
Seed, Time & Harvest

Thought Conditioners

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

**“So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; And should sleep, and
rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knows not how.” (Mark 4:26)**

**The brilliance and genius of God is in the seed!
We need to be more seed-oriented than need-oriented.
If you want an extraordinary harvest, sow an extraordinary seed.**

OVERVIEW

Many of us are facing big needs. Needs so great that without the direct intervention of God, they can't possibly be met. Because of that, we need to be more certain than ever before that we understand - and abide by - God's laws of Seed, Time and Harvest. Those laws are extremely important, but, praise God, they're not complicated.

Seed, time and harvest is God's method; the law of Genesis is one of God's fixed laws. Everything produces after its kind and the seed is in itself. It works that way in everything. This law has existed since God created the earth and according to Genesis 8:22, it "shall not cease."

Seed, time and harvest applies to every area of your life. It works for all of us, whether or not we realize that this process is taking place. We all will reap whatever we sow in many different areas of our lives.

In the natural world, everything revolves around seed, time and harvest. It's the same in the spiritual world. God's Word is the seed that given time, produces a harvest.

Your Father tells you that you should meditate day and night on his Word because he wants you to continually plant spiritual seeds from His Word in your heart throughout every day and night of your life.

THE FARMER UNDERSTANDS

I've never seen a farmer plant his crop and then worry day and night. No, he waits with a knowing, with a confidence. He doesn't necessarily hope that it will happen, or even believe that it will happen. He takes it one step further. He knows that his harvest is on its way. You know that you know that you know – just like the farmer – that your harvest is on its way.

A farmer has to prepare the soil and plant seeds in order to get a crop, but God created the natural laws that govern sowing and reaping. God sends the rain and the sun that makes plants grow, God gave the land to farm on, and God is the source of the farmer's harvest.

What if a farmer waited until he saw his neighbors reaping their crops before he sowed his seed? Regardless of how sincere he was or the justification for not sowing his seed at the proper time, he would not reap a crop overnight. The law of seed, time and harvest cannot be violated.

If you really want to thrive, you must learn to be a sower of seed.

The Scripture says, "Whatsoever a man sows, that he will also reap." All through the Bible, we find the principle of sowing and reaping. Just as a farmer must plant some seed if he hopes to reap the harvest, we, too, must plant some good seed in the fields of our families, careers, businesses and personal relationships.

I don't have to be with you when you plant your garden to see what you've sown. All I have to do is be there when the crop grows up to know what you've planted. If you have death in your life – if you're depressed, discouraged, angry, or bitter – you haven't been meditating on the Word of God. Spiritual mindedness only produces life and peace.

If you aren't experiencing the abundance and victory that the Lord has promised, it's not God who has failed. Praying longer and petitioning harder won't change anything. You must take the incorruptible seed of God's Word and keep on planting it in the garden of your heart.

It's your responsibility to guard and protect your garden. Whatever is growing in the garden of your life is what you planted or allowed to be planted in your heart. Scripture reveals that as you think in your heart, that's the way you're going to be. (Proverbs 23:7) If you focus and meditate on God's Word, your thoughts will produce life and peace. (Romans 8:6)

PARABLE OF THE SOWER – PART 1

"The sower sows the word. And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the Word's sake, immediately they stumble. Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the Word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the Word, and it becomes unfruitful. But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the Word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred." (Mark 4:14-20)

The parable Jesus gave in Mark 4 about the sower sowing the seed is one of the most foundational teachings of the Bible. In Mark 4:13, the Lord said that "if you don't understand this parable, you cannot understand any of the others." This passage is the key that unlocks the revelation of important foundational truths that you will use every day for the rest of your Christian life. It's truly that important.

Jesus was using the illustration of a man sowing seed which fell on four different types of ground. The kingdom of God is likewise. God's Word is the seed that must be planted in the fertile soil of your heart to bear good fruit. The Word of God is what brings change.

FOUR HEART TYPES

The Lord clearly describes four different types of people's hearts, and how the Word of God interacts with their heart to bring forth fruit – or not. I believe he was also describing four different stages towards fruitfulness.

First, you go through a stage where you hear the Word of God but your heart isn't set on it. You aren't seeking after the things of God. The Word goes in one ear and out the other. That's the first type of person.

The second type of person gets excited about the Word, but they don't have root in themselves. The end result is they don't bear fruit either.

The third type of person gets excited about the Word, and it takes root. The Word of God begins to germinate and starts producing life in them, but then they get distracted by the things of this world. (Mark 4:19)

The fourth type of person is the one who really nurtures and takes care of the Word of God. They focus on it and aren't distracted by the things of this world. So they produce a bountiful harvest. (Mark 4:20)

The reason Jesus used the picture of a seed to describe the kingdom of God is because it's part of how God designed things. There is seed, time, and harvest - there are steps and stages to growth.

I constantly meet Christians who pray and believe for God's intervention in their lives, but remain frustrated with their results. Why? Because they have never conceived their miracles by planting the seed of God's Word in their hearts. That's like a woman who prays to get pregnant and then is confused when it doesn't come to pass even though she has never had a relationship with a man. The seed has to be planted for conception to take place.

God's Word is never the variable. It has the same potential in every single person's life.

What makes the Word produce differently isn't the seed itself, but rather the type of soil on which the seed finds itself. This parable illustrates four different types of hearts. The Word of God has the same potential to produce in every person's life, but the difference in fruitfulness is related to how we respond to the Word. This parable reveals that there is really only one type of response that will allow the seed of God's Word to fully produce its fruit.

