

# Book on *Seed*

It's Origin  
It's Value  
It's Capacity  
It's Purpose  
It's Power

DAN NELL

## BOOK ON SEED (E-BOOK) – DAN NELL

“A seed is more than a monetary gift. Seed can be your life. Hiding in every seed, is a combine, a field green with produce, a future captured. Seed may carry wealth, but wealth will never be seen without a release. My recommendation is, release your future by releasing your seed.

Danie Nell's ministry as a seed impacted me since the late sixties, and I highly recommend this book knowing it comes from a seed-sowing-lifestyle and ministry. Today's release will be tomorrow's increase.”

- André van Zyl

(President: Good News to the Nations, Inc.)

*“I enjoyed writing this Book on Seed. My main purpose was that it should be a resource book that you can consult when you need information on Seed.”*



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## *Recommendation*

*“To comprehend the potential of germination and the explosive dispersal of seed is humanly almost impossible. Unreleased seed destroys the future of the seed and may leave the sower /owner of the seed in lack.*

*The "cry of seed" in the natural is to leave the owner's hand and to contact dirt where its potential can be developed. Will you answer this "cry" by sowing a seed? If we hold onto our seed, we will never own a combine or a harvest. Two thousand years ago, the most remarkable seed ever known in the heavens and on earth was released by the Creator when He released His Son, Jesus. Today, the harvest-count is still in process as billions of people are accepting Jesus as Lord and Saviour.*

*The power of seed must be rediscovered. Keep in mind that seed comes in many forms. I celebrate Dan Nell for writing this book.*

*A seed is more than a monetary gift. Seed can be your life. Hiding in every seed, is a combine, a field green with produce, a future captured. Seed may carry wealth, but wealth will never be seen without a release. Seed says: “Release me, and I’ll capture you a harvest I cannot give you as long as you control me.”*

*I personally live in 24 years of Global fruit that came from a seed-word spoken 40 years ago. My recommendation is, release your future by releasing your seed. Danie Nell’s ministry as a seed impacted me since the late sixties, and I highly recommend this book knowing it comes from a seed-sowing-lifestyle and ministry. Today’s release will be tomorrow’s increase.*

**Andre van Zyl**

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## *Acknowledgements*

### **To God**

***All the glory belongs to our heavenly Father.***

***Without Him we have no success at all.***

### **To my wife**

I thank Helene, my wife, for 62 years of a blessed marriage.

She inspired me to write this book

– this is book number 55.

She has always been the ‘Proverbs 31’ wife.

Verses 28,29 are applicable to her:

*“Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all.”*

## *Foreword*

MY main purpose of writing this book is to explain to the reader *how important and powerful seed is in this life.*

It starts to show that God created seed-bearing plants and trees, so that they can produce more of themselves.

God also created men and women with seed so that human life could multiply.

We should also know that the Bible teaches us about Sowing and Reaping as a way of living.



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## CHAPTER 1

# *The Power of Seed*

### GOD'S CREATION

#### God Created Plants and Trees with Seed

Genesis 1:12 *“The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed according to their own kinds and trees bearing fruit in which was their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good (suitable, admirable) and He approved it.”*

When God created this earth, **He bestowed seed on everything He made so that multiplication could take place.** This was for every plant, tree, bird, animal, and human being.

#### Some Information Concerning Seed

Seeds are an incredibly important part of human life, without which we would simply not exist. Our food



supply totally depends on seeds and seed stock. Many other natural resources that we use as human beings, such as cotton, paper, timber, and edible oils, all begin their existence as seeds.

### **What Are Seeds?**

Seeds are basically exceedingly small embryonic plants that are enclosed and sealed by a covering that is referred to as the seed coat.

A typical seed includes three basic components:

- an embryo
- a supply of nutrients from the embryo
- the seed coat

Seeds come in all sizes and shapes and need certain conditions for their development into plants. In terms of the sizes of seeds, they vary from the size of a pinhead to a coconut. Plants can contain a few seeds or thousands of seeds.

### **God Uses Seed to Provide Wealth and Blessing**

*If you want to have something,  
identify its seed and sow it.*

**Sowing seed gives you a legal right to a harvest.**

Spiritual virtues are seeds that can be sown.

Matt. 5:7: *“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.”*

Good deeds are seeds that can be sown. The word of God is seed that can be sown.

Mark. 4:14: *“The sower sows the word.”*

**Tithes** is a special seed that can be sown. Giving your tithes to the Lord, will give you the promise that God will *“open the windows of heaven”* for you. Read Mal.3:10.

**A seed to the poor** is a special seed that delivers us in time of trouble, gives us a long life, makes us a blessing on earth, delivers us from our enemies and gives us strength when we get sick. All of these you will find in Psalm 41:1-3.

## HOW SEED SPREADS

In the natural world, there are many ways in which seeds connect with their targeted growing space. Some seeds are so small that they can be carried in the wind before landing at a suitable place. Others can be dispersed by animals in their dung or attached to their fur. Seeds are also carried and dispersed in the sea and in rivers. The Sea Kale that is currently growing in our back garden at home came from seeds that had a tough outer coat giving it protection against the corrosive effect of the sea until it settled on a suitable shoreline where it germinated and started growing.

Fruit trees such as apples, when dropping from their branches, often roll away from the tree to gain more distance when the fruit eventually germinates.

### **Germination of Seed**

Seed germination is the process of growth of the embryo into a functional plant. It involves the reactivation of the metabolic pathways that lead to growth and the emergence of the radicle or seed root and plumule or shoot.

### **Seeds remain dormant until it is their time to germinate.**

In the natural world many seeds will germinate in the early spring with the gradual return of the sun and longer days. When we intend sowing seeds in our gardens, we rely on our knowledge of the time of the year to do so in order that they will germinate; this information is available on the packaging of seeds.

### **Three conditions must exist before germination occurs:**

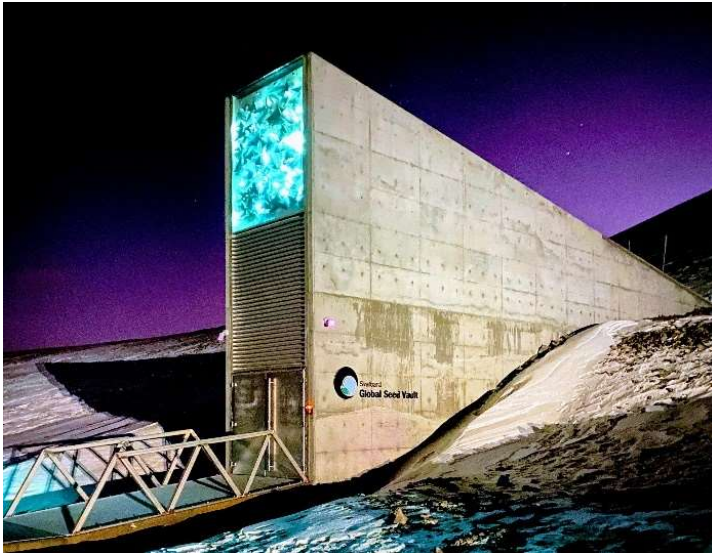
- The embryo must be alive, called seed viability.
- Overcoming dormancy that prevents germination.
- Proper environmental conditions.



**CHAPTER 2**

*The Doomsday Seed Vault*

BETWEEN Norway and the North Pole, seed is kept and protected for the future. One place is at “The Doomsday Seed Vault”.



*The Global Seed Vault* is situated deep inside a mountain on a remote island. It is a long-term seed storage facility, built to withstand the test of time and any disaster. There are more than a thousand seed vaults across the globe, but The Svalbard Seed Vault is the most widely known.

Almost a million varieties of seed, that can produce food for our world, are kept in this ‘Svalbard Doomsday Vault’ with the huge steel door leading into a mountain. This icy wilderness of Svalbard is the farthest north you can fly on a commercial airline. It is near the town of Longyearbyen, and the soil is permanently frozen – called permafrost.

This Doomsday Seed Vault is where seed is kept safely in boxes in case of an apocalyptic event or a world catastrophe.

In this vault you will find seed from all over the world, including countries such as Mexico, Syria, India, Pakistan – to mention a few. It is for its remoteness that Svalbard was chosen for this Vault. It is far away from the places where you have war and other disasters.

The Doomsday Vault is not far from “The Arctic World Archive” which preserve data for Governments and Private Institutions.

The Seeds in The Doomsday Vault are stored in vacuum-packed silver sockets and in tubes that are neatly stacked from the floor to the ceiling. This is the keys to the future Global Food Security.

There are about 1,700 variations of Seed kept worldwide. (Yes, there are other smaller vaults elsewhere).

The Svalbard Vault was opened in 2008 – but the idea started in the 1980's by Cary Fowler, a former executive of the Crop Trust.

The construction of The Doomsday Seed Vault was funded the Norwegian Government, and with The Crop Trust who operate it.

The main goal is to house and protect every unique seed that exists in the world.

There is also 'Seed Banks' protecting seed in Syria, Morocco, Iraq, Afghanistan and Lebanon. These countries have wars and other threats they face, and this makes it difficult to preserve seed.

During the siege in Leningrad, about a dozen of Scientists kept themselves in a room containing seeds they protected against hungry citizens and surrounding German soldiers. After some time, several of them eventually died from starvation.

Despite being surrounded by seeds and plant material, they refused to save themselves by eating any of it, so that the seeds could help humankind.

Today any country or organization can send seeds to this Vault.

You will find red wooden boxes from North Korea alongside Black boxes from America. And boxes from

Ukraine next to those of Russia. North and South Korean seeds will be in the same aisle. All these seeds are kept in a cold, but safe, vault for the world when there may be a critical need for them.

***We are grateful to those who decided to store seeds, that may be needed in a vault, and in that way, ensure that generations to come will have access to seeds for the preservation of mankind.***



## CHAPTER 3

### *The Ark*

#### **WE read the story of Noah and the Ark in Gen. 6 to 8:**

When we contemplate the story of the Ark, we think of all the animals that came to be saved from the flood. But have you ever thought of the plants and seed that Noah took into the Ark? This was needed to provide food for him, his family, the animals, and birds, in the Ark. And all living things.

In Gen. 6:19,20 we read that God told Noah to take into the Ark two of every sort of animal, creeping things, and birds – male and female – to keep them alive.

Then in Gen. 6:21 we read:

*“And you (God speaking to Noah) shall take for yourself of **all the food that is eaten**, and you shall gather it to yourself; and it shall be food for you and for them.”*



**And how do you think the food was preserved in the Ark?**

Another point we should take note of is that **plants and seeds would also have been needed after the flood.**

**A fact: It took Noah about 120 years to build the Ark.**

In Gen. 5:32 the Bible says:

*“And Noah was five hundred years old, and Noah begot Shem, Ham, and Japheth.”*

Then in Gen. 7:6,11,12 we read:

*“Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters were on the earth... In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights.”*

**We know that everything outside the Ark died in this flood.** And, that the waters prevailed on the earth for one hundred and fifty days, according to Genesis 7:23, 24.

Adding up the information at our disposal, we can only surmise that it must have taken Noah about 120 years to build the ark. Noah had to preserve seeds and plants not only for their long voyage but also for what they would need after the floodwaters had subsided. Noah used parts of the Ark as a Greenhouse.

Gen. 7:1,2:

*“Then the Lord said to Noah, come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation. You shall take with you seven each of every clean animal, a male and his female; two each of animals that are unclean, a male and his female; also, seven each of birds of the air, male and female, to keep the species alive on the face of all the earth.”*

After the Flood God said in Gen. 8:22

*“While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest... shall not cease.”*

The first thing Noah did after the Flood was to **plant** Seed and Trees, so that this Scripture could be fulfilled.

When God created the first living thing, He gave it the **ability to grow and multiply**. How? Through Seed.

Your **life began** (and exists today) under the Seed Principle.

**Reach out to your potential** in life, and be fruitful, multiply in health, finances and in your spiritual life.

Focus to **follow** God’s law of “Seedtime and Harvest time.”

## **DID YOU KNOW THERE IS A REPLICA OF THE ARK IN OHIO – AMERICA?**

The Troyer Group, a construction firm from Mishawaka, Indiana, constructed an ark, at Williamstown, 40 miles South of Cincinnati, Ohio. The work was done by Amish builders using traditional timber framing-techniques. In total 1,000 craftsmen were employed in the ark's construction.

In September 2018, my wife and I visited the model of The Ark in Ohio, America – we share some of the photos taken of this magnificent replica of The Ark, Noah built.



*My wife Helene and I at The Ark in Ohio*

**The story of Noah building the Ark is a great one.**

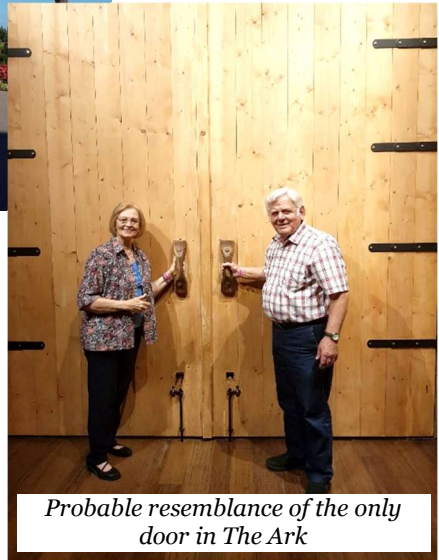


God used Noah to build a huge boat on dry land, and by doing that for 120 years, God used it to bring a clear message to the nation to turn to God.

This shows the patience God has with us.

Many of us have trouble sticking to any project.

The length of Noah's obedience was greater than today's expected lifetime.



