

Principles of Seed Faith

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: Epic Faith

Text: Genesis 8:22

*This study is developed from the “Kingdom Dynamics” Lessons Found in the Spirit Filled Life Bible.

Jesus is called “The Seed” **Genesis 3:15**

The Word of God is designated as “seed” **Luke 8:11, 1 Peter 1:23**

The growth of the believer is likened to a plant **John 15:5**

The evangelism of the world is called a harvest **Matthew 13:30**

Seed faith is a principle that is found throughout the Word of God, it is a law that is present in the natural and spiritual realm and is meant to be applied in practical living.

- 1) God established the principle of the seed and the Law of Seedtime and Harvest. **Genesis 8:22** When God created the first living thing He gave it the ability to grow through the seed; we were commanded to be fruitful and multiply. We were to do that by being good stewards of our seed. Every act of your life since your birth has operated by the seed principle- springing from good seed or bad seed you have sown- whether or not you were aware of your seed planting. The principle continues today to overcome life’s problems, reach your potential in life, see your life become fruitful, multiplied, replenished (in health, finance, spiritual renewal, family or your entire being)- determine to wisely follow God’s law of seedtime and harvest. Sow the seed (God’s Word) of the promise in the soil of your need.
- 2) Give God your best then expect His best. **2 Samuel 24:24** The very heart of seed faith is that unless you experience some sacrifice, you have not truly given. Unless you’re giving costs something- something that represents a portion of your very life- then it is not a living gift and will not yield a good harvest. Our giving to the Lord should involve three qualities:
 - a. It should be our best. When we give God our best we are in a position to expect His best back into our lives. This was the difference in the sacrifices of Cain and Able.
 - b. We should give to God first. **Proverbs 3:9-10** God is to be our first thought not an afterthought or a last resort.
 - c. Our giving and sowing should be generous. Never skimp on the seed.
Matthew 10:8
- 3) God is a good God and He desires only His best for you. **Exodus 15:26** God’s goodness awaits those who sow to the spirit and not to the flesh. **Galatians 6:7-9** God’s provision, healing and blessing come with several conditions.
 - ✓ We are to diligently heed the voice of the Lord. To heed means to pay careful attention and to take notice of.
 - ✓ We are to do what is right in His sight. Not in our sight or the sight of others. God wants us to hear His words, take His words to heart and act on them.
 - ✓ We are to listen to and keep (obey) His commands. We are to be both hearers and doers of the Word. **James 1:22-25** The Word is seed and a seed is no good if it is not planted. We plant God’s Word in the soil of our lives through our obedience to doing and living the Word.

- 4) You must give God an **opportunity**. **1 Kings 17:8-16** Faith requires that we invite God to work in His unlimited power within our **limited** circumstances.
There are two primary principles here:
- We must give something out of our **need**. This is the kind of giving that requires faith. God multiplied what the widow gave. If there is not seed there is nothing to multiply.
 - She gave first, her giving **activated** the miracle supply of God flowing back into her life. It is possible that God sustained this lady like this for up to three years. Our giving causes something to happen according to God's eternal principle of seedtime and harvest. There is an old saying that bears repeating- "Without God, you cannot; without you, God will not
- 5) God has unlimited resources, the good news is that He makes them **available** to us. **2 Chronicles 25:5-11** Man's economy **fluctuates** with the times and seasons and with supply and demand. God's supply never has any shortages. God's supply will always equal our need. He does not want any of His people to walk in lack. **1 Thessalonians 4:10-12, Psalm 34:10** Many of us think that if we give to God we will wind up with less. It is really when we give that we put ourselves in a position to increase. Sometimes what seems like waste is actually supply. We can never out give God. Remember God is our source not the person or thing we are giving to.
- 6) God has a **way** for getting your need met, your problems solved. **Matthew 17:19-20** That way is rooted in your faith becoming a seed. When you plant a seed, God changes the nature of the seed so that it becomes a plant; and the power of life surges in that tender young plant to such a great extent that even a mountain of earth cannot stop it from pushing upward. Jesus says our faith in God is like a seed. When we put our faith into action that is, when we release it to God, it takes on a totally new nature. It takes on the nature of a miracle in the making. What is the mountain in your life? Loneliness, loss of a job, disease, a wounded relationship, trouble in your home.
Jesus shows the way to see that mountain removed.
- 1st God says that you have a **measure** of faith. **Romans 12:3**
2nd Faith comes by **hearing** the Word. **Romans 10:17**
3rd God says we can **apply** our faith to see our daily needs met.
Now do something as an act of faith. Sow a mustard seed smallness of your faith into an action of love. **Matthew 17:20**
4th When your faith has been planted and is growing **speak** to your mountain.
- 7) God desires Biblical **abundance** for you. **John 10:10, 2 Corinthians 9:8** As we give our total self to God, He gives His total self to us. Jesus came to give us life- not just an ordinary existence. He came to give us fullness of life, personally, spiritually, and emotionally. Satan comes to steal all of that from us, to kill us and destroy us. Satan does this primarily through sowing **unbelief**. The first step of receiving the eternal, abundant life of God is to believe that it is for YOU!