THE SUPERNATURAL SEED OF GOD'S WORD

The seed is the Word of God (Mark 4:14), and the ground is our hearts (Mark 4:15). Our hearts were created by God to bring forth fruit when His Word is planted in them. Just as a seed has to remain in the ground over time to germinate, so the Word of God has to abide in us. Jesus said in John 15:7, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."

God explains that his Word is a "seed." He says that His Word "shall not return to Him void." Your Father promises that His Word will always "accomplish that which he pleases and purposes." God says that His Word "shall prosper in the thing for which he sent it."

You must learn how to sow seeds from the Bible into the "good soil" of your heart. If you "grasp" what the Word of God says about your situation and "comprehend" and understand these great spiritual truths, you will persevere because of your faith in God. Your faith, patience and perseverance ultimately will be honored when all of the seeds you have planted "bear fruit" and produce a marvelous harvest from God.

**Each seed sown has its own set season or a specific, individual time when it will produce a harvest.
Stay the course... and your harvest is guaranteed!**

You must plant a seed, which is the Word of God. If you aren't reaping what the Word of God says, you haven't planted what the Word of God says to plant. You reap what you sow. If the Word of God is primary in your life, you're going to get the results of the Word of God. That doesn't mean Satan won't fight you and you won't have problems.

The end result will be you're going to have what the Word of God says. Satan may fight you, but you'll win. Many of us know this intellectually, but in our hearts, there is fear or reservation. We don't have the absolute confidence that God's Word is going to prevail in our lives.

God's Word is the seed. It must be planted in the ground of our heart. This is also like sowing a seed in the womb of a woman. You can't conceive a child apart from this seed being sown. There was only one virgin birth, and there isn't going to be another. Stop begging and pleading with God to move. Instead, sow the seed of God's Word.

To conceive and give birth, whether it's for a miracle you need in your body or for the vision God has given you, you must first plant God's Word like a seed in your heart. Conception, which eventually produces the fruit, cannot take place without first planting a seed.

You may not see God's blessings and provision now with your physical eye, but they are very real. They are shaped by God's Word and your confession! When you look around, you see lack; but God's Word says, "Give, and it shall be given...He which soweth bountifully shall also reap bountifully."

You change the seen with God's Word.

You shape the unseen by calling things that are not as though they were (Rom. 4:17).

Jesus explained the mighty power of spiritual seeds when he said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field. Of all the seeds it is the smallest, but when it has grown it is the largest of the garden herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and find shelter in its branches." (Matthew 13:31–32).

Your faith in God starts out small like a mustard seed. However, these seeds can and will grow....and grow....and grow... if you continually plant the seeds from the Word of God into your heart.

Jesus said, "When the seed is sown, it grows up and becomes greater" (v. 32). Notice, He didn't say that when the seed is sown it occasionally grows up and becomes greater. Or it grows up and becomes greater if it's God's will. He said, "It grows up and becomes greater." Period.

Christians who have financial challenges should plant financial seeds from God's Word in their hearts. If you have severe sickness in your body, you should continually plant healing seeds in your heart. You cannot plant the seeds continually "without producing any effect."

You must not allow Satan, the pain and discomfort in your body, or anyone or anything to stop you from continually planting supernatural seeds from God's Word into your heart.

We are going to the Lord as a beggar instead of as a son who has already received his inheritance. Instead of claiming what is rightfully ours, we are begging for what He could do but hasn't done. We think it's God's responsibility, it's His turn to fix this problem, when the truth is that God has done his part. He gave us the seeds of his Word, which will grow the solution to our problem. He's given words that have life to them. All you have to do is take that Word, stand on it, and begin to release the life that is in that seed – the Word of God.

What you need to do is take the Word of God, plant that seed in your heart, and let it grow. Then the supernatural life and miraculous power of God will come right up out of the midst of you.

What you don't know is hindering you.

The truth will make you free, but it's only the truth that you know that sets you free.

Unbelievers cannot sow the seeds of God's Word in their hearts. Christians are given the privilege and ability to sow the seed of God's Word.

WE ARE THE GROUND

The seed produces the fruit, not the ground. It's the Word that brings forth the results. This was one of the first truths that God ministered to me out of this parable of the sower sowing the seed.

The ground does have a part to play. It can either allow the seed to produce to its full potential, or it can hinder, choke, and stop the Word of God from working. However, it's not the ground itself that produces the fruit, it's the seed.

We are the ground. Our heart is where we either allow the Word of God to have its complete rule, or we can let the Word be choked by the cares of this life, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lust for other things.

Our heart can become hardened towards God and not give His seed a place to germinate. Our heart can affect the growth, but it's the seed – the Word of God – that brings forth fruit. All I am is ground. (Genesis 2:7)

I'm just dirt – a place for the seed to germinate. I provide warmth and nutrients, but it's the Word that produces the fruit.

PARABLE OF THE SOWER – PART 2

In Mark 4, the Lord taught three parables that illustrate that the Word is to the kingdom of God what a natural seed is to a harvest. The first of these parables, the story of the sower, is the key to unlocking all the others (Mark 4:13).

If we don't understand these truths, Jesus said, we won't understand any of His other parables.

There are many life-changing truths in these parables, but one fact must be understood to get the full benefit of this teaching: The Lord used the comparison of His Word to a law of nature, which is unchangeable, not an institution of man.