*Probable resemblance of the only door in The Ark*

## *Interesting Facts*

# *About Noah*

**Gen. 7:1** - God saw that Noah was a righteous man.  
(Meaning that he was in right-standing with God.)

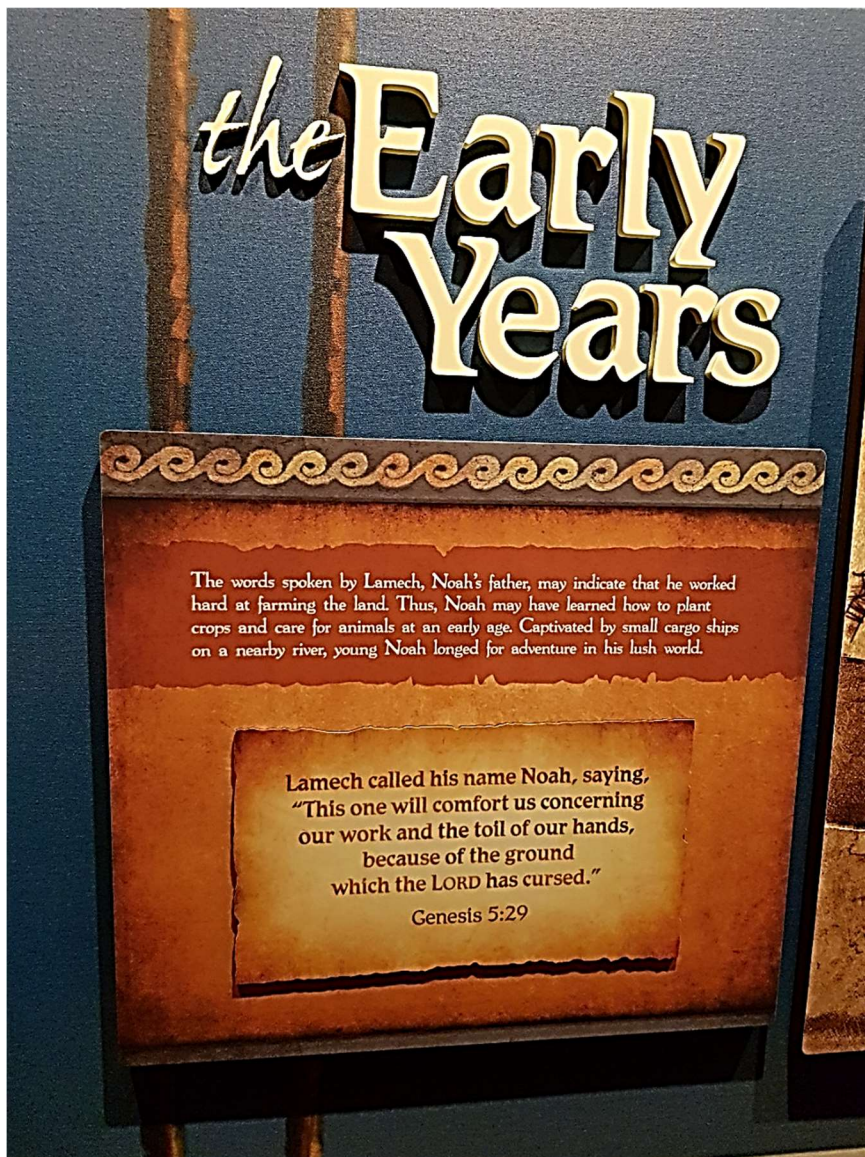
**Hebrews 11:7** *“By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household...”*

**2 Peter 2:5** *“God saved Noah, one of eight people, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood on the world of the ungodly...”*

The father of Noah passed away about five years before the flood came, and his grandfather, Methuselah, died about a year before the flood at the age of 969 years.

Noah, his wife, Emzara and their three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth (Gen. 7:13) with their wives worked hard to see that all the animals and birds came on board. Also, to see that the last provisions was in the Ark. They needed to hurry because the storm and the big rain was almost there.

**Genesis 9:28,29** *“And Noah lived after the flood three hundred and fifty years. So, all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years; and he died.”*



## Using His Gifts

How could Noah have learned the skills he needed to build the Ark? We know that God gives each person the talents and abilities to accomplish the purpose He assigns them. Like people today, Noah surely developed his God-given abilities throughout his lifetime.

## Artistic License

This exhibit provides a plausible backstory based on clues from Scripture to explain how the Lord may have prepared His faithful servant to fulfill such an important mission.

### What Does *the Bible* Say About Noah

**He walked with God**

Genesis 6:9

**He was a righteous man and  
a preacher of righteousness**

Genesis 7:1 · Ezekiel 14:14, 20 · 2 Peter 2:5

**He faithfully followed  
God's instructions**

Genesis 6:22 · Hebrews 11:7



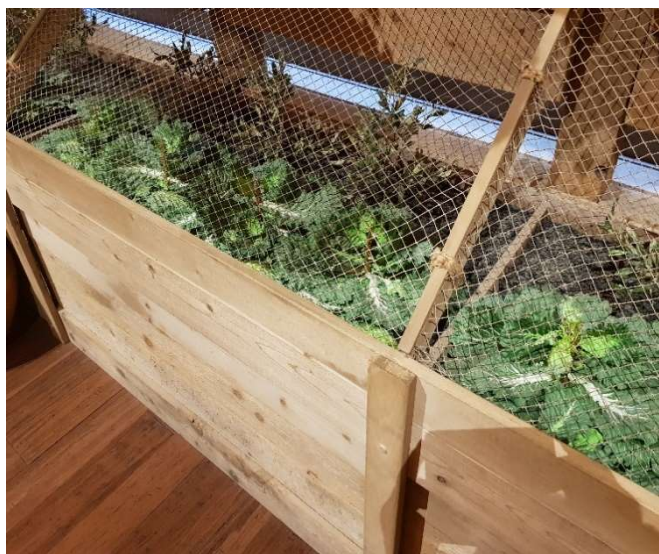
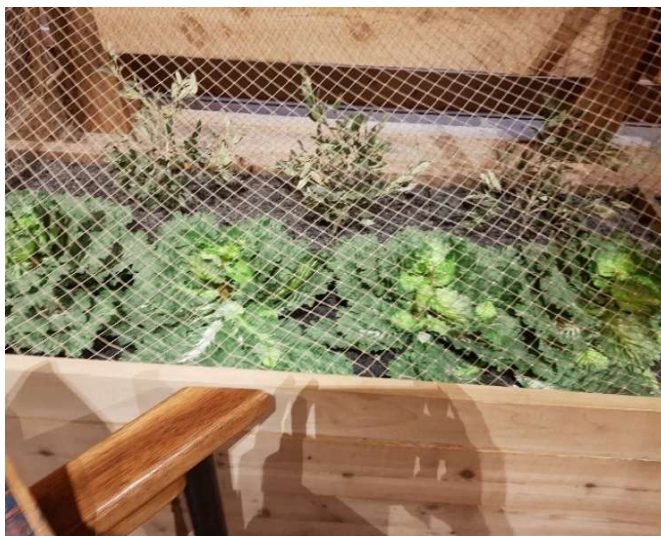


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*This shows how plants and seed were kept in The Ark.*

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## CHAPTER 4

# *Seed Has the Capability to Grow*

ONE thing we know is that whenever you sow (or plant) seed, it has the capability to grow. This tree started as a small seed and made its way through this rock. Never underestimate any seed!

### **THE WORD OF GOD IS SEED**

In Luke 8:11 we read:

*“Now the parable is this: The seed is the Word of God.”*

Peter also said that the Word of God is seed. 1 Peter 1:23:

*“Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word*



*of God which lives and abides forever.” (New King James)*

The Amplified Bible translates this text:

*“You have been regenerated (born again), not from a mortal origin (seed, sperm) but from one that is immortal by the ever living and lasting Word of God.”*

### **There is life-giving power in the Scriptures.**

The words printed in your Bible may look lifeless and without power. Normal seed also looks lifeless and without power, but they have the potential of life in them. You will not know if there is any life in a seed until you planted it and gave it water to grow.

Should a farmer leave seed in bags in his barn, they will never bring him a crop.

If you want God’s Word to grow in your life, plant it in yourself and in the lives of other people. You do that by believing God’s Word with your heart and by confessing it with your mouth.

In Romans 10:10 we read:

*“For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.”  
(New King James)*

The Amplified Bible translates this text:

*“For with the heart a person believes (adheres to, trust in, and relies on Christ) and so is justified (declared righteous, acceptable to God), and with the mouth he confesses (declares openly and speaks out freely his faith) and confirms [his] salvation.”*

The Living Bible translates this with:

*“For it is by believing in his heart that a man becomes right with God; and with his mouth he tells others of his faith, confirming his salvation.”*

In Mark 4:30, 31 we read that **Gods kingdom is like seed**. If we are to understand how God’s kingdom works, we need to understand seed.

**Seed is much smaller than the plant it produces.**

When a seed starts to grow, it will break through the soil above it, avoiding obstacles, to get to the top of the ground so that the sun could shine on it for further growth.

**Seed grows underground in secret.**

One great miracle about seed is that you will only know it is growing when you see it above the ground.

When we plant seed in the ground, a lot happens underground that we cannot see. First the root system needs to grow before we can notice anything above the ground.

God's kingdom is based on the same principle as we read in **Mark 4:26-32**. God is working where we cannot see, so that the seed planted will produce fruit.

The period time of seed growing below the surface, could change into a period when we become weary and discouraged. While waiting for the seed to grow we must remember the promise in Gal. 6:9:

*“And Let us not lose heart and grow weary and faint in acting noble and doing right. For in due time and at the appointed season we shall reap, if we do not loosen and relax our courage and faint.”*

### **Seed takes time to produce**

Our problem is that we want everything to happen in one day. There is a text in **Isaiah 28:16** that says: *“Whoever believes will not act hastily.”* I must confess, I believe but I have a problem to wait for something. But you and I should discipline ourselves and let seed, that we planted, take its time to grow.

### **Seed is persistent.**

It never gives up but work night and day, even when we are sleeping. Read **Mark 4:26,27** to understand this truth.

**Seed is not affected by other seeds.**

Each seed sticks to its own task, and is not discouraged, nor does it quit, when other seeds around it does not grow or even dies.

**Seed will stop growing if it is not protected and taken care of – this is important to understand.**

It is like having a child but not taking any responsibility in raising that child. The same principle applies with any seed we plant. The principle is that what you do for God and His Kingdom, you should do with a *caring heart*.

**The more seeds you plant – the larger the crop will be.  
2 Cor. 9:6:**

*“But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”*

Should you expect a large crop you should sow in abundance.

In **2 Cor. 9:10** we read that God will give your more and more seed to plant and will make it grow so that you can give away more and more.

## SMALL SEEDS CAN CREATE LARGE TREES

Read these two Scriptures and believe that a small Seed can create large Trees.

**Genesis 1:12** *“And the earth brought forth grass, and herb (that is plants) yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw it was good.”*



**Mark 4:30-32** New King James:

*“Then He said, to what shall we liken the kingdom of God? Or with what parable shall we picture it? It is like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth; but when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade.”*



## THE REDWOOD TREES

Redwood trees are the tallest trees in the world reaching up to 360 feet (about 112 meters). Fully grown Redwood trees are about 8 meters in diameter at breast level.



It is believed that some Redwood trees are over 2000 years old.

Most of these giants occur in California on the Western Coast of America in California. That is next to the Pacific Coast.



Redwood trees were used in building cities like San Francisco, San Jose and beyond. When you drive or hike, through the Santa Cruz Mountains, you

will find young Redwood trees.

These trees can grow 100 feet (31 meters) in their first 50 years. You will also find Redwood trees in central China, but they are smaller than those in California.

Redwood trees capture more carbon dioxide emissions from our cars, trucks, and power plants than any other tree you will find. Mountain lions and salmon find protection in these Redwood forests. Tannins in the bark help to protect them from insects, bacteria, fungi, and fire. They have a long-life span.

They are used for building because they are extremely resistant to insects, fire, and rot. These trees contain tannin, which protects the tree against fire. The roots of Redwood trees measure six to twelve feet in length.

They intertwine with the roots of others, joining them together to prevent being blown or washed away. (We as human beings can learn to do the same.)



## CHAPTER 5

# *Human Seed*

*Dr. Petro Maritz (GP in Jeffreys Bay – South Africa)*

### **WHAT IS IMPORTANT ABOUT HUMAN SEED?**

***Answer: This Seed can reproduce other human beings.***

All of us are made unique with different physical appearance, finger- prints, and personality.

It all starts with seeds; Sperm in a male and Ova in females (our gametes). Each ovum and sperm have 23 characteristic chromosomes carried over from ancestors (cleverly engineered to ensure human reproduction).

Chromosomes are thread-like structures located in the nucleus of our cells, and made up by DNA, tightly coiled many times around proteins to support its structure. If you stretch out a piece of DNA, it is called a gene. There are over 22 000 genes in a single chromosome. Thus, the difference in everyone on earth.

### **Explanation of what “DNA” stands for:**

DNA is a self-replicating material that is present in nearly all living organisms as the main constituent of chromosomes. It is the carrier of genetic information.

The fundamental and distinctive characteristics or qualities of someone or something, especially when regarded as unchangeable.

### **How does reproduction take place?**

Up to three-hundred-million sperm compete in every race to fertilize one (usually) or more (multiple pregnancy) ovum.

At the time of fertilization about a dozen sperm overcome the hazardous journey through the cervix and uterus into the fallopian tube. This can take anywhere between three minutes to seven days. But ultimately the best and “strongest man” (sperm) wins!

