

## 2. Sow a Seed to meet your Need

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Subtitle: Principles of Prosperity. Pt. 2

Last Sunday we scheduled a special offering towards our new sound system. God desires to use His people to channel funds towards this particular need in the church.

As people of faith we understand that we can sow a financial seed towards a need in the church, and reap a harvest back into our own personal lives.

**2 Corinthians 9:6–10 (NKJV)** *But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully... 10 Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness.*

- Ap. Paul speaks to the Corinthian church about their financial offering
- Then he reminded them about an agricultural reality:
  - *he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly*
  - *he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully*
- A financial offering into God's Kingdom is like seeds in a farmer's hand
- The amount of seeds sown determines the amount of the harvest
- God multiplies the financial seed we have sown, and increases it towards a rich financial harvest in our lives

### Prayer and Financial Giving becomes a Memorial before God

**Acts 10:1–5 (NET)** *Now there was a man in Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was known as the Italian Cohort. 2 He was a devout, God-fearing man, as was all his household; he did many acts of charity for the people and prayed to God regularly. 3 About three o'clock one afternoon he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God who came in and said to him, "Cornelius." 4 Staring at him and becoming greatly afraid, Cornelius replied, "What is it, Lord?" The angel said to him, "Your prayers and your acts of charity have gone up as a memorial before God. 5 Now send men to Joppa and summon a man named Simon, who is called Peter.*

- Cornelius was a devout, God-fearing man—although he wasn't saved yet
- He prayed regularly & gave generously to people in need around him

- One day, an angel appeared to him and said:
  - *Your prayers & your generous giving have gone up as a memorial before God*
- God took notice, not only of his prayers, but also of his generous giving
- Cornelius' prayers & financial offerings resulted in his own salvation and the salvation of his household (Acts 11:14)
- (God is not moved with our money!)
- However, God is moved by our faith
- **We attach our faith to our financial offering, and along with our prayer, it becomes a memorial before God**

**Memorial** – an object of remembrance, a perpetual reminder  
(Exodus 28:12, Joshua 4:7)

### **Quotes from John Avanzini's book: "Moving the Hand of God"**

- If our offering does not move us, it is unlikely that it will move God
- But if our offering moves us, it will also move God
- God feels the same way about our offering as we do
- If we give it high priority, God will do the same

**Mark 12:41–44 (NLT)** *Jesus sat down near the collection box in the Temple and watched as the crowds dropped in their money. Many rich people put in large amounts. **42 Then a poor widow came and dropped in two small coins. 43** Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has given more than all the others who are making contributions. **44** For **they gave a tiny part of their surplus**, but she, poor as **she is, has given everything she had to live on.**"*

- Many rich people had the ability to give generously, but they did not
- The poor widow did not have the ability to give generously, but she gave way beyond her ability

### **The Shunammite woman sows a seed and received two miracles**

- a. She miraculously received a baby son
- b. After some time she received him raised from the dead

**2 Kings 4:8–17 (NLT)** *One day Elisha went to the town of Shunem. A wealthy woman lived there, and she urged him to come to her home for a meal. After*

that, whenever he passed that way, he would stop there for something to eat. **9** She said to her husband, "I am sure this man who stops in from time to time is a holy man of God. **10** Let's build a small room for him on the roof and furnish it with a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp. Then he will have a place to stay whenever he comes by." **11** One day Elisha returned to Shunem, and he went up to this upper room to rest. **12** He said to his servant Gehazi, "Tell the woman from Shunem I want to speak to her." When she appeared, **13 Elisha said to Gehazi, "Tell her, 'We appreciate the kind concern you have shown us. What can we do for you? Can we put in a good word for you to the king or to the commander of the army?'"** "No," she replied, "my family takes good care of me." **14** Later Elisha asked Gehazi, "What can we do for her?" Gehazi replied, "She doesn't have a son, and her husband is an old man." **15** "Call her back again," Elisha told him. When the woman returned, Elisha said to her as she stood in the doorway, **16** "Next year at this time you will be holding a son in your arms!" "No, my lord!" she cried. "O man of God, don't deceive me and get my hopes up like that." **17** But sure enough, the woman soon became pregnant. And at that time the following year she had a son, just as Elisha had said.

- The Shunammite woman sowed a significant seed into God's kingdom
- She frequently entertained Elisha and his servant, and eventually built a prophet's chamber on the roof of her house
- One day Elisha stayed in the prophet's chamber, and he told his servant to call her and ask what he can do for her in response to her generosity
- After some dialogue, he said to her: This time next year you shall embrace a son
- And sure enough, despite her husband's old age, she became pregnant and bore a son

**2 Kings 4:18–28 (NLT)** One day when her child was older, he went out to help his father, who was working with the harvesters. **19** Suddenly he cried out, "My head hurts! My head hurts!" His father said to one of the servants, "Carry him home to his mother." **20** So the servant took him home, and his mother held him on her lap. But around noontime he died. **21** She carried him up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, then shut the door and left him there. **22** She sent a message to her husband: "Send one of the servants and a donkey so that I can hurry to the man of God and come right back." **23** "Why go today?" he asked. "It is neither a new moon festival nor a Sabbath." But she said, "It will be all right." **24** So she saddled the donkey and said to the servant, "Hurry! Don't slow down unless I tell you to." **25** As she approached the man of God at Mount Carmel, Elisha saw her in the distance. He said to Gehazi, "Look, the woman from Shunem is coming. **26** Run out to meet her

and ask her, **‘Is everything all right with you, your husband, and your child?’** ” **“Yes,”** the woman told Gehazi, **“everything is fine.”** **27** But when she came to the man of God at the mountain, she fell to the ground before him and caught hold of his feet. Gehazi began to push her away, but the man of God said, **“Leave her alone. She is deeply troubled, but the Lord has not told me what it is.”** **28** Then she said, **“Did I ask you for a son, my lord? And didn’t I say, ‘Don’t deceive me and get my hopes up’?”**

- After the child died, it is interesting to note his mother’s faith confession
- Vs. 26. **“Yes,”** the woman told Gehazi, **“everything is fine”**.

**2 Kings 4:29–37 (NLT)** Then Elisha said to Gehazi, **“Get ready to travel; take my staff and go! Don’t talk to anyone along the way. Go quickly and lay the staff on the child’s face.”** **30** But the boy’s mother said, **“As surely as the Lord lives and you yourself live, I won’t go home unless you go with me.”** So Elisha returned with her. **31** Gehazi hurried on ahead and laid the staff on the child’s face, but nothing happened. There was no sign of life. He returned to meet Elisha and told him, **“The child is still dead.”** **32** When Elisha arrived, the child was indeed dead, lying there on the prophet’s bed. **33** He went in alone and shut the door behind him and prayed to the Lord. **34** Then he lay down on the child’s body, placing his mouth on the child’s mouth, his eyes on the child’s eyes, and his hands on the child’s hands. And as he stretched out on him, the child’s body began to grow warm again! **35** Elisha got up, walked back and forth across the room once, and then stretched himself out again on the child. This time the boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes! **36** Then Elisha summoned Gehazi. **“Call the child’s mother!”** he said. And when she came in, Elisha said, **“Here, take your son!”** **37** She fell at his feet and bowed before him, overwhelmed with gratitude. Then she took her son in her arms and carried him downstairs.

- The woman made a huge effort to provide for a need in God’s Kingdom
- In response, Elisha made a huge effort to raise her son from the dead
- God responds to our faith when we demonstrate it in a tangible way

### **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.