Here's what I mean: Nearly all systems that people have created can be cheated or manipulated. The legal system can be beaten, letting the guilty go free. The educational system can be beaten, passing students who haven't really learned the material. But the process of seed, time and harvest can't be changed.

This is why our Lord chose to compare the way His Word works to a seed. The germination process of the Word of God in your life takes time and can't be avoided.

In the second parable of Mark 4, Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come." (Mark 4:26-29).

What would happen if you planted a seed in your garden and then dug it up each morning to see if anything was happening? It would die and never produce fruit. You have to have faith that the seed is doing what God created it to do.

Some people put God's Word in their hearts for a day or two, but if they don't see fruit almost immediately, they dig up the seed through their words and actions and wonder why it didn't work. It must be left in the ground over time. Then, there are also different stages of growth.

Mark 4:28 says, "First the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear."

Many people are impatient, wanting to bypass the growth cycle and get the full ear right now. God's kingdom operates on laws, like the laws that govern the fruit-bearing process of a seed. God will not give you the full ear of corn if you haven't seen the first blade. That's the way God's kingdom works.

This is precisely the reason most people don't see God's best come to pass in their lives. They have lottery faith. They think that since God loves them, He will just grant their request regardless of whether they put the miracle of the seed to work or not.

Even though it does not make sense to attempt to receive a harvest without planting seeds, this is exactly what many Christians do. Many Christians attempt to receive a harvest (of healing, deliverance, prosperity, etc.) without faithfully planting the seed of the Word in the good soil of their hearts.

DON'T NEGLECT THE ROOTS!

You have to let God's Word just stay rooted on the inside of you. You can't back off of it. You must keep digging and looking for greater revelation.

Failure to let the Word of God take root on the inside is probably the number one reason why people aren't seeing greater freedom manifest in their life. They just aren't giving it time.

Satan would love to get you to where you don't have any depth of root in your life. Then he can come against you and just steal the Word. He wants to pull it up before it ever gets rooted. However, if you grow a good root system, you'll be able to stand despite all the troubles, trials, and hardships that come in your life.

I was more concerned about all of this growth above ground, which is the way most people are. They want some visible results – something physical, something tangible. They desire to see lives being changed, people healed, and all kinds of other fruit. However, before all of this growth can occur above ground, the vast majority of growth must take place underground in the root system. It's actually the root system that determines how big the plant or tree above ground will be.

All the good in my life has come as the seed of God's Word has taken root in my heart and produced fruit. Once the seed takes root, it just produces. What an awesome truth.

If you neglect the root system, you might have a plant or tree grow up for a brief period of time, but it'll never produce fruit. It won't live because it'll never be able to withstand varying conditions like heat and drought. The root system is what enables the tree to really produce and be able to withstand hardship.

Once I made this decision to attend to my root system, I actually quit worrying about the visible results to a large degree. Instead, I focused on taking the Word of God and keeping it in my heart. I knew that if I kept God's Word dwelling on the inside of me, instead of just allowing it to come in and out, that it would literally begin to put down roots through every part of my being and the power of the Word would start permeating me.

Most people don't like the root building process. They want to experience the benefits that are visible in their lives, but they don't want to spend time alone with God in His Word, letting it get rooted and established in them.

**Don't worry about the growth above ground - the blessings and benefits that are visible.
Instead, put your focus and emphasis on getting rooted in the Word of God.**

The time you take getting God's Word rooted and grounded in you isn't wasted time. You will reap its rewards for the rest of your life.

"BUSY-NESS" CAN CHOKER THE SEED

You may be one of these people who love God, place an importance on his Word, and want to see the fruit, but are so occupied with all kinds of good things that the seed of God's Word is being choked out in your life. Many Christians are simply involved in too much. They're constantly taxing their kids here there, and yonder, and they're involved in everything the church has to offer. If you're not careful, it will choke the seed of God's Word and keep you from being productive. These things aren't bad – just natural.

All this busy-ness is like weeds sprouting up all around the stock of corn you planted. The soil only has so much nourishment. Those weeds will suck much of the moisture and nutrients out of the ground, which will keep the seed that you want to grow from really producing and bearing fruit. This is what happens to us when we get so occupied doing other things. They don't have to be bad things, it's just that we're so occupied with them, and it saps our attention and energy. We don't really have any time to be able to focus on and fellowship with the Lord.

You may not feel like you're the sharpest knife in the drawer. You may be acutely aware that you have all kinds of liabilities that other people don't have. Yet, you can commit yourself to the Word of God and meditate on it until God's Word takes deep root in your heart. You can refuse to allow anything else to divert your attention or sap the strength of your heart that could be going toward the Lord. If you devote yourself completely to the Lord and his Word, God's Word will make you a success. It will cause fruit to come in whatever area he has called and anointed you to minister.

THE GROUND WITH LESS

God showed me that it was the seed – the Word – that produced the fruit. And the ground that yields the best fruit wasn't the ground that had more, it was the ground that had less - less stones, less thorns, and less weeds. The real productive soil wasn't soil that had more than everything else; it was a soil that had less.

This told me that I didn't necessarily need all of these external talents that people normally put emphasis on in order to be fruitful. It's really just a matter of the heart. If I would rid myself of the stones, thorns, and weeds, I could bear much fruit. I just needed to eliminate the things that occupy my attention and devote myself completely to God.