Then something magical happens. The 23 chromosomes from the sperm attaches to the 23 chromosomes from the ova, to form a zygote with 46 chromosomes.

Through the process of mitoses, this zygote spends the next three to four days travelling down the fallopian tube. After dividing onto 16 cells, it is called a morula. Two days later the structure of the morula changes and now it is called a blastocyst, with inner cells that form

the embryo, and outer cells (the trophoblast), which becomes the placenta. Now the blastocyst implants into the uterine wall, about seven days after fertilization.

The next phase (seven days later), the blastocyst folds upon itself, and forms layers of cells. This process is called gastrulation.

The inner cells of the blastocyst divide into 3 germ layers:

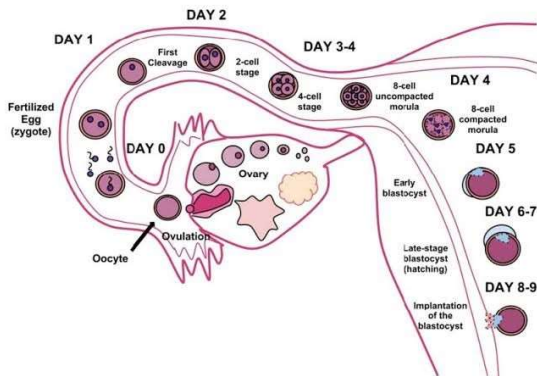
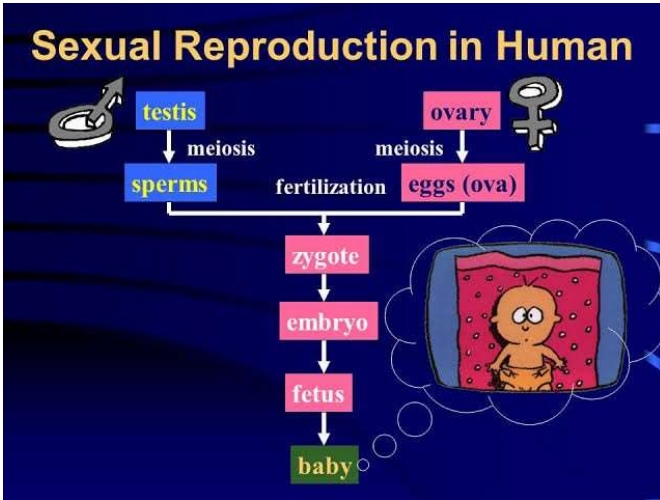
1. Endoderm – forms the lungs, liver pancreas and gastrointestinal tract.
2. Mesoderm – forms the skin, muscles, bone, heart muscle, kidneys, bladder, ovaries, and testes (gonads). This is when the embryo's heart starts pumping and is around 22 days after conception.
3. Ectoderm – forms the outer layer of skin, sweat glands, hair, and central nervous system.

The process of gastrulation continues up to eight weeks after fertilization when the embryo is considered a foetus. If all goes well, this foetus will turn into a baby, dependant on his/her mother for comfort and care.

Then the infant will turn into a more independent toddler, will first crawl and then walk. Soon the child will be an adolescent with a mind of its own. A reproductive, young adult will grow into a middle and then late adult. The cycle will be complete at death.

Fortunately, we are given seed to sow during our reproductive years so that our DNA and characteristics can live on in our children and their offspring.

*Illustrations to explain how preproduction works:*



## CHAPTER 6

### *Thoughts on Sowing and Reaping*

#### **THE SOWER SOWS THE WORD**

**IF you study the parable in Matthew 13, where Jesus talked about the Sower that sowed seed, you will learn the following lessons:**

The seed that fell on the wayside (road) was devoured by birds and it could not grow; the seed that fell on the stony places grew, but because of lack of enough soil, they immediately sprang up. But the sun killed them because they did not have enough roots to grow. The seed that fell among the thorns was choked and died; but the seed that fell on good ground yielded a crop – some a hundredfold, some sixty and some thirty.

The word for someone who is “sowing or planting” God’s Word is to *keep on doing that*, because God knows who has a prepared heart to receive His word. You do not have that knowledge – so keep on sowing the “Good News” of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Let us keep praying that the seed of God's Word that was planted in the thousands (and even millions) of lives, will not die but live and grow to the glory of God.

**Do not forget: *Seed has the capability to grow. The seed of God's word is powerful to grow wherever hearts will open to receive it!***

*Through many years God's Word was planted in the hearts of hundreds of thousands of men in South Africa during the Mighty Men Conferences. This seed must not die but must keep growing to the glory of God.*

**Never think that the spiritual seed that you planted in the lives of your children will not grow.**

God says in Jer. 31:17:

*"There is hope in your future, says the Lord. That your children shall come back to their own border."*

The seed of God's Word you planted in them has the power to grow and help your children to seek God and walk in His ways.

**Seed sown can grow on its own.**

In Mark 4:26, 27 Jesus said:

*"The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, **he himself does not know how.**"*



The lesson to learn is, that when you sow seed there is nothing else for you to do (except to water it), but to keep on living a normal life and leave the growth to take place as God intended nature to fulfil its ways.

You do not need to understand how this works – but just believe the seed you planted will grow and give a harvest.

*If you have planted seed, you can expect your harvest – just make sure that you planted it in the right soil.*

Then Paul adds to this in **Gal. 6:7**:

*“...whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.”*

**I believe that the most of us want to sow good seed.**

But we should take note that we have an enemy that has the desire to sow bad seed amongst the good seed we sowed.

Jesus said in Matt. 13:24,25:

*“Another parable He put forth to them, saying: The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares (bad seed) among the wheat and went his way.”*

Read the rest of what Jesus said in **Matt. 13:26-30**.

He said that the wheat and tares should grow together until the harvest time. In verse 30 He said:

*“Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers: First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them but gather the wheat into My barn.”*

**Let not this knowledge slow you down from doing good.**

**Take note of Gal. 6:9:**

*“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”*

**God has a timetable for every seed we plant.**

His timetable is not always our timetable. Sometimes the “due season” means a quick return. Sometimes it means a process or a slow return that may take a long time.

**But we can count on three things:**

First – God will cause a harvest to come from our seeds.

Second – God is never early or late. He is always right on time.

Third – Our harvest will have the same nature as our seeds sown.

### TAKE NOTE OF THIS:

**Good seeds bring good harvests and bad seeds bring bad harvests.**

**What should we do during the growing time of our seeds?**

- Refuse to become discouraged.
- Determine to keep your faith alive and active.
- Give and keep on giving. Love and keep on loving. Know that the harvest is guaranteed. Continue in an attitude of expectancy.

**Give finances where you should.** Listen to your heart and not your head. Remember where you sowed and call the harvest you have not received, into existence.

### THOUGHTS ARE SEED

Your thoughts rule your life. Whatever you thought until this day made you as you are. And remember that where the mind goes, the man goes.

Prov. 23:7 says that:

*“...as a man thinks in his heart, so is he.”*

Your problem is not your finances, your weight, your job, your lack of education, your sickness. None of these is your problem. Your problem is **the way you have been *thinking* about them.**

There is a story in 2 Kings 7:3-20 about the four leprous men at the gate of Samaria, dying of hunger because

of the famine in the land. The Syrians surrounded Samaria with fortified troops, and no one could go into the city or come out.

These lepers said to themselves in verse 4:

*“If we say, we will enter the city, the famine is in the city, and we shall die there. And if we sit here, we die also. Now therefore, come, let us surrender to the army of the Syrians. If they keep us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall only die.”*

These four leprous ones went to the camp of the Syrians at twilight. But they found no one there. For God caused the army of the Syrians to hear the noise of chariots and the noise of horses of a great army. The Syrians called out with fear:

*“Look, the King of Israel has hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of the Egyptians to attack us.” (2 Kings 7:6)*

The rest of the story we read from verses 7-9:

*“Therefore they (the Syrians) arose and fled at twilight, and left the camp intact – their tents, their horses, and their donkeys – and they fled for their lives. And when these lepers came to the outskirts of the camp, they went into one tent and ate and drank, and carried from it silver and gold and clothing, and went and hid them; then they came back and entered another tent, and carried some from there also, and went and hid it. Then they said to one another: ‘We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news, and we remain silent. If we wait until morning light, some punishment will come upon us. Now therefore,*

*come, let us go and tell the King's household.'"*  
*(Referring to the King of Samaria)*

**The change in the thoughts (the minds) of these four lepers saved the whole city of Samaria.**

## **WORDS ARE SEEDS**

You have the power of life and death in your tongue.  
There is a powerful Scripture in **Prov. 18:21**

*"Death and life are in the power of the tongue. And those who love it will eat its fruit."*

**Our words have great power. Positive as well as negative.**

With the tongue friendships are destroyed.

Proverbs 16:28

*"A perverse man sows strife. And a whisperer separates the best friends."*

The tongue is the cause of many spiritual wrecks along the path of life. **Take time to read James 3:1-9.**

***WE MUST PAY ATTENTION TO OUR WORDS,  
BECAUSE WE TEND TO USE WORDS  
CARELESSLY – KNOW THAT AT ALL TIMES  
YOUR WORDS ARE LIKE SEEDS THAT YOU  
SOW.***

**Some examples to show how wrongly we talk:**

*“I’m afraid this and that is going to happen”.*

*“How is your sickness?” (Sickness belongs to the devil – not to you – therefore do not confess it.)*

*“This is a family sickness – and I know that the Lord visits us into the third and fourth generation”. (Please read Ex. 20:5 and you will find that this is for those who “hate” God. If you do not hate God, but love Him, this does not apply to you and your loved ones.)*

*“I know I am busy getting the flu.”*

“Each year this time I get the same sickness.”

***Stop doing this and start speaking life, health, and prosperity!***

**Take note of the following Scriptures:**

Prov. 13:3

*“He who guards his mouth preserves his life. But he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction.”  
(Meaning if you speak too much)*

Prov. 21:23

*“Whoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles.”*

Jesus added the following in Matt. 12:37

*“For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”*

**Peter taught us what we should do if we wanted a long and blessed life. He said in 1 Pet. 3:10:**

*“For he who would love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil. And his lips from speaking deceit.”*

**The reason I encourage you to “Speak” the Word of God, is because doing that you are busy “sowing” Seed.**

The Seed of the Word will bring life and deliverance.

For example: We love Psalm 91 that teaches us we are protected under the shadow of God the Almighty.

Personally, this Psalm is one of my favourites. Take note of what is written in Ps. 91:2, namely:

*“I will **say** of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust.”*

This is like speaking the word of God back to God. You say what God says. It works like seed you are sowing, so that what is said will grow and multiply.

**THERE IS LIFE IN THE POWER OF OUR WORDS!**

Prov. 16:24

*“Pleasant words are like a honeycomb. Sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.”*

- Remember this scripture whenever you visit the sick.

- Never tell the sick person what you see with your eyes, even if he or she looks unwell.
- Always speak life and health into their lives.
- And do not forget that God always has the last say in someone's life!

**We can even overcome the devil with our words.**

Rev. 12:11

*“And they overcame him (the devil) by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony...”*

**Thank God for the blood of Jesus Christ – it cleanses and protects us. And do not hold back your Testimony:**

Listen to the conversation David had with Goliath in 1 Sam. 17:45-47:

*“You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you (listen to David's statement of faith) And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. Then all this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands.”*



*And we are all familiar with the rest of the story of how David killed Goliath!*

**In Matt. 15:22-28 it is written of the Greek woman that asked Jesus to deliver her daughter from a demon:**

Jesus answered her by saying that He could not take the bread that He wanted to give to Israel (His children) and give some of it to the Gentiles. And even referred to the Gentiles as “little dogs”

This did not put her off because her need was a great one. This is what we read in **Matt. 15:27, 28:**

*“And she said, yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their master’s table.*

She sowed faith with her words!

*“Then Jesus answered and said to her: O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire. And her daughter was healed from that very hour.”*

**This is a great story that teaches us about the power of our words – when we use them as good seed.**

The Bible says in 2 Cor. 4:13

*“And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written ‘I believed and therefore I spoke’ we also believe and therefore speak.”*

In Rom. 10:8 we read:

*“The word, is near you, in your mouth and in your heart – that is the word of faith which we preach.”*

We must have faith in our hearts, but also have faith in our words. I cannot read what is in your heart but when you speak, I will know if you have faith.

**According to what Jesus said in Mark 11:23,24, we can move mountains with our tongue.** But we should always know how to speak to our mountains (our problems).

- Make sure that you speak out of a position of **authority**. Do not feel that your “mountain” is too big for you. Remember: With God all things are possible.
- Make sure that you use the **right words** when you address your “mountain”.

## HOW DO I SPEAK TO MY MOUNTAINS?

- *Confess a Text but make it Personal!*
- *Confess God’s Word out loud enough that you can hear it.*

### How do you speak to your “Financial” mountain?

Use a scripture as written in Phil. 4:19 and say:

*“My God shall supply all my needs, according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”*

## What do you do when someone is sick?

Believe, and confess, what is written in 1 Pet.2:24

*“He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree –  
by whose stripes we are healed.”*

### Other examples:

- **Rom. 8:1** *“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.”*
- **Rom. 8:31** *“If God is for us, who can be against us?”*
- **Rom 8:37** *“Yet in all these things we are more that conquerors through Him who loved us.”*
- **Rom. 10:11** *“Whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame”.*
- **According to 1 Cor. 3:16 say:** *“I am the temple of God, and the Spirit of God dwells in me.”*
- Thank God for **1 John 4:4** *“He who lives in me is greater than he who lives in the world.” **Yes, I am bigger on the inside than on the outside!***
- **2 Cor. 5:17** *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away: behold, all things have become new.”*

**Oh! For a touch of God’s live coal of fire on our lips, like what happened to Isaiah, the prophet. We read in his story in Isaiah 6.6-7.**

## **DECLARATIONS IS SEED**

**“Do not just say a word you receive from God, declare it!”**

### **What is the Biblical meaning of a Declaration?**

The word “declare” comes from the Hebrew word “achvah” which means to **“make known”** – and is used to make a statement.

