

## TOPIC: FINANCIAL FREEDOM (PART 2)

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### SUMMARY OF MESSAGE

Seed-Time and Harvest

#### Introductory Passage:

Genesis 8:22

While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer and day and night shall not cease.

This is a LIFE Principle of God's created Natural Order.

#### Principles about Our Seed

1. To have a harvest (provision), we must first sow a seed. Otherwise, we cannot to have a harvest.

We need to recognize that:

A. We always have seed to sow.

2Cor 9:10

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.

As we see from this verse, God will not only supply but will also multiply the seed.

B. Everything we possess can become a seed if we sow it to benefit someone.

In what form does a seed take? The seed may take the form of:

*Money	*Time	*Kindness	*Charitable deeds
*Serving God	*Teaching in KFC	*Being a CGL/ACGL	*Volunteering in POP Excel
*Compassionate	*Spending time with someone		*Attending to the poor and needy

C. God Himself first sowed the incorruptible Seed of the Word of our lives when we were born again.

1 Peter 1:23

D. Sowing and reaping are part of God's Laws – Principles of Life that He has placed on earth.

One of the principles is found in Luke 6:38.

Luke 6:38

Give and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be out into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.

The above is to be seen in the context of a relationship with God. Another verse:

Malachi 3:8

Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' – In tithes and offerings.

Some people have barely enough for needs. Perhaps the question to ponder upon is this: Have we been tithing? If we fail to tithe, God cannot protect you. A devourer will come. In agriculture, the devourer will spoil the harvest. Likewise, our crops could have been eaten away by moth or be corroded away by rust. When we tithe, He protects us. The remaining 90% will become as full as before we tithed.

E. When we ask God to meet our needs, God will ask us for our seed. Gal 6:7 says that whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

## **2. We must sow in Quality soil**

No farmer will sow seeds in the drains or in hard soils. Good harvest comes out of good soil.

See Matthew 13:8.

## **3. We must sow proportionately with expectation to receive.**

2 Corinthians 9:6.

But this I say He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

From the above, we see that hard work is needed, diligence is required. One thing about those philanthropists who succeed well is this: not only do they work hard but they are also people who give.

Luke 16:10-12 says that he who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much. If we are faithful in making decisions that involve hundreds, we will increasingly be making decisions involving the thousands.

### **Pause for quick application:**

Opening of homes for cell meeting – If we treat other homes worst than we treat ours, we are not being responsible and it's unlikely we will be blessed. Let's exercise joint ownership and be faithful to take care of another man's property. Likewise for the sanctuary – do not leave unwanted things around but exercise responsibility and faithfulness to clear trash upon leaving.

A. We must sow our seed with expectation.

What this means is to give our seed an assignment. Just as we combine fasting with prayer, we combine giving with prayer. Examples as follow:

Example 1: Luke 7:1-10 – Centurion who loved Israel and built a synagogue.

Example 2: Acts 10:2,4,31 – Cornelius who gave generously to needy and prayed regularly.

We ask the question: What is our desired harvest?

Examples of desired harvest:

- |                       |                            |                             |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| *A better Job         | *A better house            | *Peace in family            |
| *Increased Finances   | *Return of a prodigal      | *Physical healing           |
| *Excelling in studies | *Dependable transportation | *Reconciliation of marriage |

How would our needs be continually met? This comes with knowing how to sow so as to receive our harvest. When we develop a posture of receiving and giving and sow again what we receive, we reap a perpetual harvest. See Matthew 7:7-11

#### **4. We must sow in Faith**

Heb 11:6 tells us that God responds to faith, not to needs and He does so to those who earnestly seek Him.

#### **5. We must sow in the right Season**

When we sow is as important as what we sow. Every seed has a different germination period. Every seed has a different purpose or assignment. In understanding timing, it is vital to understand moments. Every moment contains:

a) different instruction, i.e. an assignment that must be discerned. When Paul was on his way to Damascus, he alone heard the voice while others saw the light. Acts 22:9. In the same way, the Holy Spirit draws our attention to each one personally and guides each differently.

b) benefit – reward

Whenever God orchestrate your divine moment in the right season, He will always connect you to a person. The message is in the messenger.