**If I put the Word of God first place in my heart, then
the Word will produce an abundant harvest in my life.**

This really encouraged me. I prayed, God, if what really makes your Word become fruitful is being less, then I can certainly be less. I may not be able to be more, but I can definitely be less. I can get rid of these things that hinder me.

THE POWER IS IN THE WORD

The Word of God often refers to itself as a seed. There are a total of forty-four verses in the New Testament where the Greek word sperma was translated "seed." This is the same word from which we derive our English word "sperm."

People who never planted any seeds are disappointed and surprised that they don't have a harvest. They wonder, why am I not healed? Why haven't I prospered? Why hasn't God answered this prayer? Why are my relationships falling apart? Why can't I hold down a job? Why is it nothing in my life ever seems to work? They've been praying and asking God for all of these things, but they haven't taken his Word and the promises therein and sewn these truths in their life.

Many of these people have come to me and said, "I prayed and asked God to heal me." I've asked them, "what Scriptures are you standing on for being healed? What promise or promises – seed from God's word – have you sown into your life to produce that healing?" They've answered, "I don't know what the Word says. I just know that it's God's will. I believe that God wants to heal me." But they don't have a Scripture to stand on. They don't have a promise. They haven't sown his Word into their heart!

Proverbs 4:22 says, "God's words are life unto those that find them and health to all their flesh." If you'll take God's Word like a seed, and begin to plant it in your heart, it will literally begin to release supernatural healing into your life.

**The Word of God must be revelation to you. It has to be alive in you.
It never will be if you haven't taken the promises like a seed, planted
them in your heart, meditated on them, and seen the Word of God work.**

You're wondering, why isn't God answering my prayer? He's given us the seeds but we haven't planted them! That's like someone praying over their ground and saying, "God, why haven't you let the garden grow?" They didn't plant the seeds!

God has established natural laws, and He's not going to break them. He's also established spiritual laws, and He won't break them either. God's Word tells us that the Lord has "sent his Word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions" (Psalm 107:20) All through the Word are promises revealing God as our healer and provider and attesting to how He wants to prosper us, but to see His healing and provision you must take God's Word and start planting it in your life.

The parable of the sower says that in the same way that there are laws that govern how a physical, natural seed has to be planted and germinate, there are laws that govern the spiritual realm. One of these laws is that the Word of God is a seed. If you want results in your life, you must plant the Word of God in your heart. If you desire certain kingdom fruit in your marriage, relationships, finances, health, emotions – whatever it is – take the seeds (promises in God's Word that speak about those specific things) and plant them in your life. If you will give this seed the proper nourishment and take care of it the way this parable tells you to, then it's inevitable that you will reap the fruit you want.

There's nothing wrong with the natural laws. You just have to cooperate with them. There's nothing wrong with the spiritual laws, either. You just have to learn what they are and cooperate with them.

**If I want results in my life, I must go to the Word of God. I must take seeds
– promises that talk about the fruit I want to produce – and start meditating
on them. Over time, what I have desired comes to pass and I receive the
harvest. That's one of the truths this parable of the sower teaches.**

**The number one reason why people aren't receiving from God is because they
literally haven't taken the truths of his Word and planted them in their heart.**

This is why people aren't experiencing the victory they are praying for and desiring and begging and pleading for God to give them. This is why the Lord used this kind of a parable of a sower and his seed. He wants us to understand how His kingdom works. The sower sows the Word of God. This seed he's talking about is not a physical seed. Rather, the Word of God is like a seed.

The kingdom of God works from this truth that the Word of God is a seed. Just like in the natural realm, you must
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plant seeds to produce a crop. You can't have a forest without planting any seeds. You can't have victory in your life without the Word of God being planted in your heart. It's simple, but it's true. This is how the kingdom of God works.

The whole kingdom of God – the Christian life, your victory, your success as a believer – is as simple as taking the Word of God and sowing it in your heart. If you will just cooperate and let the Word of God germinate, you will change effortlessly.

I'm talking the Word, quoting Scripture, meditating on the Word and teaching what the Word of God says. I've taken this approach because the Lord has given this revelation that –

It's not who I am, what I look like, or any other natural thing that will impact the world for Him. It's the Word of God that changes people's lives!

The Word of God has to be planted in your heart for you to effectively change. If you follow the instructions of this parable, you will find that change is as normal and natural as when a seed is planted in the ground and grows up.

If you would take the Word of God and meditate on it day and night, it would change you. The Word would transform your life.

In the natural realm, it's possible to get seed, plant it, and not have it produce the desired results because the seed was bad. However, in the spiritual realm, God's Word is the seed, and its incorruptible.

The Word of God will work the same for anyone. This seed wasn't the variable in any of the four examples in Mark 4. It was the ground. Now that fact is very, very important.

God's Word is incorruptible. It always works. God's Word never fails.

We may fail to understand and properly apply it. We may fail to take the corresponding actions it tells us to. But God's Word never fails.

When some people hear that the Word of God is a seed and that if they will just take the Word and plant it in their heart they will see the miraculous results, they think, this is the answer! *All I have to do is take the Word of God and all my problems will be over.* Not exactly. It's actually more accurate to say that once you take the Word, commit yourself to it, and start meditating on it and getting to know the Word of God for yourself, then all of your problems have just begun. You may not like what I'm saying, but it's true.