A declaration is something that you say out loud. It defines who you are and what you believe. Personal declarations represent your hopes, goals, and your dreams. When you declare these positive words, they will replace the lies and negative things in your life.

To explain what I want you to understand, I am taking you to **the last words of Jacob to his sons’ just before he died**. This was recorded in Gen. 49:1.

*“And Jacob called his sons and said: Gather together, that I may tell you what shall befall you in the last days.”*

***Jacob reserved his best blessings for Judah and Joseph.***

**This is what Jacob declared over Judah in Gen.49:8-11:**

*“Judah you are he whom your brothers shall praise; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies”*

This speaks of the great **victory** that Christ would have over Satan and all the powers of darkness at the Cross of Calvary – Col. 2:13-15)

*“...your father’s children shall bow down before you. Judah is a lion’s whelp; from the prey, my son, you have gone up.”*

The lion is always **seeking** the prey; the prey is never seeking the lion.

*“He bows down, he lies down as a lion; and as a lion, who shall rouse him? The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet. Until Shiloh comes”*

Shiloh was the city where the **tabernacle** was kept – we read this in Josh. 18:1:

*“...and to Him shall be the obedience of the people. Binding his donkey to the vine, and his donkey’s colt to the choice vine. He washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes.”*

- Jesus died on the Cross shedding His **blood** for the world.

### **Jacob declared over Joseph in Gen. 49:22-26:**

*“Joseph is a fruitful bough a fruitful bough by a well; his branches run over the wall. The archers have bitterly grieved him. Shot at him and hated him”.*

Joseph is a **type** of Christ, a large branch of a tree.

*“But his bough remained in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the Mighty God of Jacob.”*

From there is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel.

*“By the God of your father who will help you. And by the Almighty who will bless you with blessings of heaven above. Blessings of the breasts and of the womb. The blessings of your father have excelled the blessings of my ancestors.”*

We must understand that God does not bless man, per se, but rather He blessed Christ. **If you are in Christ, then you are also blessed.**

*“Up to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills, they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him who was separate from his brothers.”*

## **MOSES MADE SOME OUTSTANDING DECLARATIONS AT THE END OF HIS EARTHLY LIFE**

- In Deut. 31 - Moses declared that Joshua would be their new leader, who would take them into the Promised Land.
- In Deut. 32 - Moses sang a Song to the Lord – while Israel listened to what Moses sung.
- In Deut. 33 - Moses blessed Israel as a Nation.

Moses declared over Israel in **Deut. 33:1-17:**

*“Now this is the blessing with which Moses the man of God blessed the children of Israel before his death... (v3) Yes, He loves the people; all the saints are in Your hand; they sit down at Your feet; everyone receives Your words.*

Everyone shall be blessed who receives Gods words:

*“Moses commanded a law for us, a heritage of the congregation of Jacob...*

Israel inherited the Ten Commandments, which placed them in a special category – at least as long as they obeyed it:

*(v7) “And this he said of Judah: ‘Hear, Lord, the voice of Judah, and bring him to his people, Let the hands be sufficient for him. And may you be a help against his enemies...*

*(v13) “And of Joseph he said: Blessed of the Lord is His land, when the precious things of heaven, with the dew, and the deep lying beneath... (v16) Let the blessing come on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him who was separated from his brothers. (v17) His glory is like a firstborn bull, and his horns like the horns of a wild ox; together with them he shall push the peoples to the ends of the earth...”*

## **DID YOU KNOW LOVE IS SEED?**

The more love you give, the more you will receive love from others. This will help you never to become a lonely person in your life.

**Time is Seed.** Use your time correctly and you will experience great joy.

**Patience is Seed.** Be more patient with others. The more you do, the more you will receive.

**Mercy and Grace is Seed** Do you want to know why I give grace? My answer is: Because I need grace.

**Money is Seed.** According to **2 Cor. 9:6-8** we should always give with a joyful heart. We will have enough to give to others.

If you **keep** for yourself what you presently have, that may be the most you will ever possess.

When you **let go** of what is in your hand, God will let go, for you, of what is in His Hand.

**Name** your seed when you give it away – when you sow it. Give with a purpose in your heart.

When you **increase** the size of your seed, you will increase the size of your harvest.

***If you have a NEED sow a SEED.***

***Do not just pray and talk about your need – give yourself out of your need!***





CHAPTER 7

*What To Do*

*When Bad Things Happen?*

***Bad things can happen to good people!***

**WHEN SOMEONE HURT YOUR FEELINGS**

Not how your flesh feels what you should do – but what God wants you to do? You want to hit back, and you want to hurt back – but that is not the correct thing to do.

Jesus said if they slap you on the one cheek, you should also give the other cheek (Matt. 5:39). That should be the attitude of a child of God. You may say that is an extremely hard thing to do.

**If you train yourself to respond in God’s way, you can take “bad things” and make them be seeds of tremendous blessing in your life.**

**TAKE NOTE:**

***The devil will bring bad things your way because he is a thief who wants to rob you of your joy in Christ.***

**Jesus said this of the devil in John 10:10:**

*“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they (God’s children) may have it more abundantly.”*

The word used in Greek for “abundantly” means overflowing, surplus, over and above, more than enough. Above the ordinary.

From the very beginning of time, Scripture shows us that God wanted us to be happy and prosperous.

Your first step toward experiencing full biblical prosperity is to believe that it is God’s highest desire for you. The next step is to line up your highest desire with His.

**Our Testimony when thieves broke into our house.**

I want to tell you the story when thieves broke into our house and took some of our belongings, while we were on holiday.

We even had to go back home in the middle of our well needed holiday. If ever this happens to us again, we will not leave our holiday to go back home – that was the wrong thing we did.

When we came home my one son said: *“Dad, how could they break into our home, because I remember how you prayed and asked God for the angels to protect our home, according to what is written in Psalm 34:7.”*

You know what, I did not have a clear answer for my son, at that moment when he asked me this the question.

After we unpacked, I went to my study and knelt on my knees asking God why this happened? Peace came over me and I knew God had a plan. I called my wife and two sons and told them what God told me.

### **We sometimes forget what is written in Rom. 8:28**

*“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”*

***While writing this book on “Seed” I realized that God wanted to use even the “bad things” in our lives, as seed.***

That Sunday after we came back home and discovered that there had been a burglary in our house, I first told the congregation what happened before I preached my sermon.

Then I said a shocking thing! I said that I asked God to send back those thieves, to our home, so that I could forgive them. Those that was present in the service laughed, as it was a joke.

About ten days later, while I was in my study looking through the window, I saw a Police car driving in at our gate. A detective rang the doorbell, and when I opened, he asked me questions about the burglary. Then I realized that, there were two men in his car. He said it was the two guys that broke into our house.

This was great! Because I had asked God to send them back so that I could forgive them. I walked with the detective to his car. There was a desire in my heart to talk to these burglars.

At that time, a few female maids of the neighbours were standing at the car. They were surprised and shocked to see these guys – knowing what happened.

One of them reacted when I asked why they broke into our home. His name was Sam. He said (without me asking him) that he was sorry and that he did not know it was the house of a preacher. I forgave him (because I promised God to do that) and asked him to seek God in prison. I was told that they broke into eight houses all together.

The end of this story is that the following day the Police Headquarters phoned and asked us to come and collect all our stolen property. We serve an amazing God, and we give Him all the glory and honour!

If you allow “bad things” to become seed, your harvest will be greater than just material things.

## CHAPTER 8

# *What We Sowed and Reaped*

### **SOWING AND REAPING MOTOR CARS**

Remember: You always reap more than what you sow.

#### **We “sowed” our first car**

I still remember how we sowed our first motorcar, a Volkswagen Fastback. We gave it to a Pastor in Alexandra, Johannesburg.

He first had to get his driver’s licence before he could receive it. This was in 1979. He used this car for many years in the work of the Lord.



*The Volkswagen*



*Our Mercedes Benz.*

We “reaped” the following cars: Volkswagen Fastback; Ford Telstar; Nissan; Mercedes Benz; Toyota Corolla 1600 and a Toyota Rav4.

### **Our Mercedes Benz**

In January 2001 Helen and I went to Dallas, America to further our studies at *Christ for the Nations Institute*. This is one of the largest Bible Schools in the world, with 1200 students per day on Campus. While we were there, we asked our eldest son to sell our Ford Telstar.

When we came back from America, someone gave us a Mercedes Benz. What a blessing from God! While we were driving home from Johannesburg to Jeffreys Bay (1200 kilometres) we knew that we were richly blessed and favoured by God.

After a few years enjoying our Mercedes Benz and driving it without ever having any problems with it, the Lord told us to bless our neighbour with our Mercedes Benz. The car he had gave him a lot of trouble. What a joy it was for us to give and for him and his wife to receive!

## **Our Toyota Corolla**

Someone contacted us and said Helen can choose a new car at a Motor Dealer, near our home. Her choice was a Toyota Corolla 1600. For twelve years we drove it without any problems at all.



## **Our Toyota Rav4**

In our church, our members write a letter to the Lord at the beginning of each year. In this letter you can tell God about the desire you have in year heart, for the next year. In Psalm 37:4 it is written: *“Delight yourself in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.”* (meaning your inner feelings and deepest thoughts)



At the end of each year the Church office sends your letter back to you so that you can see what happened to your request.

For two years in a row Helen asked the Lord for a Toyota Rav4.

*Here is the miracle, God blessed us with!  
The Toyota Rav4.*

*God gets all the glory.*

## HOW WE “SOWED” FURNITURE

### Let me share with you the Scripture in Acts 4:32-35

This is where we read of the first Church in Jerusalem and how they shared what they had with each other.

*“Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and soul: neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common... Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold and laid them at the apostles’ feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.”*



**This is a great story of sowing into other people's lives!**

To encourage my congregation, I preached on the Acts 4:32-35, and asked my members to “sow” in the lives of those that have a need. But I never realized what was waiting for me and my family!

I was sincere when I said, in my preaching, that everything we had in our home also belonged to the people of the church.

The next evening two brothers stopped at our house with a small truck. It was a father and his son. This son was divorced because of alcohol misuse but was saved and got reunited with his wife.

They hardly had any furniture and asked if it was the truth what I preached in church the previous day, saying what we have also belongs to God's people? I confirmed that and said boldly that anything he needs in our house also belongs to him and his family. To make a long story short – they loaded beds and other furniture onto their truck, and I helped them to fasten everything with ropes. It looked like a mini transport truck when they left.

For the next four months my two sons who stayed with us, had to sleep on the floor because they had no beds. They also had no wardrobes to hang their clothes and drawers where they could pack their belongings.

What helped me was that my eldest son was at that church service when I preached on Acts 4. He said at a

family meeting that the Word I shared with the church was the right thing to do, and he believed God had a plan for us as a family and that is why He allowed these things to happen. This brought calmness in my household.

Today I understand that what you sow you will reap – because in a time span of four months we had so much more furniture than before. We could refurnish another two houses!

### **We also reaped furniture in Port Alfred**

We became the owners of a holiday home in Port Alfred and we needed some furniture for it. I was pastoring my church in Rustenburg when two of my church elders asked me to travel with them for a few days from Rustenburg to Port Alfred. We attended an auction in town and I knew that my church board would bless me again on my birthday in that same month. With that in mind I bet on some furniture we really needed for this holiday house.

But when the time came to pay my account, the one elder said to me that the Lord told him to pay whatever I should buy. Isn't this amazing? Remember how I told you of the furniture we "sowed" in the lives after I preached on Acts 4:32-35?

## **OUR ORGAN BECAME “SEED” THAT GOD USED**

My wife and I wanted to go on a Mission trip to Ukraine and needed another few thousand Rand for our air tickets. The only thing we had for sale was our Hammond organ. We decided to sell it for R5000 (those days it was a lot of money). We advertised our organ but only one person contacted us and was willing to pay R2500. I accepted and took this money to bank it so that we could pay our air tickets.

While I was in the bank this buyer phoned me and said he must see me and asked me not to bank the money I received from him. He told me on his way to his office God talked to him in his car and rebuked him that he offered me only half of the money I asked for our organ.

He asked me why I wanted to sell my organ, and I told him about the Mission trip to the Ukraine. Then he said that I must please accept the R5000 we needed and added to that by asking us to find a pastor that needed support.

***The wonderful news about this organ is that God used it as “Seed” and for twenty-two years this buyer sponsored a Russian pastor in Kiev, Ukraine with R2000 per month.***

We always “reap” more than what we “sow” – this is what God promised.

In 2 Cor. 9:8 we read:

*“God is able to make up to you by giving you everything you need and more, so that there will not only be enough for your needs, but plenty left over to give joyfully to others.” (The Living Bible)*

## **THERE IS BOTH A POSITIVE AND A NEGATIVE THOUGHT ABOUT SOWING AND REAPING**

- If you sow outside the will of God, you will have trouble. Beware of the day when your land accuses you! Job 31:38:

*“If my land cries out against me, and its furrows weep together...”*

- King Hezekiah sowed that which was right during his lifetime, and he reaped 15 years. Read about this in **2 Kings 20:3-6**.
- Honour your parents and you will reap a good and long life!

Eph. 6:2,3:

*“Honour your father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise: that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.”*

## **WHATEVER YOU SOW YOU WILL REAP**

This is a law of nature, but it is also a law of God's Kingdom.

