

## **Stewardship – 2**

### **The Law of Sowing and Reaping**

God has established the universe around certain natural or physical and spiritual laws. These laws are made for the benefit of God's creation and its people. The laws around stewardship and finance are no different - co-operating with the way God designed things to work best will prove beneficial to us as His people.

There's a difference between understanding that God blesses us when we work according to His principles and a prosperity gospel. We are not a "prosperity gospel" church. We do not believe that if you give to God you'll get rich. In fact, Jesus taught that a person's life is not about the acquisition of things.

### **The Law of Sowing and Reaping**

This principle does not just apply to our finances but also to our relationships, in our time, in our words, in our talents and in nearly every other area.

#### ***1. Everything Starts As a Seed***

God created the world around what is called the seed principle (Genesis 1:11).

A seed has exponential potential. The Bible says in the book of Zephaniah "*Do not despise the day of small things.*" Everything starts small - it starts as a seed with great potential.

## ***2. Nothing Happens Until the Seed Is Planted***

Nothing happens in your life until the seed is planted.

Everything in life starts as a seed – a relationship, a marriage, a business, a church, everything starts as a seed. And nothing happens until the seed is planted.

Planting is an act of faith that brings glory to God. We take what we have and we sow it in the hope of releasing the potential for growth.

Jesus explained this principle when He was trying to explain why He came to earth to die on the cross. He used the principle of sowing and reaping.

*I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives.* John 12:24 (NLT)

## ***3. Whatever I Sow Is What I Will Reap***

This is the law of reproduction - whatever you plant is what you're going to get back.

This can work either positively or negatively in your life.

*Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.*  
Galatians 6:7 (NIV)

#### ***4. I'm Not the Only Sower***

You are reaping both good and bad from what other people are sowing around you. In many ways, you are reaping what the previous generation sowed.

Everything you do (or don't do) has consequences and not just for you.

#### ***5. I Always Reap In a Different Season than From When I Sow***

There is a time delay from when we sow to when we harvest.

This principle in regards to stewardship of our finances is exactly the same – you will reap in a different season to the one in which you sow. God is **NOT** a vending machine from which we receive an immediate payout.

While we are waiting, God is working – be patient and don't give up (Mark 4:26-29).

Focus on the long term harvest in your life, not the short term pain or pleasure (Psalm 126:5-6).

#### ***6. I Can Increase My Harvest by Planting More Seed***

The law of proportion - we always reap in proportion to what we sow (2 Corinthians 9: 6:-7).

You cannot out give God - God loves a cheerful giver.

Seed is anything of value that I sow and give into God's hands for kingdom purposes instead of holding it all to myself (Proverbs 11:24).

The law of the harvest – generosity increases the harvest (2 Corinthians 9:10-11).

Spiritual growth involves the willing surrender of every area of our life to God's control. Finances can be the hardest to let go of, but when we recognise and follow God's laws regarding our money, we will be blessed. It may or may not be our bank accounts that grow, but in every case and as long as we persevere, we grow to be more like Jesus.

Are you generously sowing into KBC? This is our opportunity to invest into others.

### **Discussion Questions**

1. What does Genesis 1:11 say about how God created the plants and trees? How did God plan for them to reproduce? There is infinite potential in a seed. What about your financial life would you like to see grow? How do you start?
2. What happens when you plant the Word of God in your heart? Give an example from your own life.
3. How does Galatians 6:7 describe the results of seed planting? Describe a situation where someone reaped what they sowed in life, both the good and the bad.
4. Compare and contrast the behaviours described in 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 and Proverbs 11:24. We always reap in proportion to what we sow. How does it make you feel when you live generously?
5. Write down one area that you know you still need to surrender and pray for God to give you the strength to turn it over to Him. And then start planting again.