

Sunday, February 22, 2015

Flat Broke #4 Sowing and Reaping
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The following are foundation scriptures for this series:

Proverbs 11:24-25 (KJV)

²⁴ *There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.*

²⁵ *The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.*

When we give in blessing we will be blessed.

Proverbs 3:9-10 (KJV)

⁹ *Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:*

¹⁰ *So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.*

We know it's God's will for us to have substance and is his purpose for us to have increase. We know it's God's plan and purpose that we have increase and have more than enough.

Malachi 3:6 (KJV)

⁶ *For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.*

Genesis 8:22 (KJV)

²² *While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.*

Isaac was following God's directions. Obedience released the favor of God upon us. We must be in the right place, at the right time for God's blessing to flow to us continually.

The Lord had instructed him to go to a land that was in the midst of a famine and he obeyed.

Genesis 26:12-14 New Living Translation (NLT)

¹² *When Isaac planted his crops that year, he harvested a hundred times more grain than he planted, for the Lord blessed him. ¹³ He became a very rich man, and his wealth continued to grow. ¹⁴ He acquired so many flocks of sheep and goats, herds of cattle, and servants that the Philistines became jealous of him.*

Isaac had a covenant with the Lord and the Lord took care of Isaac because he remained true to it.

Genesis 26:12-15 (MSG)

¹²⁻¹⁵ *Isaac planted crops in that land and took in a huge harvest. God blessed him. The man got richer and richer by the day until he was very wealthy. He accumulated flocks and herds and many, many servants, so much so that the Philistines began to envy him. They got back at him by throwing dirt and debris into all the wells that his father's servants had dug back in the days of his father Abraham, clogging up all the wells.*

God is still the same God and He is still blessing the law of seed time and harvest. Is it only finances, but in all areas. We seek God first. You can't buy peace of mind.

2 Corinthians chapters 8 & 9 deal with money.

The Christians in Jerusalem had fallen on hard time financially and the churches in Macedonia or Greece had been blessed. They purposed to take up an offering and help the ones in need. Paul address it.

2 Corinthians 9:6 (KJV)

⁶ *But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.*

2 Corinthians 9:6 (CEV)

⁶ *Remember this saying,
“A few seeds make
a small harvest,
but a lot of seeds make
a big harvest.”*

2 Corinthians 9:6 (MSG)

⁶⁻⁷ *Remember: A stingy planter gets a stingy crop; a lavish planter gets a lavish crop. I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over, and make up your own mind what you will give. That will protect you against sob stories and arm-twisting. God loves it when the giver delights in the giving.*

2 Corinthians 9:6 (NLT)

⁶ *Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop.*

If you sow sparingly you will reap sparingly.

Let's say you have a need from the Lord. We hold it up to the Lord, and it may be a large need. We tell the Lord we have sown, so I know you will meet my large need. If you look at how you have sown what is the comparison? It is relative to what your resources are however.

2 Corinthians 9:7 (AMP)

⁷ *Let each one [give] as he has made up his own mind and purposed in his heart, not reluctantly or sorrowfully or under compulsion, for God loves (He ^[a]takes pleasure in, prizes above other things, and is unwilling to abandon or to do without) a cheerful (joyous, “prompt to do it”) giver [whose heart is in his giving].*

We must check our motive and attitude.

2 Corinthians 9:8 (KJV)

⁸ *And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:*

2 Corinthians 9:8 (AMP)

⁸ *And God is able to make all grace (every favor and ^[a]earthly blessing) come to you in abundance, so that you may always and under all circumstances and whatever the need ^[b]be self-sufficient [possessing enough to require no aid or support and furnished in abundance for every good work and charitable donation].*

We must realize that when God blesses us He has enough confidence and faith in us that we become stewards of what God blesses us.

It is a biblical principle to save.

Psalms 112:9 (KJV)

⁹ *He hath dispersed, he hath given to the poor; his righteousness endureth for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honour.*

Psalm 112:9 (AMP)

⁹ *He has distributed freely [he has given to the poor and needy]; his righteousness (uprightness and right standing with God) endures forever; his horn shall be exalted in honor.*

2 Corinthians 9:10-13 (AMP)

¹⁰ *And [God] Who provides seed for the sower and bread for eating will also provide and multiply your [resources for] sowing and increase the fruits of your righteousness [^a which manifests itself in active goodness, kindness, and charity].*

¹¹ *Thus you will be enriched in all things and in every way, so that you can be generous, and [your generosity as it is] administered by us will bring forth thanksgiving to God.*

¹² *For the service that the ministering of this fund renders does not only fully supply what is lacking to the saints (God's people), but it also overflows in many [cries of] thanksgiving to God.*

¹³ *Because at [your] standing of the test of this ministry, they will glorify God for your loyalty and obedience to the Gospel of Christ which you confess, as well as for your generous-hearted liberality to them and to all [the other needy ones].*

2 Corinthians 9:10-13 (NLT)

¹⁰ *For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity^[a] in you.*

¹¹ *Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. ¹² So two good things will result from this ministry of giving—the needs of the believers in Jerusalem^[b] will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God.*

¹³ *As a result of your ministry, they will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ.*

2 Corinthians 9:10-15 (MSG)

⁸⁻¹¹ *God can pour on the blessings in astonishing ways so that you're ready for anything and everything, more than just ready to do what needs to be done. As one psalmist puts it,
He throws caution to the winds,
giving to the needy in reckless abandon.*

*His right-living, right-giving ways
never run out, never wear out.*

This most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more than extravagant with you. He gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God.

¹²⁻¹⁵ *Carrying out this social relief work involves far more than helping meet the bare needs of poor Christians. It also produces abundant and bountiful thanksgivings to God. This relief offering is a prod to live at your very best, showing your gratitude to God by being openly obedient to the plain meaning of the Message of Christ. You show your gratitude through your generous offerings to your needy brothers and sisters, and really toward everyone. Meanwhile, moved by the extravagance of God in your lives, they'll respond by praying for you in passionate intercession for whatever you need. Thank God for this gift, his gift. No language can praise it enough!*

It is God's plan that we be enriched in all bountifulness.

The Word of God is seed. Wisdom is seed.

Father, I pray that You bless the men and women with divine inspired ideas. You said you would provide seed to the sower, and multiply the seed planted. Help us all to be good stewards. And the favor and blessings of God, and let us remember that it is God that blesses us today. His stamp of approval, His favor. Bless these people even beyond their expectations, in Jesus name. And their needs be met, more than enough in Jesus name.