- 8) God wants us to expect a miracle return from our sowing. **Luke 6:38** This is called the law of **divine** reciprocity. You give and God gives in return. When you plant a seed, the ground yields a harvest. That is a reciprocal relationship. The ground can only give to you as you give to the ground. Your marriage will only bloom if you sow into it. Your children will only thrive on what you plant into their lives. Many people want something for nothing when it comes to the things of God. What you **invest** into the kingdom of God is what you get out of it. Jesus has already sown into us unconditional love, grace (favor) and died so that we might live. God has already invested in us.

Notice that Jesus said give, He also said it will be **given** unto you. Giving and receiving belong together. Only when we give are we in the position to expect to reach out and receive a harvest.

Jesus said the harvest will be threefold - pressed **down**, shaken together and running over. We give as to God and we receive as from God; we should remain sensitive at all times to the different ways that God may deliver our harvest. Remember God is our deliverer. He not only takes us **out** of, He brings things **to** us, special delivery. A miracle is either coming toward you or going past you all the time.

God **expects** you to receive a harvest from your giving. Jesus opened up a whole new way of giving, we no longer **pay** or sacrifice our way into God's mercy and grace. Jesus paid our debt for everything before God on the cross and His Word is a completed work. Our giving is no longer a **debt** that we owe, but a seed that we sow. The life and power source is from Him. Ours is simply to act on the power potential in that seed life.

- 9) God has a **due** season for every seed you plant. **Galatians 6:7-9** God's time table is not always according to our desired schedule. Faith recognizes that God promised a return on our investment of faithfulness; not on our presumption and the condition of planting in good soil. Sometimes the "due" season means a quick return and sometimes it means a slow return that may take years or even a lifetime. We can count on three things:

- God will cause a **harvest** to come from our seeds.
- God is never early or late, He is always right on time with our **best** interest at heart.
- Our harvest will have the same **nature** as our seed that was sown; good seeds bring a good harvest and bad seed brings a bad harvest. **James 3:12**

Sometimes we will often labor, pray and seek fruitfulness for an extended season before we see the long sought after fruits of our harvest. There are things that we can do as we are **waiting** during the growing season of the seeds we have sown.

- a. Refuse to grow **discouraged**. Do not lose heart a harvest is CERTAIN! Remember Spirit directed words, actions, giving, loving and caring are all good seeds and God has promised to multiply those seeds back to you.
- b. Determine to keep your faith alive and active. Remember God has given you a living **word** and since His Word is alive so is your seed. **Hebrews 4:12**
- c. Give and keep on giving love and keep on loving; know this, your harvest is guaranteed. Live with an **attitude** of expectancy.

10) Our giving proves God, opens the windows of heaven to us and causes the devourer to be rebuked. **Malachi 3:8-12** This verse is vital to understanding both God's plan for the tithe and our money and for sowing seed. God actually invites people to try Him or to prove Him to verify for themselves His trustworthiness with our giving. God asks a question "will a man rob God" not "can a man rob God". We can never take anything from God, we can only withhold for ourselves what we are to give Him. When we rob God by withholding our trust in Him, we rob Him of the opportunity of pouring out great blessing into our life.

- First God promises that when we give there will be "food" or resources for the work of God
- He promises that those who tithe or sow the first fruits of their increase into the kingdom of God will see the windows of heaven open over their life and they will receive overflowing blessings and provision from heaven.
- God promises that the devourer will be rebuked. **Matthew 13:4** Our enemy is a devourer or a seed eater. He wants to take God's promises out of our life, His Word out of our hearts before it can ever get rooted. To rebuke means to chide, reprove or chase away. What a promise!

It is important to understand sowing and reaping and the expectation that comes from doing so, but we do not give with the motivation to get, we sow with the desire to obey.

God always rewards obedience. Faith understands that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Motivation matters. It is the intangible element of faith. If our motivation is manipulation then we are not walking in faith because faith desires to please God, manipulation always deals with selfishness.

Anytime you see someone use manipulation in the area of giving they are not causing you to respond in obedience but in fear. This is not love because perfect love casts out fear. The prophet Malachi calls us to respond to God's laws of seedtime and harvest out of the fear of the Lord not out of our fear of the Lord.

11) Our faith in God is key to our receiving. **Mark 11:22-24** Believing can take opposite forms. It can be faith or doubt. When you believe that God exists and that He loves you and wants to meet your needs, then your believing creates faith in your heart. On the other hand doubt is just as real. The reverse of faith tells you that God does not exist and that He is unloving and uncaring about your needs. Doubt gives rise to fear, which brings torment and not peace. Fear actually keeps you from receiving the good things that God desires for us. Doubt and do without, believe and you will receive. "EXPECT A MIRACLE". Expectancy opens your life to God and puts us in the position to receive, salvation, joy, peace, financial supply and mercy.

