



## SOW IN FAITH (Week 2)

**WELCOME:** Have you ever gone fruit picking? What is the most exciting part of fruit-picking?

**WORSHIP:** This new sermon series, *Envision Greater Things* is designed to help us grow in four areas of faith: **seeing in faith**, to **sowing in faith**, **speaking in faith** and **stepping in faith**. God is doing greater things around us and we want to pursue with greater passion, the greater things that God is doing. As we begin, let's worship God by finding or using just one word that describes who or what God has proved Himself to be this past week to you (example: "Provider. God has proven that He is a great provider by...").

### WORD:

We believe God owns everything and that He has given us the responsibility to care for, manage and use for His glory all that has been entrusted to us. The word we use for that responsibility is stewardship. Stewardship is defined as the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care. Stewardship is not just about money, it's about who we are and all that has been given to us. A very important ability of faith that many Christians ought to learn is, *sowing in faith*. Sowing in faith is one way to steward the resources in our life. When we sow in faith what we have been given, we not only see fruit, we also honor God.

As the missionary, William Carey said, "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God." When we sow in faith, we are attempting great things for God.

### Areas in which we should sow in faith.

Ecclesiastes 11:1

*Ship (scatter) your grain across the sea; after many days you may receive a return.*

**1. Sow in faith financially.** One of the fundamental biblical principles in the realm of money is: "I do not own anything; I only manage the money and possessions that God has entrusted to me." Managers must know and carry out the will of the owner. Managers are not free to take a business anyway they choose, unless the owner has given them that prerogative. But what's great about God is, while giving us the management responsibility, He also allows us to use what He gives for our good, His kingdom and the good of the people around us.

- How has the Lord demonstrated His faithfulness to me in my finances?
- How would you describe your financial stewardship?
- Do you use my money wisely? Do you spend more or do you save more? (Read Ecclesiastes 11:2 & 6)
- Are you actively seeking godly financial counsel? Whom do I seek this counsel from?
- Have you ever sown into someone's life or ministry? Are you mentoring someone into leadership?
- Are you sowing into the Church as God commands you to? (Read Matthew 6:19-20)

**2. Sow in faith relationally.** When we see in faith the purpose and potential in the people God has placed us to be in relationship with, we will use our time, wisdom and energy to invest spiritually into their lives and see them the way God sees them. (Read 2 Timothy 2:2)

- Do I actively invest spiritually in the people God has placed in my life?
- Which relationships have I been afraid to sow the Gospel in?
- How would my life be different if I began to confront my fears?
- What steps of faith could I take in the next days to invest spiritually in others?
- When have I confronted my fears with God's Word and His courage? (2 Timothy 1:7)
- Do I have the tendency to give up on people easily? Do I give up on myself just as easily? (Galatians 6:9)

**3. Sow in faith into your calling.** Two weeks ago, Pastor Jon mentioned how a Christian's calling is two-fold: 1) heavenly, 2) earthly (Ephesians 1:18-19). It is important to treat every day as a gift from the Lord to pursue our calling and engage in activities that pave the path to God's future for us. Seeing in faith allows us to sow into our calling into faith.

- What are my current spiritual goals and objectives? How do these affect goals and priorities in other areas of my life? Am I relentlessly pursuing Christ? Why or why not?
- What or who holds me back from going all-out in my quest to follow Christ?
- What elements of my past still plague me? Are there past sins that I sense God has not forgiven me for? How is my past keeping me from living in the present?
- Who is currently following my example? Who are my disciples?
- How are they currently impacting God's kingdom? What must be altered in my life so that others will pattern themselves after me?

**4. Sow in faith continuously.** Just as farming requires work and patience, we also need to work and be patient with what we sow in faith. It takes time for seeds to grow and make a good return. We need patience to wait. But when we wait, it is important to not grow idle. We keep sowing while we wait for other seeds to germinate, take root and grow.

- Read Ecclesiastes 11:6.
- Have you been sowing into the future God has for you or are you have you been waiting idly?
- What project, dream, idea, or initiative God has placed in your heart that you should start sowing into?
- When do I plan to get started serving? What is the first step I need to take? What am I waiting for?
- Are there areas in your life that are not as fruitful? Have you sown into them? Are they taking root or are you in the habit of pulling seedlings because of your impatience?
- What does God ultimately hold me responsible to do? How can I be faithful to discern His plans and purposes for my life?

### Six Principles of the Sowing and Harvesting

Galatians 6:7-10

**7** Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. **8** Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. **9** Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. **10** Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

1. *We only reap what has been sown.*
2. *We reap the same kind as has been sown.*
3. *We Reap in a Different Season than We Sow.*
4. *We Reap More Than We Sow.*
5. *We Reap in Proportion to What We Sow.*
6. *We Reap the Full Harvest of the Good only if We Persevere.*

*What happens when you start using your sowing in faith?*

**GROUP PRAYER TIME:** *Let each one share an area in which they struggle sowing in faith in and lift each request to the Lord.*

#### **ANNOUNCEMENT:**

**FALL BAPTISM BASH – OCTOBER 23** (Right after Sunday worship at the Microtel Inn swimming pool)

If you have received Jesus as Lord and Savior and you want to take your next step of faith, **SIGN UP FOR BAPTISM!**