

REDEMPTION CHURCH

Ble\$\$ed & Wi\$e | Plant the Seed

2 Corinthians 9:6-12

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. ⁹As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." ¹⁰He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. ¹²For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God.

Why are we still talking about money? Because Jesus talked about it, because it is the #1 stressor for most Americans, and because handling money God's way is a superpower!

In this series we've learned money rules that can lead us from stressed to blessed: obedience unlocks blessing, we can't love God and money, wisdom creates wealth, and we reap what we sow. So at this point, we've covered that obedience includes offering our firstfruits, the full tithe (10%), building wealth, and handling money well. In our 3rd week, we finish that list with **sowing** and a closer look at **Rule #4: We reap what we sow.**

Notes:

This week we look to [2 Corinthians 9:6-15](#). Paul is writing to one church (Corinth) about supporting other churches –namely Macedonia. He's talking directly about financial giving above and beyond the tithe; but, many of his principles, when properly understood, help give a better grasp of Biblical money principles.

Sowing & Reaping Principle 1: You reap WHAT you sow.

And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. Genesis 1:11-12

Nowhere in the Bible is one thing sown and another reaped –it doesn't happen, not anywhere. We can try to spin this as much as we want, or we can just accept what the Word says.

We should make sure that we haven't bought into a poverty, prosperity, or a socialist gospel (if we have, these kinds of verses can be upsetting...that's ok, let the Bible correct our thinking).

If we sow money, we reap money. That's how *sowing and reaping* works.

Mark 4:26-29

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And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

Psalm 126:5-6

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Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy! He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

Romans 11:16

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If the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, so is the whole lump, and if the root is holy, so are the branches.

Now What?

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Blessed & Wise is carrying out all of these principles in the correct order and in the correct way.

Scared? God wants us to have faith and trust Him and His promises! *When should we start? NOW!*

Sowing & Reaping Principle 2: You reap AFTER you sow.

See Mark 4:26-29.

Paul knows Scripture, so he refers back to Jesus' parable about sowing and reaping. Jesus used familiar language to help us understand Gospel growth. Paul is now intentionally using the same language to bring understanding to how the principles of generosity work.

"You know not how..." Yep, but God does and we can trust Him. *I don't know (practically) how we got here. But God does. I don't know where the money came from. But God does. I don't know how we made it through that season. But God does!*

How do we get there? Start sowing! Well, how much? How much of a harvest do you want? Up to you! See 2 Cor 9:11 – God will help us do it!

Sowing & Reaping Principle 3: You reap MORE than you sow.

See Psalm 126:5-6.

Even if it is hard, it's still worth it. Even if we are crying as we sow, it **will** be worth it in the end. We can also be cheerful givers and still acknowledge that it's hard. The beauty of the principle is that if we sow, we will reap more. Isn't that great?!

We are allowed to be excited when we reap! We don't have to pretend it isn't fun. We should be humble and not take the credit, but we can certainly enjoy it! *Shouts of joy!*

Sowing & Reaping Principle 4: What you sow can be blessed.

See Romans 11:16.

If what we sow (or give) first is holy (given obediently and cheerfully) then everything after that we give can be holy, and what is holy can be blessed!

We learn something interesting in the story of the feeding of the 5,000. The 5 loaves and 2 fishes are first given. Jesus then blesses them. Next, they are given away. Lastly, they're multiplied.

What does this teach us? These principles follow in order:

**FirstFruits / Tithe (10%) → Save → Budget → Sow
Given → Blessed → Multiplied**

Our finances will be blessed when we give first. What we give can be multiplied exactly as 2 Cor 9 teaches!

And guess what - all of it is joyful, all of it is celebratory, and all of it flows from grace. It's a superpower!