When it comes to faith, believing and saying go hand in hand. **Mark 11:22-24**

We are to believe what we say when we ask in prayer: Faith is not only believing, it is confessing what we know to be true. True faith is not a "Name it and Claim it" philosophy it is an absolute confession that we completely trust that God will do what He said He will do. Faith that speaks must first be a faith that seeks. God is the source of our faith and our hope. Faith only flows to Him because of the faithfulness that flows from Him.

Faith is not a trick performed with our lips but a spoken expression that comes from our heart. Faith's confession is not a **formula** to get things done. This kind of teaching is unbiblical. The fact that the faith in our heart should also be reflected in what comes out of our mouth is specifically taught by the Lord. "As a man thinks in His heart so is He". The principle of speaking to our mountain means we are to speak to whatever things we need. Whatever the mountain we are speaking to must move. Speaking to the mountain is not a vain or superstitious exercise in humanistic- mind science. Our confession and declarations become an applied release of God's creative word of promise.

- 12) All of our giving is to be as to God as our source. **Matthew 25:34-40** Whenever you and I give we are doing it for Jesus. The people we give to, visit or pray for are to be to us, as if, we were directly serving Jesus Himself.

- 13) Be wise where you plant your seeds of faith; God multiplies seed sown in **good** soil. **Mark 4:1-20** We are not only responsible to plant our seeds of faith through actual acts of giving to the Lord, we are also responsible for the soil that we select to plant in. It is the **quality** of the soil that determines the quality and quantity of our harvest. This is why God reminds us to constantly give attention to the condition of our heart. **Psalms 119:11** If we are going to hide His Word (seed) in our heart than we must make sure we are good soil. When we are giving to a ministry, a church or a person, we must make sure of the condition of their soil, otherwise we are simply wasting our seed or contributing to a bitter harvest.

- 14) God multiplies our seed to **more** than meet our need. **Luke 5:1-11** What we have will meet Jesus' need. The disciples were fisherman, all they had was a boat and Jesus used their boat as a **platform** for ministry. We must realize that our seed is something we already have that we can bless Jesus with. This is not a difficult concept to grasp. It is often the things we sow into Jesus' ministry that He turns around and meets our need with. The disciples needed fish. Many times launching out into the deep looks just like things we have done before that didn't have good results at first. They say that insanity is doing things over and over again the same way and expecting a different result. (I have never liked that definition) That is not insanity, that is called unrealistic expectations. Insanity is doing the same things over and over again in your own strength and expecting to succeed. Faith is trusting God to help you accomplish through His power and provision those things we could not do on our own.

- 15) Give what you have in your hand to give. **2 Corinthians 9:8-10** It is the grace of God that ensures we have enough seed to **apply** to every need for every season.
 - It is the **grace** of God that abounds towards us and provides us sufficiency in all things. All things beneficial for our lives come from God's hands. His grace is His unearned favor.
 - God will make sure that we have **more** than we need in order that we might be able to do good works. We are blessed to be a blessing to others. "Sufficiency" means self-satisfaction, contentedness and competence which are the earmarks of a believer whose life is blessed by God.

- The God who gave us seed in the first place is the one who meets our basic needs, multiplies our seeds sown into an abundance we can share with others. He increases the **fruits** of our righteousness. We have no lack in God, only potential.

16) You can always give a seed of prayer, of forgiveness, of love or of joy. **James 5:15-16**
 There are times when we feel like we have absolutely nothing to give to God. You can always plant a seed of faith-believing, love motivated **prayer**. Remember, righteous prayer avails much, that means it is **fruitful**. This type of prayer “saves” the sick. To understand this, the word save and heal in the Greek are virtually interchangeable. Sickness can refer to any weakness or inability, disease or sin. Anything that is “wrong” in life. The prayer of faith works in any area of life that has gone bad. Salvation brings **life** to any area that is dead. Remember the healing comes as we pray. We are forgiven as we forgive others.
Matthew 6:14-15
 We are blessed as we bless others. So remember, prayer is a seed.

17) God gave to us **first**. He is our role model for giving and receiving. **John 3:16**

- A. God so loved. His motivation for giving was Love and so must ours.
- B. God **gave**. God’s love was turned into an act of giving. When two people marry they “give” themselves to each other and must continue to love by giving through their lifetime.
- C. He gave His one and only Son, He gave His **best**. Love always gives the best.
- D. God gave for a **specific** reason. Remember seed produces after its own kind. He gave a Son, a child to gain many children.
John 12:24, John 1:12-13, Hebrews 2:10, Galatians 3:26-29
- E. God gave **sacrificially**. Our salvation cost Jesus His life. We must die to our old life and fully give our life to God to experience eternal, everlasting life.
- F. God’s plan **works**. Souls are saved because God gave His best, gave first, and gave expecting to receive. God is our role model for giving and receiving.