Satan isn't really against you personally. He knows that on your own, you are nothing. You aren't going to be a threat to him or anybody else. It doesn't matter who you think you are or what you think you have, apart from the Lord and his Word, you are never going to truly change this world and have a powerful impact for God's kingdom. But if the Word of God ever starts taking root on the inside of you and growing up and producing, the devil has had it. Satan is petrified of the Word! He's going to come against the Word of God immediately and try to steal it out of your heart.

Beware of the enemy. Mark 4 says the enemy comes immediately after the Word has been sown. He wants to steal it from you. And he's looking for an opportunity to discourage you and diminish your faith. You have to understand, it's the things you can't see that are working for you right now. Your harvest may not come through today, but it's coming. Romans 10:17, says, "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

If you are going to see effective change – the Word of God producing fruit in your life – you must start spending some quantity time fellowshiping with God through the Word. You have to take these truths, plant them, and keep them in your heart.

Our Father tells us that we should meditate on his Word because he wants us to continually plant spiritual seeds from His Word in our hearts throughout every day and night of our life. If we will plant God's Word in our hearts, then allow the seed to germinate and the plant to grow to maturity, we will reap the fruit of a harvest. That is God's best!

Just start sowing the Word into your heart. Begin meditating on it day and night. The Word of God will germinate, take root, spring forth and grow up of itself.

My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. Proverbs 4:20-23

We need to believe the power and authority that's in God's Word. If you understand what I'm saying, then you will realize that the most important thing you could ever do is just take God's Word and begin planting it in your life. The Word has to be in your heart for it to begin to release that life. You can't just read it with your eyes and take a little truth into your brain. You have to put it deep down on the inside of you. You must meditate on the Word until it literally takes root on the inside of you. That's when it will just start supernaturally producing.

MAN CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT

In the same way you plant a seed in the ground and don't really know what's happening to make it grow, so it is with the Word. "So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knows not how." (Mark 4:26)

Despite all our knowledge, mankind has not been able to figure out why a seed does what it does. It does what it does just because God created it that way. However, even though we don't understand all of the specifics, that doesn't keep us from taking seeds and planting them in the ground.

This is a tremendous comfort to me. I don't have to understand everything about how the Word works. I don't have to understand why just shutting myself in with the Lord, studying his Word, and listening to Him speak to me does what it does. The fact that I can't totally explain it doesn't keep me from cooperating and reaping the benefits of it.

God put life in those seeds. Man cannot figure it out, but God spoke life into physical seeds. He's also spoken life into the spiritual seed of his Word.

SEED T-I-M-E HARVEST

God has put seeds in his Word. We need to take the seeds, plant them in our heart, and just leave them there. If we keep the Word of God fresh and alive on the inside of us, it'll continue benefiting us 20, 30, even 50 years from now, should the Lord tarry.

This is how the kingdom of God works. Once you understand this principle, you can take the Word of God, sow it in your life, and keep it there. Instead of being discouraged that it takes time to grow, you can be encouraged. Once you get this system going, and you've invested this time, the Word of God will just supernaturally change you. You'll be changed effortlessly by the Word of God. It'll just spring forth and grow up in your life. You'll be transformed.

Every second you spend meditating in the Word of God and planting those seeds in your heart, you're starting in motion a process that cannot be stopped. Seeds are powerful.

It takes time to get into the Word of God and start seeing the life that's in the Word released into your life. During that period of time, when you're sowing the seed and waiting for it to increase and grow to the point that it will bring liberty in your life, don't be so stubborn or proud that you won't go to someone for help and ask them to pray for you.

If you want to be someone who really produces fruit and sees the Word of God work, it's not going to happen overnight. You can't microwave your miracle. It takes time. There is seed, time and harvest. Actually, sometimes it is seed, T – T – T – I – I – I – M – M – M – E – E – E and then harvest. It takes a period of time.

When you put a seed in the ground, you don't know what's happening. But if you will leave that seed in the ground, keeping it watered and weeded, God has made it so that over time, it'll germinate and take root. The crop will come up and the fruit will mature. Time is actually a benefit. Instead of looking at time negatively you need to see it as a friend.

Jesus is saying that the kingdom of God is like a man that takes a seed and puts it in the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day. This implies time. You have to exercise patience. Seed – **TIME** – Harvest.

You can't just take a promise, plant it, and expect to receive and reap a harvest right away. You can't just hear 1 Peter 2:24 for the first time, then confess "by his stripes I am healed. I claim it in the name of Jesus," and then if you aren't healed in the next 10 minutes, go dig that seed up by saying, "well, nothing's happening." And then the next day, you go back and do it again. That's not abiding in the Word, and letting the Word abide in you. (John 15:5)

Yet many people are trying church, trying prayer lines, and trying everything else except taking God's Word and meditating on it, and they are wondering why they aren't getting the results they desire. This truth is so simple to understand, you have to have somebody help you misunderstand it.

You take the Word of God, plant it in your heart, leave it there, meditate on it, and it will produce a harvest!

On the basis of this parable, you don't go from seed to full harvest without any intermediate steps. Seed, time, and harvest are all parts of the process. Reaching the harvest takes time. Time is your friend, not your enemy.

MONEY IS A SEED

When you give money, it's like planting a seed. In the same way that planting a seed gives rise to a new plant that bears many more seeds, giving money away causes finances to grow in your life.

Prosperity doesn't happen overnight. You don't go from being selfish to becoming a generous millionaire instantly for a couple of reasons. First there is a time between planting seed and harvesting. Fruit doesn't show up the next day. Second, money has power, and you might not be able to handle the power of prosperity right away.

