

4 Secrets In Sowing The Seed

Here are four key principles that relate to seed sowing and your personal finances:

1. God Owns the Seed

When you understand this first principle, you will be in a right position to prosper; you will be able to then make God your partner. Prospering by partnering with God is first done by accepting this fact: God owns everything! You do not own anything. You may have a business that you operate or manage, but you are only doing what God has allowed you to do.

Christians don't own anything at all; they merely manage things for God. When you die, how much of your money will you leave behind? All of it! When you die, how much of your money will you take with you? None of it!

“Christians don't own anything at all; they merely manage things for God.”

Ultimately, you don't own anything. You won't take your house with you. You won't take your land with you. You won't take any of the wealth or possessions with you that you have managed to accumulate here on earth. You won't even take your body because you don't even own it. When your spirit leaves your body, it will turn to dust.

You may currently possess certain things, but mere possession is not ownership. Those things that you possess can be taken from you in an instant.

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.
Psalm 24:1 NIV

“The silver is mine and the gold is mine,” declares the LORD Almighty.
Haggai 2:8 NIV

For every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird in the mountains, and the creatures of the field are mine.
Psalm 50:10,11 NIV

You can possess, but it is God who owns. You may earn a living, but it is God who gives you the ability to earn. How does this relate to the laws of sowing and reaping? If God is the true owner of your possessions, then your role is that of a steward. With the

resources God has entrusted to you, you must seek to sow into his kingdom in order to reap a heavenly harvest.

What does this look like in everyday life?

Sowing into God's kingdom means setting aside a portion of your paycheck to give into the lives of others, instead of just thinking about your own needs.

It means listening and giving with compassion as missionaries describe the needs around the world. Sowing into God's kingdom means daily looking to God and asking Him, "How do you want me to spend **Your** money today?"

"Ask God, 'How do you want me to spend Your money today?'"

2. You are a Steward of the Seed

The principles upon which a person builds his financial future are very important. They can ensure security in the later years of a person's life. The manner in which finances are acquired and disbursed must be based on sound moral guidelines. The desire for money can become an obsession. When it does, nothing can satisfy. Peace of mind is gone. The joy of a new day gives way to worry about retaining what one has and gaining more and more.

"Our life's stewardship should reflect God's interest in all that He has entrusted us with." Our life's stewardship should reflect God's interest in all that He has entrusted us with. Genesis 1:26 records that God made man to rule over all the earth and all life on earth, both plant and animal. In Genesis 2:15, man was made steward over the Garden in which there was gold, precious stones and rivers. In other words, man was created for more than going to heaven after a lifetime of waiting. He was created to be a faithful steward over the work of God's hands. This is a lot of trust that God places in our lives. It is more than just finances. It is our entire life and how we handle it with faithfulness, responsibility, accountability, honesty and integrity. Stewardship is bringing everything we have to offer to the Lordship of Christ. What kind of a person makes a good steward? A person who has a great respect for God and his creation.

Money and possessions, at best, only last a lifetime. At worst, they don't last at all. They are but a fleeting vapor, just like our lives. Why spend all of your life trying to accumulate something that will never last? How much better it would be for you to spend your time investing in things that are of eternal nature.

Some of the most miserable people in the world are people who literally have everything. Everything, that is, except a loving family and a clean heart! Everything except honor. Everything except the blessing of God. The Lord has better things to come for those who have been good stewards of all He has entrusted to them.

Leaving all scruples and morals for the sake of money is a foolish thing to do. Yet that is just what many men and women are doing today. And their seemingly apparent success sometimes causes an infectious greed that hangs upon people who should know better. Some people don't seek to put in an honest day's work for an honest dollar, a day's work for a day's pay. They get caught up in the spirit of the fast buck. Easy money; unearned income; get rich quick!

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God is concerned about our actions and motives. What we are is far more important than what we possess!

3. Be Careful Not to Hoard the Seed

“The person who takes stewardship seriously handles life, talents, strength and money as a trust from God.”

It is important to continually invest the seed that God has given to you. This doesn't mean putting your entire paycheck in the offering basket at church! It does, however, mean that you should guard yourself from an attitude that hoards the seed God gives you.

There is nothing wrong or evil about money itself. It is just a medium of exchange for goods or services rendered. However, there is often something wrong with our attitude toward money. We always seem to want more than we have. This dissatisfaction with our current state or condition can be blamed on our Adamic human nature.

Discontentment and coveting what belongs to another can cause problems with money. Paul wrote:

But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts...

I Timothy 6:9 KJV

When a person's attitude is not right toward money, he or she may fall into the trap of materialism. If, on the other hand, we use the monetary blessings God has given us to finance His cause and further His kingdom,

“Many people who have lived for money and success have failed God.”

we will be blessed accordingly. I Timothy 6:7 reminds us, “for we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out KJV.”

For in him we live and move and have our being.

Acts 17:28 KJV

But remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth...

Deuteronomy 8:18 NIV

For every living soul belongs to me.

Ezekiel 18:4 NIV

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God.

Romans 12:1 NIV

Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

Psalms 100:3 NIV

You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

I Corinthians 6:19-20 NIV

Because we are not our own, we should dedicate to God all that we are, all that we own and all that we will ever be. You are God's, so all you have belongs to God. You simply manage your possessions for Him. Your business belongs to God. When everything you have belongs to God, it takes all of the pressure off you. For example, let's say you are a farmer and your farm belongs to God. If the weather is dry and it doesn't rain, you don't have to worry about it because it belongs to God. If your business is dedicated to God, it becomes His problem and not yours. In business, when you partner with God, He not only will bless it, He will let you enjoy prosperity also. But there is a caution not to keep

everything for yourself. Instead of trying to figure out how little we can give to God, try giving it all to Him and ask Him how much you should keep.

4. Enjoy some of the seed!

The apostle Paul realized that, although everything in the universe belongs to God, if we partner with Him, He allows us to keep some of everything He provides. The farmer who harvests the crop has a right to eat some of it. The one who plants the vineyard gets to enjoy some of its fruit.

Give, and it shall be given unto you.
Luke 6:38 KJV