

February 8, 2009

Every promise God gives us in life comes to us pregnant with potential and blessing. What we need to understand is that God intends us to work with His promises until we reap great fruitfulness and abundance. With every promise of God in our life there is a journey of faith until we reach...

Harvest Time

Psalms 67:6 (NIV) ⁶Then the land will yield its harvest, and God, our God, will bless us.

Series Introduction

- A. Christ is the SOWER and we are His “Field” (1 Cor 3:9).
- Christ sows Himself into us with His WORD.
 - Christ is the Word, the Seed, God puts within us so that His life will grow up inside us into a full, complete duplicate of His Son.
- B. We are learning to bring God’s Promises to HARVEST in our life.
- There are over 8,000 promises in God’s word.
 - They are all “yes” in Christ (2 Cor 1:20).
 - Take them from ‘faith’ to ‘substance’ (Heb 11:1).
- C. We have to MANIFEST spiritual reality, not just believe it.
- Harvest is “Possessing” time.
 - **Every promise is a part of the reality of Christ Himself. To manifest a promise is to manifest the life of Christ in us**
 - Being spiritual is not just believing, but manifesting reality in Christ.
- D. Christ calls us to ABIDE in Him as a Vine and to let His word abide in us until we have fruitful lives to the Father: John 15:5, 7-8.

- E. All God has done for us IN CHRIST is a covenant of Promises. (Eph 2:12-13)
- Have you ever considered Christ is a series of Promises to be “harvested”?
- F. Every Promise comes to us “pregnant” with the potential of an abundant harvest of more of Christ’s life in us!
- It is the only way to overcome the world: 1 John 5:4

Message Four:

Seeds of the Harvest

Genesis 8:22 (NIV) ²²“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.”

Matt 13:24 (NIV) ²⁴Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field.

- A. The Law of seedtime and harvest is imprinted into the natural and spiritual world.
- What you sow is what you reap.
 - The need to sow and reap will “never end” in this lifetime.
- B. Everyday we are planting spiritual seed into our life: for better or worse.
- (We rarely recognize the seeds, but we do recognize the harvest)
 - Sow a thought, reap an attitude; sow an attitude, reap an act; Sow an act, and you reap a habit; Sow a habit, and you reap a character; Sow a character, and you reap a destiny.
- C. Harvest is just the manifestation of what you have been planting.

D. To gain control over your harvest you have to gain control over your sowing.

- You can change any future harvest, but choosing to sow different seed today.
- Don't like the results? Sow different seed.

E. If God liken us to a spiritual field (1 Cor 3:9), then our primary concern must be what seeds are being planted into us.

1. The Law of the Harvest

Genesis 8:22 (NIV) ²²*“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.”*

A. The Responsibility of Sowing to Reap never ends.

- **Gen 8:20-22** – God gives Noah (man) a way to work with Him to have a blessed future through the law of harvest.
- This is a law: a continuous life-time responsibility given to man by God.
- At first Adam only had to TEND a growing garden. (Gen 2:8, 15)
- Then it was given to him to labour at (Gen. 3:17-19).
- Finally it became a co-operative relationship between God and man.

B. The NEED to Sow to get results never ends.

- After you sow and reap, you have to sow again for next year.
- **Ecclesiastes 11:6 (NIV)** ⁶*Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let not your hands be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well.*
- ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’

C. The CHOICE of the Seed is a daily practice of awareness.

- What you sow is what you dwell and think upon, meditate.