You reap the same **sort** (kind) that you sowed!

Jacob deceived his father Isaac, and Jacob's uncle deceived Jacob with Leah and Rachel.

***Always remember:***

***You reap more than you sowed.***

**Sometimes you reap sooner than other times.**

Just be patient: **Gal 6:9** –

*“And let us not be weary in well-doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not”.*

## **LISTEN TO THIS GOOD ADVICE**

**Eliphaz taught Job the following:**

**Job 4:1-5**

*“Then Eliphaz, the Temanite, answered and said... Surely you have instructed many, and you have strengthened weak hands. Your words have upheld him who was stumbling, and you have strengthened the feeble knees. But now it comes upon you, and you are weary; it touches you, and you are troubled.”*

*(Is God's Word also speaking to you?)*

**Wise Solomon wants to teach those who do charity work.**

Ecclesiastes 11:1, 6:

*"Cast your bread upon the waters: for you will find it after many days... In the morning sow your seed, and in the evening do not withhold your hand; for you do not know which will prosper, either this or that, or whether both alike will be good."*

Another translation says:

*"Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let not your hands be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well".*

The New International Version says:

*"Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap."*

**Solomon said in Proverbs 19:17**

*"He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord, and He will pay him back what he has given."*

Sow where you know that the seed could grow.

**Jeremiah teaches us something special.**

Jeremiah 4:3:

*"For thus saith the Lord... Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns."*

## **IF YOU WANT PEACE – SOW PEACE**

James 3:18:

*“And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace”.*

The Living Bible Translation says:

*“And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of goodness”.*

## **WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A “BEAUTIFUL AGED” PERSON?**

Then you should plant the right seed **now**. Do not allow bitterness to take root in your life.

Do your best to make many friends with people – otherwise you will become lonely as an aged person!

***Read what the Bible says about older people that has the anointing of God on them.***

Psalm 92:14:

*“They shall bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing.”*

**TAKE NOTE:**

**“Fresh and flourishing”.**

## **DO YOU WANT THINGS TO GO WELL WITH YOUR CHILDREN?**

Then you will have to sow the right seed immediately!  
Do well to other young people, and you will reap the same.

## **HOW AND WHAT DO YOU SOW IN YOUR MARRIAGE?**

How do you speak to each other?

Men must know that if they do not respect their wives God will not answer their prayers according to **1 Peter 3:7:**

*“Husbands, dwell with them (your wife) with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered.”*

## **FOUR PILLARS OF MARRIAGE**

Please read Ephesians 5:22-33:

### **1. Submission** (Your will does not apply)

The first foundation (principle) is for the wife to be submissive to her husband (v. 22-24). This means she must be able to obey her husband. The moment she obeys, it is *his* responsibility to protect his wife.

But please, also read Eph. 5:21.



## **2. Love**

Another Pillar is that the husband should love his wife, just as Christ loved the Church and died for us (v. 25-29).

In marriage it works like this: The more love the husband gives to his wife, the more he will receive because women always respond to love.

***The truth is: A happy wife is a happy life!***

## **3. Leave and Cleave**

We must leave our family (meaning that my family must be second to my partner) and then we must cleave to each other.

Yes, we must stick like glue!

## **4. Respect**

This is important. It says in the Bible that the wife must respect her husband, but this is a principle for both, husband, and wife.

If you lose your respect in marriage, your marriage is doomed.

Respect each other: in your feelings; your bodies; your privacy and the way of doing things.

***ALWAYS REMEMBER:***

***We get older and not younger!***

## **APOSTLE PAUL’S TEACHING ON SOWING and REAPING**

Read what God’s Word says in 2 Cor. 9:6-8:

*“But this I say: He who sows sparingly will reap sparingly, and he that sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So, let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good word.”*

The word “**cheerful**” in Greek is “*hilaros*” (English: “*hilarious*”) and it means: “Willing, good natured, joyfully and ready.”

The Amplified Bible translates this verse with:

*“God loves (takes pleasure in) a cheerful, joyous giver – whose heart is in his giving.”*

And in 2 Cor. 9:8 (The Living Bible) we read:

*“God is able to make it up to you by giving you everything you need and more, so that there will not only be enough for your own needs, but plenty left over to give joyfully to others.”*

### **Study these truths from 2 Cor. 8 and 2 Cor. 9:**

Paul was collecting offerings for the poor Christians in Judea. He started in Macedonia and Achaia. He was

gathering material things for the poor Christians in Jerusalem.

The church in Macedonia **gave to the poor Christians** of Judea (Jerusalem) **while they themselves were extremely poor.**

The Living Bible says in 2 Cor. 8:1,2:

*“Though they (Macedonia) have been going through much trouble and hard times, they have mixed their wonderful joy with their deep poverty, and the result has been an overflow of giving to others. They gave not only what they could afford but far more...”*

Paul encourages the Corinthians to give their best, so that he need not to be ashamed of them.

2 Cor. 9:4:

*“...lest if some Macédonians come with me and find you unprepared, we (not to mention you!) should be ashamed of this confident boasting.”*

He had told them a year previously to collect funds for the Christians at Jerusalem. 2 Cor. 8:10; 1 Cor.16:1-5.

**One of the greatest lessons we learn here is you must GIVE (sow) even if you are going through difficult times!**

Perhaps you have just come through a time of tears? Let me encourage you with:

Psalm 126:5:

*“They that sow in tears shall reap with joy!”*

Isa 60:20:

*“Your sun shall no longer go down, nor shall your moon withdraw itself; for the Lord will be your everlasting light, and the days of your mourning shall be ended.”*

Many say: “Oh, I just wish that I also had to give, then I would gladly do so”.

Look what happened in Mark 12:41-44:

*“Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a farthing. So, He called His disciples to Himself and said to them: Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.”*

### **Can you also remember the widow of Zarephath?**

You will find her story in 1 Kings 17.

It was Elijah, the prophet, who visited this widow. He asked her to first bake bread for him and then for her and her son.

After she had taken what she had (a handful of flour and a small bit of oil) and baked the bread so that she could give it to Elijah, we read of the great miracle that took place.

**1 Kings 17:16 says:**

*“The bin of flour was not used up, nor did the jar of oil run dry”.*

**God can make much from little:**

Please, never become like the Dead Sea. This sea receives water from the Jordan river and yet there is no life in it because the Dead Sea does not have any water flowing out of it. It keeps what it receives.

If you keep what you receive and do not share it with others, you will become like the Dead Sea!

Exodus 25:1,2

*“Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying:*

*Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering.*

*From everyone who gives it willingly with his heart you shall take My offering.” Did you hear? – Only from the willing.*

1 Chron. 29:9

*“Then the people rejoiced, for they had offered willingly because with a loyal heart they had offered willingly to the Lord, and King David also rejoiced greatly.”*

**Test your own attitude in the light of the above Scripture when you give.**

## **DO YOU EXPECT A HARVEST?**

**Show me what you have sown then you will know what you will reap!**

**Ponder on this:**

- ✓ God “planted” His Son so He could have a family.
- ✓ Giving with gratitude will bring a greater harvest.
- ✓ There should never be a Christian who does not believe in sowing and reaping.
- ✓ And please: The seed you sow must be wrapped with expectation if you desire a good harvest. You can do everything right but if you leave out expectation you will lose the blessing God has for you.



## CHAPTER 9

# *What Happened to My Harvest?*

**YOU may ask this because it is written in Galatians 6:7**

*“Whatsoever a man sows, that shall he reap.”*

You keep on confessing that God will supply all your needs, but you are still broke. What is still frustrating you is that you are a tither, and you love to give. You know God’s word is true and that He promised to open heaven for you, accordingly to **Mal. 3:10**.

**Now you are asking what happened to your harvest?**

**The first reason** people fail to reap is they changed the principle of “sowing and reaping” to “reaping and sowing” – and it does not work like that.

We know that you cannot expect a harvest if you did not plant any seed. Jesus said in **Luke 6:38** “*Give, and it shall be given unto you.*”

**First give** (first sow) then you can expect to receive. In all of Scripture we see that sowing must come before reaping. Yet the number one reason why people fail to receive a harvest is because they did not sow.

People make confessions – they send in prayer request – but they fail to give. How could they expect to receive?

**You may also say that you do not have anything to give?**

Then I want you to take note of 2 Cor. 9:10:

*“Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness.”*

***Who supplies the seed to the sower?***

**The other reason why people do not reap:**

They get tired of waiting for their harvest. In Gal. 6:9 we read:

*“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”*

Our flesh is impatient. It expects to plant a seed today and reap a harvest tomorrow. But it just does not happen just like that.

A farmer knows it will take a certain amount of time for his crop to grow. He just waits patiently because he



knows his harvest will come in due season. Spiritual things work just like natural things.

*Plant seed in the specific area where you need a harvest. Stand strong in faith until your harvest is ready. Then put in your sickle and receive what God wants you to have.*

## **BELIEVE IN MORE THAN ENOUGH**

Paul wrote in Phil. 4:19

*“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”*

The God that blessed Israel in the wilderness, for forty years, can do the same for you and me. We read these words in Deut. 4:8:

*“Your garments did not wear out on you, nor your foot swell these forty years.”*

***This is more than enough!***

The New King James Bible says the word “abundantly” means: *“overflowing, surplus, over and above, more than enough, above the ordinary, more than sufficient.”*

***Why are we always satisfied with just enough?***

**What God did for a Small Church in Kiev, Ukraine.**

I will never forget how difficult it was to teach a small and poor Church in Kiev the truth about “Sowing and Reaping” – but God told me to do that. God’s plan was to deliver them from poverty.

(There were some South African believers in that service.)

**My teaching was from 2 Corinthians 9:6-8.**

Anyone in the service who had some money shared it with someone else so that all had something to give. You will not believe this, but we filled a plastic bag half with money and train tokens. Those that gave train tokens had to walk kilometres to get home.

Two years later when I visited this Church again, most of them had jobs and some had cars. God blessed His Word and in their faithfulness by giving their seed to His kingdom.

***You see, you can never out-give God!***



**CHAPTER 10**

*Give When You Are Young  
But Never Stop Giving*

**SOW your seed when God tells you to do that.**

Ecclesiastes 11:4-6 New King James:

*“He who observes the wind (who waits for all the conditions to be favourable) will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap. As you do not know what the way of the wind is, or how the bones grow in the womb of her who is with child, so you do not know the works of God who makes everything. In the morning (when you are young) sow your seed, and in the evening (even when you are old) do not withhold your hand; For you do not know which will prosper, either this or that, or whether both alike will be good.”*

Life Application Bible:

*“If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done. God’s ways are as mysterious as the pathway of the wind, and as the manner (the way) in which a human spirit is infused into the little body of a baby while it is yet in its mother’s womb. **Keep on sowing your seed, for you never know which will grow – perhaps it all will.**”*

In Genesis 26:1,12-14 we read:

*“There was a famine in the land, besides the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Abimelech King of the Philistines, in Gerar...*

*Then Isaac sowed in that land, (and remember that the land was very dry) and reaped in the same year a hundred-fold; and the Lord blessed him. The man began to prosper and continued prospering until he became very prosperous; for he had possessions of flocks and possessions of herds and a great number of servants. So, the Philistines envied him.”*



**CHAPTER 11**

*Bible Verses About Seed*

**BIBLE verses related to Seeds and Sowing from different Translations.**

**God is the Creator of Seed - Genesis 1:11:**

New King James:

*“Then God said: Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to his kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth; and it was so.”*

*The Amplified Bible*

*“And God said: Let the earth put forth [tender] vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees yielding fruit whose seed is in itself, each according to its kind, upon the earth. And it was so.”*

The Living Bible:

*“And He (God) said: Let the earth burst forth with every sort of grass and seed-bearing plant, and fruit trees with seeds inside the fruit, so that these seeds*

*will produce the kinds of plants and fruits they came from. And so, it was, and God was pleased.”*

What a wonderful God we serve! With only a Word He spoke, and He created this world and everything in it! We thank God for His spoken Word, and today we also thank Him for His written Word, what we call the Bible.

To think that vegetation, grass, plants, and trees were created with seed in them – so that all of them would produce the kinds of plants and fruits they came from – each according to its kind.

Also take note of Genesis 1:29 (King James):

*“And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.”*

### **The Battle is between different Seeds - Genesis 3:15:**

New King James:

*“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed (your offspring) and her seed (offspring) He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”*

The Amplified Bible:

*“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will bruise and tread your head underfoot, and you will lie in wait and bruise His heel.”*

**God said that the woman's offspring (Jesus) will take away Satan's authority.**

Satan will bruise Jesus on the Cross of Calvary and by afflicting mankind.

The word "head" used, in this Scripture, comes from the Greek word "rosh" meaning "the top, highest part, leader and chief" and shows headship. The promise God gave is that the Seed of the woman (Jesus) will crush the serpent's head. Jesus Christ crushed the head of Satan at Calvary and when He rose again from death.

In Ephesians 1:22 we read (Amplified):

*"And He (God) has put all things under His (Jesus') feet and has appointed Him the universal and supreme Head of the church [a headship exercised throughout the church]."*

In Romans 16:20 we read (New King James):

*"And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen."*

***Thank God! We as God's people will eventually completely triumph over the Evil One.***

## **There will always be Seed.**

Genesis 8:22 - New King James:

*“While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, Winter and Summer, and day and night shall not cease.”*

The Message:

*“For as long as earth lasts, planting and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never stop.”*

## ***God that created seed will always supply seed.***

That is what He promised in 2 Cor. 9:11 where we read these words:

*“Now may He (that is God) who supplies seed to the sower... supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness.”*

## ***This is a spiritual statement, but it is also a fact.***

- God said: “As long as the earth lasts, ***planting and harvest will never stop.***”
- God even inspired man to build ‘Doomsday Vault’ to ***protect*** seed for generations to come!
- We serve an amazing God; we can trust as the one that will ***always supply*** in all our needs.