The motive for our giving has to be a cheerful heart, but we can see the natural reasons why tithing is beneficial. It's just like a farmer who sows seeds to reap a crop. God gives you seed, and you have a choice about what to do with that seed. You can eat all of the seed that God gives you, or you can plant some of it and reap a crop that will ensure you have something to eat next year.

Planting seeds ensures a future crop, and tithing looses finances into your future – in addition to the eternal benefit. Money is like seed, and when you consume every dollar that comes your way, you aren't investing in your future.

You can get strength and sustenance by eating seeds, but you also need enough wisdom to set aside a portion of those seeds for planting. You can't eat those seeds, even when you're hungry, because eating all of your seed now means starving tomorrow. Planting seed ensures that you have a crop in the future to feed your family and provide for your needs.

Most people are short-term thinkers. They don't see the wisdom in giving because the natural mind can't understand the things of the spirit. (1 Corinthians 2:14)

God loves you if you eat all of your seed, but don't be surprised when the money runs out and you're crying out to God about not meeting your needs. It's not his fault if you ate all of your seed. You need to be disciplined enough to take a portion of what God has given you and sow it into your future.

"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" (2 Corinthians 9:10)

"Give, and it will be given to you, a good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over shall men give unto your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." (Luke 6:38)

Galatians 6:7 also shows that you reap what you sow. If you give a little, you get a little – but when you give liberally, you get liberally. When you sow a lot, you reap a lot. Nearly everyone wants to reap a lot, but they try sowing as little as possible, it doesn't work that way. You can't give by the teaspoon and expect to receive by the truckload. If you want to receive by the truckload, then you have to give by the truckload.

**If you're wondering what kind of seed you should give, let me ask you a question: What is your need?
Give what you need to receive.**

According to Luke 6:38, what you give - whether good or bad - will be measured back to you. Whatever you give, make it something you feel in the depths of your being, something that represents the real you. A seed of faith is anything that you give out of your heart.

If you want to prosper in God's system, then you have to start giving – and you can't just grudgingly give a little bit if you want a large harvest. You have to give a lot, you have to do it cheerfully, and you have to give from the first fruits. If you do those things over a prolonged period of time, then you can start to see a crop come in.

UNDERSTAND

"Therefore, hear the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside." (Matthew 13:18-19)

Understanding is what allows the seed to sink down inside you. Understanding allows the Word to penetrate your heart. It's the door that permits the Word to come into your life. If there isn't understanding, then the Word is never going to germinate. So, the Word of God must be spoken in such a way that it's easy to understand.

You should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart. Ephesians 4:17-18

A heart represented by the wayside ground is one that has no understanding of God's Word. (Matt 13:19) The Word never gets inside of the heart, but lays on the surface, where it's easily stolen away by the devil. Jesus said that Satan has the ability to steal this Word from those who understand it not. Therefore, understanding is the first step in getting God's Word down on the inside of us.

My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom, and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight, and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver, and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.
Proverbs 2:1-7

YOU ARE PLAIN AS DIRT

Jesus often used parables to communicate spiritual truth in a way that could be commonly understood. In the parable of the sower (Mark 4:1-20), Jesus taught that the Word of God is like a seed, and our heart is like soil. Jesus taught his disciples that if they couldn't understand that one parable, they wouldn't be able to understand any other parables. There's something in that single parable that shows us how valuable and powerful the Word of God really is when it is sown into our hearts. Yet, sad to say, many Christians just don't make time to study the Bible.

What if I told you that everything you needed to be successful - to be whole, physically, financially and in every other area of your life – is already deposited in your born-again spirit? And what if I told you the only thing you needed to activate it was to sow the seed of God's Word? Now, how do you think your life would change if you committed yourself to studying the Bible on a regular basis?

**The Word of God is the most essential thing you need in your life,
both spiritually and physically. It has the power to transform the world!**

**The Word of God is an incorruptible seed that brings forth fruit when planted in your heart.
God's Word can activate what you already have in your born-again spirit!**

For whatever reason, the church has been making converts, but not disciples. By Jesus' own definition, a disciple is a person who continues in his Word until they are free. (John 8:31-32) The church has not emphasized God's Word nearly enough, and it's caused millions of people who claim to be Christians to just not let the Bible get in the way of what they believe.

As Christians, it's important for us to sow the seed of God's Word into our hearts so we can bear fruit (Gal. 5:22-23) and be ready to give an answer to every man that asks about the hope that is in us. (1 Pet. 3:15) There is a world dying for lack of answers to the issues they face, and I believe the Word of God has them.

SEED & SOIL – GOD'S WORD & YOUR HEART

The Lord taught three parables in the 4th chapter of Mark, which illustrate the Word is to the Kingdom of God what a natural seed is to a physical harvest.

The first parable in Mark 4, the Parable of the Sower, is the key to unlocking all the Word of God. That is really significant because He's saying that if you don't understand this teaching, then you won't be able to understand any of his teachings. So this is like a key that unlocks everything else.

In this parable, Jesus described four types of soil into which seed could be sown, but He really wasn't teaching about agriculture. When Jesus later explained the parable to his disciples, He revealed that the seed was the Word of God,

and that the soil was people's hearts.

1 Peter 1:23 says, "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which lives and abides forever." According to this verse, the Word of God is a seed, an incorruptible seed, which in the Greek refers to the seed a man sows into a woman to conceive a child. The bottom line is conception cannot take place without first planting the seed.