Example 1:

Moses was God's man for leading Israel out of Egypt and when they left, they plundered Egypt, leaving with wealth.

Example 2:

Elijah was God's man for the widow in Zarephath and he gave instructions.

Example 3:

Elisha was God's man for the widow in debt and he gave instructions.

Example 4:

The woman with the issue of blood. It was Jesus who met her needs.

Example 5:

Zacchaeus – It was his moment as Jesus was passing by that way. Zacchaeus seized the moment.

Example 6:

The boy with 2 fishes and 5 loaves seized the moment to give all to the Lord Jesus.

## **6. We must look to the LORD of the Harvest**

Gal 6:9

And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

Do not miss the divine moments, i.e. when God speaks with an instruction. That rhema word is like water in a stream. At that divine moment, the call is for one to step into the river. If we fail to do that, that moment will be gone. It is like Moses in his encounter with the burning bush. The sand is holy ground only at that moment.

A. We must stand on the Word of God and look to Him for the provision/blessing.

See Genesis 22:14, Phil 4:19

B. We must know that we have an enemy. John 10:10

Anytime we decide to accept God at His Word, the enemy will attempt to

i) steal the Word and prevent us from knowing God's promises. We see this in the parable of the Sower where the birds of the air come and steal away the seed.

ii) choke the Word. The enemy does this through worries of life and the deceitfulness of wealth.

C. We must look to the LORD of the harvest by standing on the Word – we must act/apply/obey/do the Word.

James 2:18

But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works. Show me your faith without works and I will show you my faith by my works."

## **7. Waiting in constant prayer is the proof we believe God**

After planting, many people go and dig up their seed pre-maturely. They do not realize that time must elapse before the harvest can come. Harvest follows time.

How do we dig up the seed? We do so through:

\*wrong words

\*wrong attitudes

\*lower or change expectations

\*lose faith

\*double-minded

\*nullify the planting of the seed

We need to know that seed requires:

\*time to germinate

\*time to take root

\*time to sprout

\*time to ripen

\*then harvest time

Remember: Seed...TIME...Harvest Process. Do not forget Time!!! The ability to wait is proof of your faith. We need to sow and water. Watering means –pray the word, stand on God’s promises as we wait for the harvest.

Conclusion: Galatians 6:9 says that in due season we shall reap. Waiting time is most difficult but because there is a time for harvest, let’s not lose heart. Be like the Good Samaritan who reaches out to the need, doing so with compassion and wisdom and being a blessing to others.

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## **Topic: Financial Freedom – Part 2**

### Questions for discussion

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1. One life principle of God’s created natural order is seen in Seedtime and Harvest. To have a harvest, we must first sow a seed. Share what you have gleaned from knowing this and what are some courses of action that you would like to do.
  
2. There are many different seeds that one can sow. Share what kinds of seed you would like to sow. Otherwise if you already have been sowing, share your experience, expectations, returns, joy, pains, etc. Given that there are different ways of sowing and also different soils to sow one’s seeds, how would you sow and if you have been sowing, would you have done it differently?
  
3. Discuss Malachi 3:8. Why do you think God wants us to bring in the tithes and offerings?

Continue next page...

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Questions for discussion

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4. God uses people as His messengers. You may want to share those occasions where God helped you through people He sent and what lessons have you learnt from there.

5. What are some 'enemies' that would prevent the seed from growing? Has it occurred to you that you might have dug up the seed pre-maturely? Share as candidly as you could relate to this question.

6. Is there something that requires you to make a spiritual transaction with God? Is there a seed that you would want to deposit? Like David who would not want to offer sacrifices without cost and like the Good Samaritan whose deeds incurred cost to him, what would cost you to sow your seed? (Question is for personal reflection and is optional for sharing)

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No condemnation, no comparison, no competition but only encouragement...