*While reading, at this point, trust God in all your needs – according to Philippians 4:19.*



Leviticus 19:19 New King James:

*“You shall keep my statutes. You shall not let your livestock breed with another kind. You shall not sow your field with mixed seed. Nor shall a garment of mixed linen and wool come upon you.”*

Deuteronomy 22:9 English Standard Version:

*“You shall not sow your vineyard with two kinds of seed, lest the whole yield be forfeited, the crop that you have sown and the yield of the vineyard.”*

**The Seed you sow must never be mixed.** When you mix seed, you will not have the full harvest you expected. If this is applicable to the earth, how much more to the spiritual and everlasting things in life?

**Make sure that you sow the correct seed.** For in Galatians 6:8 we read:

*“For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”*

- **The works of the flesh**, we find in Gal. 5:19-21.  
*It includes adultery, hatred, jealousy, and envy.*
- **The fruit of the Spirit** we find in Gal. 5:22.  
*It includes love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.*

Leviticus 27:30 New King James:

*“And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord’s. It is holy to the Lord.”*

Deuteronomy 8:18 New King James:

*“And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth...”*

**One thing we should never forget: all that we have belongs to the Lord, because He gave it to us!**

The story of the rich fool in Luke 12 is all about a farmer that worked hard and thought that one’s life consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.

The other problem he had was that the “I” in him was the main factor of his life.

He was a hard-working farmer but did not realize that it was **God that gave him his harvest.**

## **TAKE NOTE!**

**In this life: We are not owners, but stewards.**

**Tears in Scripture play a unique role in spiritual breakthroughs.**

Psalm 126:5,6 New King James

*“Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy. He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing bringing his sheaves with him.”*

David wrote in Psalm 51:17

*“The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit. A broken and contrite heart – these, O God, you will not despise.”*

*Here we discover that the **planting** of seeds accompanied by a spirit of **brokenness** will not only bring a spiritual harvest of results but will leave the sower with a spirit of **rejoicing** in the process.*

**Charles H. Spurgeon defined it as “liquid prayer”**

- There are tears of sorrow (2 Kings 20:5)
- There are tears of joy (Genesis 33:4)
- There are tears of compassion (John 11:35)
- There are tears of desperation (Esther 4:1,3)
- There are tears of travail – giving birth (Isaiah 42:14)
- There are tears of repentance (Joël 2:12,13)

Proverbs 11:24 The Living Bible:

*“It is possible to give away and become richer. It is also possible to hold on too tightly and lose everything.”*

New King James:

*“There is one who scatters yet increases more; and there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty.”*

***Generosity prospers a person, but stinginess will make one poor.***

Ecclesiastes 11:6 New King James:

*“In the morning sow your seed, and in the evening do not withhold your hand; for you do not know which will prosper, either this or that, or whether both alike will be good.”*

**To sow your seed in the morning is to do that while you are young – but never stop doing that.**

Even when “evening” comes, keep on sowing your seed. This will help you to be prosperous.

**When you sow the word of the Lord – when you preach or teach it – take note that not all your seed will grow**

**and produce a crop.** But never stop sowing the word of God because some will surely fall in good soil.

Hosea 10:12 King James:

*“Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till He come and rain righteousness upon you.”*

The Life Application Bible says in Hosea 10:12:

*“Plant the good seeds of righteousness and you will reap a crop of My love; plow the hard ground of your hearts, for now is the time to seek the Lord, that He may come and shower salvation upon you.”*

Matthew 13:3-8 New King James:

*“Then He (Jesus) spoke many things to them in parables, saying: Behold, a sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up, they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”*

(Jesus explains this Parable in Matt. 13:18-23)

**The devil will always try to hinder the seed not to grow.**

Matthew 13:24-30 - New King James:

*“Another parable He put forth to them, saying: The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. So, the servants of the owner came and said to him. ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?’ He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The servants said to Him, ‘Do you want us then to go and gather them up?’ But He said, ‘No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, first gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them but gather the wheat into My barn.’”*

**Tares and wheat look the same when they are young.**

They cannot be distinguished until they are fully grown and ready for harvest.

Believers and unbelievers must live side by side in this world until harvest time, when they will be separated.

Should you remove the tares forcefully, you may hurt the wheat. Have patience with those that do not respond to the Word.

Matt. 17:20 New King James: (On a question from the disciples)

*“So Jesus said to them, Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.”*

### **Never say your faith is not big enough!**

The Bible says in Rom. 12:3 that God gave each one of us a measure of faith. The faith you have can move mountains. Believe this!

Mark 4:30-32 New King James:

*“Then He said, to what shall we liken the kingdom of God? Or with what parable shall we picture it? It is like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth; but when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade.”*

Luke 17:6 New King James:

*“So the Lord said: If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea’, and it would obey you.”*

**Both these Scriptures teach us that we do not need a lot of faith to receive.**

**You only put your *small* faith in a *big* God!**

Luke 6:38 English Standard Version:

*“Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure, you use it will be measured back to you.”*

**If you want to receive, you must give.**

God will give back to you by pressing and shaking it into the holder you bring – that it will be running over.

He does this because He is a God of more than enough.

God can fill what you bring to Him.

“Pressed Down, shaken” – It will fill the container.

“Your lap” means this is when you sit and relax.

John 12:24 New King James:

*“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.”*



## **We must be willing to die for Christ.**

As Paul said he did in Gal. 2:20

*“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me...”*

Jesus was also ‘a grain of wheat’ that had to die for us.

Through the death of Jesus Christ, He produced much grain – Millions of Christians all over the world!

Gal. 3:16 New King James:

*“Now to Abraham and his Seed (capital letter!) were the promises made. He does not say ‘And to seeds,’ as of many, but as of one, ‘And to your Seed,’ who is Christ.” (Read: Gen. 12:2,3)*

Gal. 3:29 New King James:

*“And if you are Christ’s then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”*

**The Seed of Christ started in Abraham and is also working in us** – to fulfill all the promises we find in Deuteronomy 28.

If you are also a new creation in Jesus Christ, according 2 Cor. 5:17, you can claim the promises that God gave to Abraham in Deut. 28:1-14 – should you accept what is written in Galatians 3:29.

1 Cor. 15:36-38 New King James:

*“...what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain...But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body.”*

**All of us will have to die before we will receive a heavenly body so that we will live forever.**

2 Tim. 2:8 - New King James:

*“Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel.”*

The seed of Christ refers to His genealogy. According to Gal. 3:13,14 we also received the blessing of Abraham.

1 Pet. 1:22,23 - New King James:

*“Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever...”*

***This text tells us that the “Seed” that has produced new life in us is the Word of God, which has made us new by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5) and made us members of God’s new creation. (2 Cor. 5:17)***

Of all the “Seed” we may find in this world, there is nothing that can compare with **the “incorruptible seed” of the Word of God!**

1 John 3:9 New King James:

*“Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him, and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.”*

The Amplified Bible Translation says:

*“No one born (begotten) of God [deliberately, knowingly, and habitually] practices sin, for God’s nature abides in him [His principle of life, the divine sperm, remains permanently within him]; and he cannot practice sinning because he is born (begotten) of God.”*

***Because of the “Seed” of God in you, you will not have the desire to sin.***

***If you should fall, stand up!***



**CHAPTER 12**

*Seed and Harvest Time*

**EVERYTHING STARTS WITH A SEED**

God said that while the earth remains there will be “seedtime and harvest time”.

Gen. 8:22

*“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease.”*

After the Flood Noah build an altar to sacrifice to God. At that time God gave the Law of Seedtime and Harvest.

**When God created the first living thing, He gave the ability to grow and multiply.**

How? Through Seed.

Your life also began with a Seed.

Every act of your life since your birth has operated by the Seed principle – good seeds or bad seeds you have

sown. Whether or not you were consciously aware of Seed you were planting.

See to it that your life become fruitful and multiplied – in health, finances, family, spiritual renewal, and in your entire being. Focus to follow God’s law of Seedtime and Harvest. Sow the seed of His promises of God in the soil of your need.

## **WHAT YOU GIVE SHOULD COST YOU SOMETHING**

In 2 Sam. 24:24 David said:

*“I will not offer to the Lord that which costs me nothing.”*

The very truth about Seed is that unless you experience some sacrifice, you have not truly given and will not enjoy the best harvest.

### **Our giving to the Lord must have three qualities:**

1. It should be our best. When we give God our best, we can expect His best back into our lives.
2. We should give to God first. The very first thought in our minds after we have received should be to give a portion of our harvest to the work of the Lord. (Or someone in need)
3. Our giving should be generous, freely from our heart.

As Jesus said in Matt. 10:8

*“Freely you have received, freely give.”*

And what Paul wrote in 2 Cor. 9:7 – Amplified:

*“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 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]”*

## KEY PRINCIPLES OF SEED FAITH

### 1. God is my source.

You give your life over to God and always trust Him personally as the source of your supply.

Phil. 4:19

*“My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”*

When you think man is your source you miss the truth of God’s Word. God often uses man as the means, but God himself is the source. All others are instruments only. Remember it is not **what** your source is, but **who** your source is. You may think it is man you are dealing with, **but he is only the instrument**. You are dealing directly with God as the source of your supply.

***If man is the instrument God uses in your life, you should take care of them. Just like a farmer that***

***takes care of his fruit trees if he wants a good harvest!***

## **2. Give that it may be given to you.**

The key Scripture Jesus gives we find in Luke 6:38

*“Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”*

(New King James) In the King James Version, it says:

*“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that we mete withal it shall be measured to you again.”*

**Take note of the words “shall men give”**

**– because God will use people to supply in your needs.**



**CHAPTER 13**

*Seed We Plant  
Should Be Cared For*

**1 Cor. 3:6 The Living Bible:**

*“My work was to plant the seed in your hearts, and Apollos’ work was to water it, but it was God, not we, who made the garden grow in your hearts.”*

The one who evangelizes is the person who “plants” or “sows” the word of God in the hearts of people. This was the main calling of the apostle Paul. He wrote in 1Cor. 3:6:

*“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.”*



## **The Greatest Evangelists Billy Graham and Reinhardt Bonnke:**

They did what the apostle Paul did by winning millions for Christ. Do your best to find their life stories to read, of how God used them in winning souls for Christ.

It is a pity that the millions that came to Christ for salvation, in Africa, was not all cared for as it should have been. What a big change it could have made in Africa?

It is not the fault of Reinhardt Bonnke. But I think, the churches that received these new converts, did not disciple them. You see, it is just like having a baby but not caring for that child, so that he or she could grow up to be a matured person.

*I also have the idea that the churches in Africa did not know how to equip the new Christians according to what we read in Eph. 4:11-16.*

## **Mass Evangelism Crusades in Africa**

Written by Kola de Klerk (From Judea Harvest Ministry):

*It is the mission of Judea Harvest to mobilize, equip and to provide resources for God's laborers to complete the Great Commission in Africa.*

*Africa has been evangelized by the Western world over the last century and has seen some remarkable evangelism efforts during this time. These evangelism efforts have been*

*marked by certain tendencies in the last 50 years. African evangelism focused on mass evangelism. Foreign missionaries still use these methods in several places in Africa.*

*In mass evangelism crusades, people gather in huge stadiums for evangelism services that focus on prayer for healings. Preaching also centers on man's need for salvation. They focus on getting people to pray the sinner's prayer and become Christians.*

*It might be argued that this process created many converts, or decisions for Christ, but the question remains whether such converts really became actively practicing Christians. Existing churches in towns had to do the discipling.*

*We know that the Holy Spirit is working in such crusades, but it is difficult to ascertain the long-term results of what percentage of people that accept the Christian lifestyle. Making disciples of these converts is often not possible, given the lack of churches and pastors in Africa and the non-existence of infrastructure.*

*A further aspect compounding the problem is that these mass crusades were not conducted by indigenous leaders but by foreigners who were not able to stay and build a sustainable system for church planting and discipleship. Often the local pastors do not successfully follow up on the converts.*

*I have found that the traditional Africa religions (with witchcraft practices) still play a key role in the lives of many African people, and hence still have a significant influence in their lives. I believe that our evangelism efforts might not have managed to get all converts to become disciples. The view is supported by African writers such as Agrippa Kathide and Africa Mhlophe.*

### **Do We Only Reach People With Felt Needs?**

Another observation is that most evangelism efforts of the last 50 years focused on what I call the “captive audience” or, we can call it, the “desperate audience”. These audiences are usually, the poor, the sick, the destitute, the starving and the uneducated. It seems that strong evangelism ministries have been developed by churches and missionaries who focused on reaching the hungry, prostitutes, the homeless, drug addicts, prisoners and others who find themselves at the bottom of the human chain of existence.

Most local churches that do have an evangelistic zeal also seem to automatically go for the people with the greatest need.

I would say that the modern-day evangelism efforts of churches have generally developed into a needs-based program that uses people’s problems and needs as a point of departure. Is this good? Is a needs-based outreach program the best practice?

Although it is a part of our Christian duty to reach the poor, we need to rethink whether it is enough – or even the best strategy. Most evangelists want to touch the need of a person first and preach an effective message of Jesus. There is nothing wrong with that. However, people are themselves focused on their own needs and survival and would not necessarily become supporters of the gospel.