- You have the daily chose to be conscious or un-conscious of this process.
- **Deuteronomy 22:9 (NIV)** ⁹*Do not plant two kinds of seed in your vineyard; if you do, not only the crops you plant but also the fruit of the vineyard will be defiled.”*
- **Gen 1:11-12.** The law of Genesis.
- **Every seed bears after its kind (you can't get a maple tree with mustard seed)**

D. **Galatians 6:7-9.** Our daily priority is with a proper use of the law of the Harvest.

2. God's Word is Living Spiritual Seed.

1 Peter 1:23 (NIV) ²³*For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.*

A. God's Word (His Promises) is seed.

- Your new birth is a sample of the power of God's word as seed.
- But every promise in God's word is like this.
- Faith is the germinating process: Rom 1:16-17

B. God's Word is spirit and life.

- John 6:63
- Heb 4:12-13

C. God's word is at work in us when believed.

- **1 Thessalonians 2:13 (NIV)** ¹³*And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.*

D. Work with the seed to plant, nurture and grow it into full measure.

- **Luke 8:15 (NIV)** *¹⁵But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.*
- Mark 4:24 – 24. *“Consider carefully what you hear,” he continued. “With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more.*

3. How to Sow God’s Word into your Life and reap a spiritual harvest.

Proverbs 18:20 - 21 (NIV) *²⁰From the fruit of his mouth a man’s stomach is filled; with the harvest from his lips he is satisfied. ²¹The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.*

Proverbs 12:14 (NIV) *¹⁴From the fruit of his lips a man is filled with good things as surely as the work of his hands rewards him.*

A. We plant things in our inner being by what we say.

- What you say goes INTO your heart.
- What you say goes down into your heart. Your spirit grows in your heart what is planted there. (Increases its measure and life)
- **Proverbs 18:8 (NIV)** *⁸The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to a man’s inmost parts.*

B. We should speak God’s truth and promises into our heart daily.

- Speaking is sowing.
- When we BELIEVE and say something it is a solid sowing.
- What we think, we speak, what we speak stays in us and becomes the bases for motives, intentions, attitudes and actions.

C. Jesus taught the power of words: Mark 11:22-24.

- Jesus used WORDS to heal, deliver, stop storms, etc.

D. We live in a “Word-universe”. God created it by words (*Heb 11:3; 1:3*).

E. Three ways to sow God’s word into your heart: eyes, ears and mouth (*Prov 4:20-27*)

- a. **Your heart is the ground that will grow Word of God seed** (*Proverbs 4:20-27*).
- b. **Your heart grows word seed-either God's or Satan's.**
 - There is a battle over who will plant in your ground.
 - Satan wants to use your ground to produce his word seed.
 - He makes suggestions in an attempt to get his word seed into your heart.
 - Every issue that concerns your life comes out of your heart; guard it vigilantly.
- c. **There are three entrances into your heart:**
 - The ear gate (4:20)
 - The eye gate (4:21)
 - The mouth gate (4:24)
- d. **Whatever you spend the most time with is what will be planted in your heart.**
 - Whatever you give attention to most is what you will desire.
 - Be careful not to allow Word of God seed to be choked by other seed.
 - God says attend to His words.

4. Work with your “store-house” of seed.

Luke 6:43-45 (NIV) ⁴³“No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. ⁴⁴Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars. ⁴⁵The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks.

A. The Heart is a “Storehouse” of spiritual seeds.

- There are seeds of truth and life
- There are seeds of lies and death
- Our heart is a storehouse of the kinds of seeds we have saved up there.
- There “store-seed” – things we are unconscious of in our hearts
- There is “seeds of awareness” – things we are conscious of in the moment.

B. Every day, “Seeds” come up in our consciousness to deal with.

- We can only deal with what we are conscious of. The time to deal with the seeds in our heart is when they come to our attention and we can work with them.
- “Good store” – when they come up should be nurtured further.
- “Bad store” – when they come up should be healed, corrected, changed.

C. Be selective with what “seeds” you are watering and nurturing.

- It is within our power to deal with what comes to our awareness.
- Turn your spirit upon what comes up in your heart – is it of the spirit or the flesh? Is it truth or lies? Is it of the fruit of the spirit or the works of the flesh?

D. Remember what and how you store a seed is how it will come back up.

Conclusion

Gal 6:7-9