However, I talk to people all the time who pray and believe for God to do something in their lives but remain frustrated with the results. It's because they are missing the seeds of conception; they just don't know God's Word.

To conceive and give birth from your spirit, you must first plant God's Word like a seed in your heart.

God's kingdom operates on laws, like the laws that govern the fruit-bearing process of a seed. And this is precisely the reason most people don't see God's best come to pass in their lives. They think that since God loves them, he will just grant their request regardless of whether they put the seed of God's Word to work or not.

But God has already done his part. He has given us the Word! The power is in His promises - His Word. As we plant those promises in our hearts, the truth of His Word germinates, and prosperity comes.

Likewise, the proper way to get healed is to take God's promises of healing and plant them in our hearts until they release their life-giving power into our physical bodies.

There is life in God's Word—in the promise itself. It is the life that God breathed into it.

It is of utmost importance that you know God's Word and that you plant that seed in your heart. It could mean the difference between prosperity and poverty, health and sickness or even life and death. But the seed can do nothing without soil.

According to Genesis 1:11-12 and Mark 4:28, seeds don't produce a harvest. The earth produces the harvest. The seed activates what is already in the soil.

If you could understand and apply this principle of God's Kingdom to your personal life, I believe it would change everything.

The Word of God contains total power. (Ps 138:2 & Heb 1:3), but it has to be planted in our hearts and allowed to germinate before it releases that power.

The Word is the same in every situation. It is good seed - incorruptible seed (1 Peter 1:23) - but there are different results in each case because of the condition of people's hearts.

The Word doesn't work for everyone because not everyone will allow the Word to work. What would happen if you planted a seed in your garden and then dug it up each morning to see if anything was happening. It would die and never produce fruit. You have to have faith that the seed is doing what God created it to do.

The variable in this parable is the condition of these hearts. God's Word is always the same. It is incorruptible. It has the same potential in every heart.

Some people put God's Word in their hearts for a day or two, but if they don't see fruit almost immediately, they dig up the seed through their words and actions and wonder why it didn't work. You have to leave it in the ground. We can take the supernatural words of God - the seed of miracles we need - and meditate on them until we can see the

result in our hearts. Those who will place His words in their hearts and allow those seeds to take root and sprout will, in time, see the manifestation of what they believe and speak.

ATTEND TO THE WORD

We only have so much attention to give. If we want fruitfulness, we need to focus on the Word and not on other things that can preoccupy us. Just as the earth only has so many nutrients, and weeds can take away nourishment that could be going to the desired plant, so all the things of this world will steal energy from us that could be going into the Word of God.

Notice that these aren't necessarily bad things. We have to attend to the affairs of this life to a degree. But there has to be a proper balance between job, family, leisure and the Word. We don't strike this balance once and are through with it. This is something that constantly varies based on our seasons of life.

My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. Proverbs 4:20-23

The only way to maintain the proper balance is to maintain a deep and meaningful relationship with the Lord. He will reveal to us anytime we begin to be too focused on something other than Him.

The strength of a laser lies in its focus. If the focus is diffused, the laser ceases to be powerful. Likewise, the power of the Christian is amplified by a single focus (Phil 3:13) The way to destroy a man's vision is to give him two, which is really the meaning of the word "division."

SOWING INTO GOOD SOIL

"But other seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred." Mark 4:8

The thing that made this ground good, in contrast with the other three types of ground, is not that it had more rocks, thorns or other things, but rather that it had less. It had less weeds and fewer rocks to drain the nutrients.

Many times we feel that we just don't have what it takes to become fruitful, but the truth is that any of us can see God's Word produce in our lives if we root out all the contrary things.

Satan cannot steal the Word out of fertile soil!

Good ground doesn't just happen. It has to be cultivated. This is the reason only one out of four kinds of soil in Jesus parable brought forth fruit.

It takes a lot of effort and diligence to be a fruitful Christian. It also takes a lot of patience. The Christian life is not like a 100-yard dash, but rather a 26-mile marathon. It takes time to become a fruitful Christian. It's quicker and easier to raise weeds than it is to raise tomatoes or corn.

For your heart to be good ground, it takes eliminating preoccupation with the things of the world and placing more focus on the Lord.

In this whole parable, the Word was the catalyst that produced fruit. It was what was in the ground that allowed it to grow. If we will simply put God's Word in our hearts, protect it and give it priority in our lives, the soil will bring forth fruit of itself.

Satan has deceived many of us into thinking that we don't have the talents or abilities to be fruitful Christians, but we are not the ones who bring forth fruit. It's God's Word planted in our hearts. When we protect the Word sown in our hearts, it will do the rest.

Even among those who were fruitful, there were varying degrees of fruitfulness. But this wasn't dictated by the person who sowed the Word, it's all about the condition of the soil it's sown in.

God's Word has the same potential in every situation. It's not the Word that is the variable, but rather the condition of the heart that is receiving it.

The Greek word *automatos*, which was translated "of herself" in verse 28, is only used twice in Scripture; in this verse and Acts 12:10. It means "self-moved ('automatic'), i.e. spontaneous." It's where we get our English word *automatic*. The ground just produces fruit automatically. Likewise, our hearts are made to automatically produce whatever seeds we sow in it.

Everything we will ever need is already in our hearts through the new birth. We just need the incorruptible seed of God's Word to bring them to fruition.

Our hearts are miraculous soil, just waiting for the seed to bring out all God has put in us.