It must be noted that, from a Western perspective, many or all Africans and Asian people might seem poor, but from their perspective, they might not consider themselves poor. Often, the Western missionaries have come to tell them that they are poor and uneducated.

### **So how does one reach those who do not fall into these categories?**

Who do not perceive themselves to be in such categories? Does the church have any message for them?

How do we reach the happy, healthy, self-actualizing, educated, sustained person, who has no pressing needs or personal crises, with the message of Jesus? If a person has not felt the need that you can address, how do you reach him? If he is not in a captive audience, how do you get him to listen?

It appears that the poorer a community or country is, the easier it is to reach them for Christ; but the more affluent and self-sustained they are, the more difficult

it becomes. This might be one of the main reasons why the rich and affluent countries of Europe are now so difficult to reach.

Jesus said in Matt. 9:37,38

*“The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”*

***We pray for the harvest, the souls, while Jesus said we should pray for laborers that can harvest the new souls for Gods kingdom. Jesus will help the Church bring in the harvest!***

Rev. 14:15

*“Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.”*



**CHAPTER 14**

*How We Can Care  
For God's People*

***The problem in the Church is that we load new Christians onto the “Gospel Wagon” but some fall off at the back.***

TO help you as a Church to care for the new converts God entrusted you with, I am sharing citations from a book called “The Care Revolution” written by Dr. John Bosman.

**THE CARE REVOLUTION**

**Foreword by: Evangelist Reinhard Bonnke**

*“In his book, The Care Revolution, John Bosman captures the value of pastors and members collaborating to nurture new believers and care for the sheep God has entrusted to them. Taken from the Great Commandment, he*

extrapolates two streams that he refers to as ***Loving God and Loving People***. In the first place, he emphasizes the Great Commission. In the second place, he emphasizes the Great Commitment, which he built on Peter's acceptance of Christ's charge to take care of the sheep.

Read John 21:15-17.

*Evangelism is the lifeblood of the Church and no local congregation will ever grow without intentionally reaching the lost. Likewise, the successful outcome of any evangelism effort depends on the ongoing endeavours of the local church to follow up on the new converts - discipling and nurturing them with loving care."*

### **Citations from "Care Revolution" of Dr. John Bosman**

**Introduction:** The first part of "The Care Revolution" can be summarized on Page 26 by what Dr. John Bosman wrote: *"I would like to mention a few things regarding our Care Ministry Network briefly.*

*First off, I want to state that the Care Ministry Network is an authentic and proven system of congregational care that enables believers to care for one another. The new paradigm I propose is developing a healthy partnership between the pastor and the church members who together provide the necessary care to the flock (congregation).*

*The members do not help the pastor to care for the people; they come alongside him or her and perform actual works of ministry. The pastor is the one that helps the people to develop their gifts and skills to provide systematic and*

*meaningful care. This can only effectively be accomplished when there is a demonstrated training course through which members are equipped and trained. It is important to state that church members, providing congregational care, do not replace their pastor, they represent their pastor.*

Page 32: *“There is a good chance that a church member left your church on Sunday thinking, ‘I wonder if my pastor even knows I was here today? If I had to leave this church, I wonder how long it would take for them to notice I am no longer attending – that is, if anyone would ever realize I had left.’ A guest may have come with hurt and pain; hoping to find encouragement, love, and support; yet left without anyone even paying attention to him or her. It happens all the time.”*

Page 33: ***“Seeing people as individuals and meeting them at their point of need*** should remain the clarion call of our mission.”

Page 34: *“People are not looking for a friendly church, it’s **friends** they are after.”*

Page 43: **God wants to use the members, not just the leaders in the church.** *“Not involving church members in ministry will most certainly result in declining membership, which could potentially lead to dying congregations.”*

Page 44: *“The sleeping giant called the body of Christ is rising to take its rightful position.” (Ezek. 37)*

Page 46: *“Somewhere along the line, we have lost our focus on caring for the people God has entrusted to us, as*



*we should. It seems we have become more interested in programs than people. We tend to be focused on adding more and more people to our churches, but in the process, disregarded those sheep who are bleating for attention. We forever want to go beyond, build more prominent churches, and gain more people, but we never seem to get there, because more people are falling off the back of the wagon than we are trying to load on the front end. That is frustrating, but why is this happening?"*

Page 47: "I have identified **five critical attributes** that are absent in most local churches. The lacking vital traits are:

1. The core value of ***providing ongoing care*** for each congregant in bad times as well as in good times.
2. A stated and practised philosophy that church members are the ones to supply congregational care and not only the pastor.
3. A culture of intentionality in caring for one another.
4. Deliberately maintain contact with every member between Sundays.
5. And most of all: A proven system to train and develop church members to provide authentic care for each other.

***Practice these above-mentioned attributes. We read in 1 Cor. 12:25:***

***"The members should have the same care for one another."***

*Many leaders who know, will agree with me that our churches will again become healthy and grow when we change the way we do pastoral care.*

Pages 48,49: *“Most people in most churches nowadays do not receive ongoing care. They just don’t. The fact is even sadly true when it comes to our outreach efforts: Collectively, we tend to reap the harvest, but, for the most part, we do not keep the harvest. The reason we don’t keep them is that **we don’t nurture them**. It is true not only of new converts but also of long-time members.”*

*“We have **systems** for everything else in the church, but not for **taking care of people in meaningful and significant ways**. We usually are clear on our mission and vision, our churches are mostly friendly and kind, but if there is no intentionality in reaching out to others in love, and paying attention to their hurts and needs, we will never experience the cohesiveness we need for developing a healthy church body. To accomplish a meaningful community, we need a strategy – a well-defined system. It just will not happen by itself.”*

Page 50,51: *“**Membership Involvement**: Ongoing care, to all the members of a congregation, cannot be provided by the pastor alone.”*

*“**The Bottom-line is that everybody needs somebody to care for them, but it does not always have to be the pastor.**”*

Page 55: **Pastoral care and crisis care!**

*“The question is: What about the 95% of your members who are not experiencing a crisis? Should they not also be cared for, do they not even matter?”*

*“The problem with merely providing crisis care means that once the crisis is over, so is the care!”*

Page 60-62: **Listen to this: “The love of Christ must flow down the aisles of churches before it will flow down the streets of our cities!”**

*Here is the reason for our frustration: We have too long concentrated on increasing our church attendance by continually searching for new people without ever paying attention to those we already have. We should never lose sight of the importance of what ministry is all about. It’s not about statistics, numbers, or things; it’ about people. If all the people that have come to your church over the past five years had stayed, how many people would there have been today? If we are not taking care of the people the Lord has already given us, why should He send us more?”*

Page 64: **Join this “Care Revolution”.**

*“I am searching fervently for pastors, leaders, and church members who would like to join this life-changing revolution to see their churches become healthy, productive, and relevant again. Many already have. What about you?”*

***Note: With so many new people coming to their church of “Glad Tidings” in Lake Charles, Louisiana, Dr. John Bosman wrote teaching material on “Spiritual Growth” for all these new members. This gave them a strong foundation to grow spiritually.***

On Page 74 he writes these words: “We ended the “teaching” with a massive fellowship celebration on Saturday evening and an incredible graduation ceremony on Sunday. The church members invited their friends and families to the event, which added significantly to the joyful occasion. People packed the church to overflowing. We gave each of the participants a beautiful Graduation Certificate which, to many, became a treasured article.”

***“Eureka! We have found it!”***

Page 77: “***When we got ready to train the next group of “Care Leaders”, we found it necessary to design easy-to-follow workbooks and training manuals.***

**Each church should have:**

- 1. Discipleship Training** Teach all new members on Discipleship.
- 2. Caring Course** Teach your members a whole month on Caring and appoint “Caring Pastors”.

Page 79: ***“Jesus didn’t die for a church building – He died for people! “He didn’t hang on the Cross for a program – He died for people!”***

Page 82: **Testimony:** *“Glad Tidings Church continued to grow over the years to the point where we had to build a 3,500-seater auditorium and saw it filled to overflowing on several occasions. It was nothing strange to see people line up at four o’clock in the afternoon on a blazing, hot, humid, summer day in Louisiana, to get a good seat at our major events.”*

Page 84,85: **Material:** *“Today we can provide pastors and churches with everything they need to cast the vision, organize training, and offer all the training tools.” **For this an e-book is available!***

*“One church added close to 150 people in one single year and ascribed 95% of the growth to the effectiveness of the “Care Revolution”.*

Page 100: **Discipleship:** *The discipleship we have in mind requires us to not only provide “information” but even more so, “transformation”. If we merely base our teaching on discipleship on only the transfer of information, it will ultimately lead to “over-fed believers” who have never put the principles into practice. Our discipleship goal should always be to see people transformed into the image of Christ and should include a defined process whereby they become faithfully involved in ministry.” (Eph. 4:13,14)*

Page 100: **The Great Commission and The Great Commitment.**

*“The Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20) is to “go”, but there is also The Great Commitment (John 13:34) that we should love one another as Jesus loves us. The missing link in most churches is really to love one another.”*

Page 103: *“We are responsible for ministering to the wholeness of everyone - spirit, soul and body. While spiritual development is of utmost importance, we should realize that when we do not meet a person’s basic human needs, the body may not give any physical indication of deprivation immediately.”*

**Page 105: The Two Flows Are Not Sterile**

*“In our discussion of the Great Commandment, we indicated two definite rivers that flow out of it – loving God and loving people. We should, however, be careful that we do not observe these two flows as being sterile to each other. I am saying this because these two streams have definite points of intersection and overlap which support rather than oppose each other. As we develop the attitude of building healthy churches, we should endeavour to equalize these two streams. Neither should be done at the neglect of the other.*

**Page 110: An important Scripture to study is 1 Peter 5:1-4**

**Page 122: John 21:15-17**

*“This entire encounter (between Jesus and Peter) was a tense moment. Jesus was getting ready to pronounce a significant charge to Peter which required love beyond any shadow of a doubt. It had to be love on a much higher and real level than that which we find among people. Peter’s responds casually, “Yes, Lord, You know that I love You.” (John 21:15) And then with a divine projection (do not miss this!), Jesus requested a commitment from him. This was not something like: ‘Go and perform miracles, heal the sick, open prison doors, or raise the dead’. Jesus merely required of Peter: “Feed My lambs” and in John 21:16-17 Jesus said to Peter: “Feed My sheep and Tend My sheep.”*

*“Feed My lambs” – Refers to nurture and watch over new believers.*

*“Tend My sheep” – The ongoing Pastoral Care over believers.*

*“Feed My sheep” – To teach believers God’s Word to grow (Eph. 4:13).*

### **Page 129: Why have a Care Ministry?**

*“The reasonable question some may ask is, ‘Why should we be so anxious about focusing our attention on providing care in the church?’ Considering church history and present-day realities, it becomes evident that we are in a time of not being sure whether we should hold on to the past or take active steps into the future. Membership is declining and so are the finances.”*

Page 137: *“People usually leave because the church does not meet their expectations or because they were not able to establish close enough relationships. On the other hand, new attendees come to receive love, attention and fellowship.”*

Page 143: *“Even psychologists are saying that 70% of people’s contentment in life comes from joyful and wholesome relationships. The reason the Bible says we should not forsake our church services is to create an atmosphere for personal interaction among the members to foster relationships.”*

***Hebrews 10:24-25 is worth studying!***

Page 151: **Rick Warren says:** *“I believe that God is waiting for a church that will love people unconditionally. He can use that kind of church to spark a spiritual awakening in your city that the forces of hell couldn’t stop. It would change the climate of your community for Christ. Nothing can stop a loving church.”*

**Dr. John Bosman adds to this:** *“But let’s maintain a correct perspective: A loving church is more than people talking, laughing, praying, and worshipping together. It goes way beyond that. It goes even beyond shaking someone’s hand during fellowship time on a Sunday morning or being friendly to them. It’s not what we do on a Sunday that’s important, but rather what happens between Sunday’s that makes the difference.”*



Page 155: **Andy Stanley says:** “You cannot grow spiritually if you’re not connected relationally.”

*“Andy Stanley is correct because it takes a spiritual family, who are attached to each other, that causes all to grow in Christ. Growth only happens when we see the branches connected to the vine. Being attached to the body of Christ is what makes a person. We should link people to each other while we ensure that everyone remains connected to Christ (the Vine).”*

Pages 156-7: “Our goal should never be to keep people only to appease them and cater to their every need. **Our goal should always be to grow people spiritually, integrate them relationally, and equip them intentionally for ministry.** It is not so much about growing our church larger; it is a matter of developing them healthier.”

Page 159: “***We do acknowledge that although growth happens naturally, it doesn’t happen automatically.*** Natural development means someone must provide the nutrition, and someone should provide the care. If someone does not feed or nurture a baby, growth will not take place and death will be the result.”

