

Planting Principles for a Productive Life.

Galatians 6:7-9

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Aug 7th

John 15:16 *"I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit"*

1 Cor. 3:9 *"We are laborers together with God, Ye are God's husbandry"*

The "Garden" is one of the many analogies God uses to teach us his purposes, processes, and plans.

This particular analogy is used often in scripture and is rich with many spiritual parallels.

Productive (fruitful) lives, like gardens require:

Proactive Planning. (Pr. 29:18) addresses what you want to grow in your life.

- Planning is based on Priority! (Mt 6:33) Most give God the leftovers of life.

Practical Preparation involves how to work effectively

- Identification/ Decision phase. Lk 14:33
- Investigation/ Conviction phase. Ps. 139:23,24
- Application/Expulsion phase. 2 Cor. 10:3-6
- Fertilization/Neutralization stage. 1 Cor 11:28; 2 Cor 13:5; Heb. 12:15

Purposeful Planting. (Gal. 6:6-8) *"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, (plants) that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; (phthora: ruin/decay) but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."* (see also Isaiah 5:1-7)

Planting Principles for a Productive Life

1. Be Intentional

A. It's folly to plan and prepare and then just expect healthy seed to appear/ take root.

- 1) Only worldly weeds grow naturally. (Mk 4:19; 1 Jn 2:15-17; 1 Jn 5:19)

2. Be Informed Hosea 4:6 *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children."*

A. The choice of seed (what you're planting) should be based on the crop you're wanting.

Gal. 6:7 *"Whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap"* (see also Mt 7:16-20)

3. Be Aware! (BEWARE!)

A. We're not the only one's planting seed in the soil of our soul! *Seed can come from:*

- 1) Bird droppings. Mt. 13:19
- 2) Wind/Storms can deposit them. Satan's called *"The Prince of the power of the air"* in Eph. 2:2
- 3) Adjoining fields. 2 Cor 6:14-18; 1 Cor 15:33 *"Be not deceived: (planao: roam from safety) evil (kakos: worthless) communications (homili'a: companionship) corrupt (phthei'rō: spoil, wither) good (chrēstos': useful) manners."* (e'thos: habits)
- 4) Some are intentionally sown:
 - a) By (and for) evil purposes. 2Tim. 3:13 *"evil men and deceivers shall wax worse..."*
 - b) By (and for) good. 2 Tim. 3:14-16 *"from a child you've known the Holy Scriptures"*

B. We are 100% responsible for what we allow to take root and bear fruit!

1) That's why we need to weed the soil of our soul regularly.

C. We're commanded to sow good (God's) seed into the lives of others.

Mt 28:18-21; 2 Tim. 2:1-2; 1 Peter 1:23 "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."

Conclusion: Be Intentional, Informed, Aware

1 Peter 5:8-9 *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith"*

Satan usually distracts / detains us (2 Tim. 2:3-6) before he "devours" us. (2 Tim. 2:24-26)

Application: Gal. 6:7-8 *"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap.*

For he that sows to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; (phthora: ruin/decay)

but he that sows to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

Planting/ Harvesting Principles:

- We'll reap what we sow! Gal. 6:7 (as well as what we allow others to sow into our lives.)
- We'll reap after we sow. Nu 32:23
- We'll reap more than we sow. Hosea 8:7

Since we'll reap what we sow:

1) Are you being Intentional in what you're allowing to be planted in your soul?

Pr 4:23 *"Keep (Nāṣar': guard) thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."*

(tôṣā' ôṭ': boundaries/ deliverance)

Phil. 4:8 provides us a wise soul "Filter" *"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, ... honest, ...*

just,...pure, ... lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and ...any praise,

Think on (Logizomai': take/keep an inventory of) these things."

2) Are you making wise, informed choices about what's being planted in your soul?

- Spiritually? (1 Tim. 4:8; Mt 6:33)
- Relationally? (1 Cor 15:33; 2 Cor 6:14)
- Physically? (1 Cor 3:17)
- Practically? (Ro. 12:1-3)

3) Are you aware that while others may be planting seeds in the soil of your soul, you're responsible for what's growing there? 2 Cor 5:10

What should such an awareness motivate us to do? (2 Cor 5:11-21)