REAPING A HARVEST

Your heart is the ground, and when you get born again, God put in your heart everything that you will ever need. If you need finances, it's all in there. If you're born again, you have the fullness of the Godhead in you bodily, and that includes finances. You just need to take the seed of God's Word and put it in your spiritual womb - your heart - and that seed will activate and conceive miracles.

I found about 100 scriptures on prosperity, and I wrote them out longhand on a legal pad. I would just go through those scriptures, read them, pray over them and meditate on them.

I planted the seed, the promises from God's Word for two years. And to most people, there was no evidence of anything happening. But I just kept planting the seed in my heart, meditating on it and the earth - my heart - just brought forth fruit of herself. (Mark 4:28) All of a sudden, those seeds that I'd been sowing in my heart - they sprouted. Immediately, I got a revelation on finances!

You must become seed-conscious, not need-conscious.

Notice that the Bible says only that our godly gifts will come back to us. It doesn't say how or when.

God's economy isn't like ours. It isn't up one day and down the other. It's always the same and it always works perfectly. If you have good earth, good seed, and good water, you will have growth. It's inevitable. The laws of God will produce that increase every single time. So, if you're facing a need, don't panic - plant a seed! That seed may take the form of time, money, or some other resource you have to give.

The secret is to sow faithfully, generously, and regularly so that we can expect a continual flow of godly gifts in return.

Next time you give, don't be afraid to expect a harvest! Release your faith for the financial rewards Jesus promised. Then when they come, turn right around and plant them again. Keep the flow of giving and receiving going so that the Lord can bless the world through you!

I'm not bragging on me, but I am bragging on what the Lord has done. It's all because I spent time sowing the seeds

of God's Word in my heart, putting down roots that would support the vision God had for my life, and seeing it conceived and birthed into a worldwide ministry!

LIVING TO GIVE

One of the best things you can do if you're having a problem is to help solve somebody else's problem. If you want your dreams to come to pass, help someone else fulfill his or her dreams. Start sowing some seeds so God can bring you a harvest. When we meet other people's needs, God always meets our needs.

You've got to sow some seeds. We were created to give, not to simply please ourselves. If you miss that truth, you will miss the abundant, overflowing, joy-filled life that God has in store for you.

When you reach out to other people in need, God will make sure that your own needs are supplied. You need to sow some seed so God can bring you a harvest. If you're struggling financially, go out and help somebody who has less than you have.

We should concentrate more on being a blessing than trying to be blessed. We need to look for opportunities to share God's love, his gifts and His goodness with others. The truth is, the more you help others, the more that God will make sure that you are helped.

Giving includes money, but it is far more than money. Every time you love, you plant a seed. Every time you give a word of encouragement, you plant a seed. Every time you pray for someone, you plant a seed. Every time you have a good thought toward someone, you plant a seed.

We will reap what we sow. When we do good for other people, that's when God is going to make sure that His abundant blessings overtake you. If you want to live a victorious Christian life, you must develop a lifestyle of giving; living to give instead of living to get. Have an attitude that says, who can I bless today? rather than how can I get blessed today?

It's exciting to plant seeds, and it's really exciting when it's time for harvest — when your faith finally manifests in the physical realm! But in order to reach that point, you must hold tightly to what God has told you and remember that your seed — whether it's the Word of God, financial seed, or seeds of uninterrupted, useful deeds toward others — has a set season when it will produce if you do not disrupt the process. As long as you stay the course, it is guaranteed that you will reap from what you have planted, or sown.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Whatever you need and whatever God has called you to do in life, it all goes right back to this parable. A man casts seed into the ground and it grows up and becomes victory!

The Word of God is like a seed, and when you plant a seed, it's miraculous what happens. You can't just ignore the seeds and leave them unattended. They won't sprout until you plant them in the ground. Our heart is the ground.

I cannot tell you strongly enough how important it is that you know God's Word and that you plant the seed of His Word in your heart long before you need the fruit of the harvest. It could mean the difference between prosperity and poverty, health and sickness or even life and death.

Plant the seed of God's Word. Water it. Cultivate it. Then as Mark 4:27 says, all you have to do is "sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed will spring and grow up."

"But I don't understand how that works!" you say. It doesn't matter. Just do it. Plant and water. Sleep and rise. Sure enough, one of these mornings you'll wake up to an abundant harvest!

I'm not the brightest, smartest or most polished person. But the one thing I've done is to take God's Word and let it produce miraculous results for me and through me. My whole life and ministry are the product of meditating on God's Word. Any good thing in my life or ministry can be traced back to how God's Word has changed me.

Do not attempt to intellectualize this process. Continually plant these magnificent spiritual seeds with unwavering faith in Almighty God. If Jesus told you that His Word is a seed and that the good soil to plant these seeds is your heart, that is all you need to know. You should be determined to plant as many seeds as you possibly can into the fertile spiritual soil of your heart.

This law of seed, time and harvest operates in every area of our lives. If we will plant God's Word in our hearts, then allow the seed to germinate and the plant to grow to maturity, we will reap the fruit of a harvest. That is God's best!

List the ways you have already received a harvest on past seeds and deeds you've sown. It will both surprise and encourage you to see how much of a harvest you have already reaped from seeds you've sown in the past! Seeds mature at varying times. Think about the fact that it just may not be time for some of the seeds you've sown to mature. If your seeds have been in the soil a long time, it's likely that your harvest is not far away. Determine what your position of faith and patience will look like until you see the fulfillment of your desire or dream.