Page 162: **Closing the back door.**

*“We fully realize that no church in this whole world can keep everyone that walks through its front door. Our over-arching challenge, however, is that we are losing them*

*unintentionally just as fast through the back door. It's okay for people to move on, but it's not cool if they keep slipping through the cracks because we don't have a system to retain them."*

Page 170: **Small Groups.**

*"Many churches today affect personal ministry by having Small Groups. These groups are tremendous and indeed meet the needs of many people. It serves a marvellous purpose in building relationships and developing spiritual growth.*

*If we're not careful, we can end up in the same scenario in our Small Groups as we see in our Sunday gatherings where we love each other, pray for each other, and encourage one another, but when the meeting is over, we leave everyone in the group to take on the responsibility of staying in touch with other members to provide the ongoing care that is needed. It takes more than fellowship and Bible study to ensure we are providing the level of care each one needs.*

***The process we have designed for congregational care promotes five definite point of contact, and we highly recommend that churches with Small Groups incorporate these principles."***

Page 172: **When people face a crisis.**

*"When people face the crisis of life, and everybody will at some point, we must have a system in place in our*

*churches that will provide the loving support they need. It stands to reason that a church that offers this kind of intentional care has no alternative than to be healthy, to grow, and become the instruments the Lord desires.”*

## **THE CARE REVOLUTION CONCEPT**

Page 175: *“To grow a church numerically and lead it to become healthy does not only require us to preach good sermons but we should also develop good systems. Just as the Human body has different systems to make it function, so too the body of Christ.”*

**“Churches have systems in place for evangelism, discipleship and leadership. But few have a suitable system of Congregational Care.”**

Page 176: *“As we begin to unfold the premise of caring one for another, I want to say at the outset that I do not believe, neither do I advocate, that caring is necessarily the highest calling of the Church. The Church has a five-fold mission, and caring is only one part of the overall assignment.”*

### **Page 196-8: Levels of the Care Ministry Network.**

*“The Care Ministry Network functions on three designed levels of care. Each of these levels has a specific role. Here are three levels:*

1. Care Director
2. Care Leadership Team
3. Care Shepherds

***The Care Director*** leads the Care Ministry and has a Care Leadership Team.

***The Care Leadership Team*** (The Director and four other members) functions alongside the Care Director and assists in leading the entire ministry to put together meetings, seminars, and conferences.

***The Care Shepherds*** are the people caring for the flock!

### Pages 199-259: **Five Needs of People**

*“If Care Pastors are not well trained to help people in their needs, I can assure you, the entire ministry is doomed to collapse.”*

*“Often pastors and leaders believe addressing the basic needs of people, such as the physical, mental, or emotional, do not fall within the primacy of the local church’s mission. When a new believer or new members connect with our church, they find themselves on some need-level. That is natural.”*

**Abraham Maslow (Psychologist) identifies five basic needs of people.**

1. Biological and Physiological (Physical) Needs
2. Safety and Security Needs
3. Belonging and Love Needs
4. Esteem Needs (We need Admiration and Respect)
5. Self-Actualization (Self-worth)

**John Maxwell said:** *“People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.”*

## **Care Ministry**

*“One of the most significant challenges we face in our churches is finding ways to stay connected with our members. This action is vital because that is the only way whereby, we can know what our people are facing and understand the valleys through which they are walking. It also helps us to discover how we can best serve the body of Christ and involve people in ministry that fits their potential gifts.”*

### **Page 261-281      The Role of the Pastor**

*“The positive stimulus of the pastor is imperative since the role he or she plays in this ministry of Caring is most significant. If the vision for Caring is not alive in the lead pastor’s heart, it will function for a while, and then fade away.... While we understand that this ministry should be the earnest desire of the pastor and certainly be the extension of his/her vision, the church members are the ones who eventually run it and affect the actual implementation.”*

*“Just as members have bought into the tradition of ministry being done by the clergy, so have many pastors. Changing our mindsets calls for discipline, but the fruit of doing so is so vast that we cannot afford to ignore it. The personal involvement of the pastor by training and developing*

*people to be involved in Caring for the congregation sends a loud message of the pastor's commitment to this ministry of Caring."*

**As goes the Pastor (leader), so goes the Church.** *"The truth is that many of your people have gifts, talents, and abilities you may not even know. They have wisdom, insights, and perspectives that we, as ordained ministers, may not have. I cannot see any reason pastors would even think of doing ministry without having their people partner with them."*

Page 287-335: **Churches that are growing.**

*"The churches that are making significant headway are those where the leaders are enthusiastically equipping their people to be involved in ministry.*

*They are giving the ministry to the people and are investing more of their time and energy in developing and equipping their members."*

*"Member involvement is the dynamic future of the church. One of the ways we can get large numbers of people involved is by including them in Caring for their fellow members. Once we grasp the value, power, and energy of Caring for people, our churches will grow and become what they should."*

*"If we go back to the early church, we will discover that it was not a dead organization, instead, it was a vibrant,*

*dynamic, living organism. People worked together, prayed together, and worshiped along with great enthusiasm. They helped each other and cared for one another. The result was that significant numbers of people were added to the church. What was especially noticeable was the fact that all the believers were involved in ministry.”*

*“There is a noticeable shift of ministry-responsibility taking place. Pastors and leaders of life-giving churches, along with their congregants alike, are realizing that the Church can only flourish when we do ministry through the proper working of each member of the body of Christ.*

***“1 Corinthians 12:4-30 gives us an expanded description of how each member functions in his or her assigned ministry role and underscores the importance of each task as it works together in the Body.”***

### **Actual Acts of Ministry**

*“By giving the Ministry back to the people, I categorically mean the church members are the ones who are going to be doing the actual of ministry. They should be winning the lost, discipling new converts, going outside the walls of the church, praying for the sick, teaching the Word, going on mission trips, caring for the flock, planting churches ... and the list can go on.”*

## **Equipping and Discipleship**

*“Sometimes pastors come up with the most excellent biblically sound teachings, well-prepared with notes and PowerPoint, but there is no progression. They continually move from one subject to the other. In other words, they are faithfully feeding their people, but they are not taking them from point A to point B. In this way, the people become over-fed. They are enjoying good food but are getting no spiritual exercise.”*

### **Ephesians 4:11-16 is especially important to study:**

*“Paul mentions five gifts in these verses. Sometimes they are referred to as the ‘Five-Fold Ministry Gifts’. It is the task of the ‘Five-Fold Ministry’ to equip God’s people for their ministry.” (v 12)*

#### ***This is what these Ministries should do:***

1. ***Apostle*** – develops a Church to be Apostolic.
2. ***Prophet*** – prepares a Church to be Prophetic.
3. ***Evangelist*** – trains a Church to be Evangelistic.
4. ***Pastor*** – equips a Church to be Pastoral.
5. ***Teacher*** – teaches a Church to be Educational.

#### **Let the Bible speak to us: 1 Peter 5:2 (Amplified):**

*“Tend (nurture, guard, guide, and fold) the flock of God that is [your responsibility], not by coercion or restraint, but willingly; not dishonourably motivated by the advantages*



*and profits [belonging to the office], but eagerly and cheerfully.”*

**John 21:16** New King James: *“He (Jesus) said to him again a second time, ‘Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?’ He (Peter) said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord: You know that I love You.’ He (Jesus) said to him, ‘Tend My sheep’.”*

**Acts 20:28** (The Message): *“Now it’s up to you. Be on your toes – both for yourselves and your congregation of sheep. The Holy Spirit has put you in charge of these people – God’s people they are – to guard and protect them. God himself thought they were worth dying for.”*

### **An Old Testament Model – Exodus 18:13-26**

This is the chapter where Jethro, the father-in-law of Moses, gave him good advice how to lead the largest ‘Church’ on earth (two million people). Jethro taught Moses how to delegate and not do everything on his own. He also told him to be an intercessor between God and Israel and teach them the Laws of God. After all this Israel had peace in their homes. (verse 23)

### **Page 337-375: The Restoration of the Ministry of the Pastor**

*“What I am underscoring is the necessity of an overall resurgence of the active ministry of pastoral care, and I don’t suggest pacifying the saints, but caring about each of them sufficiently and intentionally.”*

*“It was more about the **image** of the pastor and not his **function**. Pastors became competitive in their attitude, trying to see who could attract the most people to their ministries ... Instead of caring and nurturing God’s people, the pastors were in search of the next flavour of the month. Scores of people were coming, but just as many were leaving, because nobody cared. The back door was as wide open as the front door.”*

**The following six essentials describe the job description of a pastor:**

1. Be a Worshipper.
2. Always preach the “Good News”
3. Be a Disciple-Maker.
4. Be a Coach.
5. Be a Shepherd.
6. Be a Servant.

**For more information on this topic, please go to**  
[www.spiritwind.org](http://www.spiritwind.org)

CHAPTER 15

*Caring Shepherds*

THE main reason why someone want to be connected to a local Church is to **receive love, to be accepted, to be part of the body of Christ, but also to be cared for.**

We spend a lot of money and time to evangelize and find new members for our congregation. There is nothing wrong with that. The problem is that after these people became part of our congregation, they get the feeling that they are not so important as before. They feel that they are only a name on the register of the Church. The rest of us then keeps on reaching out to new sinners that must be saved.

***As I said: We load new converts onto our “Gospel Wagon” but some fall off at the back. Just think of all the new people that came in your local Church the last five years, and ask yourself, where are they today?***

Even the faithful member gets the idea that their caring is not so important for the leaders of the church. The needs they have are not cared for.

Young married couples must struggle alone in their relationships and bringing up of the children. Our seniors are not so important as they used to be when they could give bigger amounts of money to the Church and when they could give their labour in all the functions.

## **Scriptural Foundation for Caring in the Congregation**

Everything we do in the church should be based on Scriptural foundation. It is especially important to hear what the Bible says about Caring for Gods people, He entrusted to His Church.

Some may feel that those that are saved should look after themselves? Why should we take time and use money caring for those in the Church?

**1 Peter 5:1-4** *“The elders who are among you I exhort... Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; and when the chief Shepherd (Jesus Christ) appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.”*

**Acts 20:28** *“Therefore take heed to yourselves and all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.”*

This was what Paul told the elders to do in Ephesus after what God did in the spiritual growth of souls in this church. (Please read Acts 19, to see the great things God did in Ephesus.)

**The best teaching on “the body of Christ” and “Caring” for Gods people you will find in what Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 12:12-27:**

(v.12) *“For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.”*

(v.13) *“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free – and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”*

(v.14) *“For in fact the body is not one member but many.”*

(v.15) *“For if the foot should say, ‘because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,’ is it therefore not of the body?”*

(v.16) *“And if the ear should say, ‘because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,’ is it therefore not of the body?”*

(v.17) *“If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling?”*

(v.18) *“But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.”*

(v.19) *“And if they were all one member, where would the body be?”*

(v.20) *“But now indeed there are many members, yet one body.”*

(v.21) *“And the eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you’; nor again the head to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’”*

(v.22) *“No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.”*

(v.23) *“And those members of the body which we think to be less honourable, on these we bestow greater honour; and our unpresentable parts have greater modesty,”*

(v.24) *“but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honour to that part which lacks it,”*

(v.25) ***“that there should be no schism (division) in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another.”***

(v.26) *“And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honoured, all the members rejoice with it.”*

(v.27) *“Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.”*

### **What We Learn from 1 Cor. 12:12-27:**

- (1) That each member in the Church is important.
- (2) That each member has a specific function to fulfil.
- (3) That, according to verse 18, God added us to His Church.
- (4) We should help those that are not prominent in our Church, to feel they are also needed.
- (5) **Underline verse 25**, because one important thing we should not forget is that we should care for each other. When you read **Eph. 4:12-16** you will find how each one should be cared for and equipped to grow to the fullness of Christ.
- (6) We must feel the hurt of some and rejoice with those that are blessed by God. When people go through trauma, you must not be quit, but contact them and pray with them. You do not have to counsel them – just love them and pray with them.

***“The love of Christ must first flow through our Church buildings before it can flow through the streets of our community.”***

### **I encourage the Church to appoint “Caring Shepherds”.**

- Appoint people that have a heart for others.
- A man and wife can be Caring Shepherds.
- A single person can also be a Caring Shepherd.

- Give Caring Shepherds not more than five families – or let them choose fellow members to care for.
- Dedicate these Caring Shepherds at a Church Service, where everyone should pray over them.

### **What do we expect from a Caring Shepherd?**

- They are called to Care for Gods flock.
- They should contact those with a need.
- What about those that we do not see in Church anymore?
- Encourage members to become a part of a Small-Group.
- Focus on helping others to become mature Christians, according to **Eph. 4:11-16**.
- Minister and pray for people where you can.
- Serious cases you refer to qualified leaders in the Church.
- Always trust the Holy Spirit to guide you.





**CHAPTER 16**

*God Made Us Amazing*

Genesis 1:27

*“So, God created man in His own image; in the image of God, He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them: Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*

Psalm 139:13-24

*“For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. My frame was hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book, they were written...”*

*Search me, O Lord, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any wicked way in me. And lead me. in the way everlasting.”*

Job 10:8

*“Your hands have made me and fashioned me, an intricate unity.” (‘intricate’ describe something that has many small parts or details)*

Psalm 119:74

*“Those who fear You will be glad when they see me...”*

Jeremiah 1:5

*“Before I formed you in my womb, I knew you; before you were born, I sanctified you...”*

Ephesians 2:10

*“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”*



# Be Encouraged to Write A Book

Since I retired this “Book on Seed” is book number 55 I wrote. (Not counting before my retirement) If I could do that, you can also. Dr. Myles Munroe once said: *“Potential is everything that you can do but haven’t done yet. Potential is ability that is not exposed yet. In the graveyards the following are buried: Dreams that never became a reality, Songs that was never written or sung. Books that were never printed.”*

Did you know that king Solomon wrote 3000 proverbs and 1005 songs? (1 Kings 4:32)

You can at least write one book!

## How do you write a book?

It starts when you have a **passion** to put your heart on paper. If you can type on a computer, you have a running start. Open your Word file and just start writing what comes to your mind. Write as if you are talking to someone. Stop when you have written what you could say. Ponder on what you wrote, and the rest what you

want to write about will surface in your mind. Later you can shift some pages in the correct order. You “copy” and “paste” these pages where you want them to be. Keep writing and soon enough you will have your book ready to ask an editor to see if everything you typed is in order.

Then get a **graphic designer** to design your cover and your manuscript. If you are satisfied with your book, you should register it with your local National Bibliography.

They will give you an **ISBN** number that you need to print on your book. This will not cost you anything.