for yourself and your son.** 14 For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: There will always be flour and olive oil left in your containers until the time when the Lord sends rain and the crops grow again!” 15 So she did as Elijah said, and she and Elijah and her family continued to eat for many days. 16 There was always enough flour and olive oil left in the containers, just as the Lord had promised through Elijah.*

- During a famine, God sent his prophet to a widow to be fed by her, instead of to a rich person
- Elijah initially asked her for some water and then for some bread

- She replied saying that she had no bread but only a little flour & oil
- **Elijah said: Make a little bread for me first and use what's left for yourself and for your son**
- He encouraged her to “sow a seed first”, so she could reap a harvest
- Her offering became the catalyst for a miracle in her life

Prayer of Faith:

Heavenly Father, I thank You that You supply me with seed to sow and bread to eat. As I give (have given) my financial seed into today's special offering, I release my faith now towards an abundant harvest in my own life. Thank you Lord, for multiplying the seed that I sow, and making it grow into a rich harvest. I declare by faith, that You supply all my needs according to Your riches in glory by Christ Jesus. I pray this in Jesus' Name, Amen.