

Principles for Productive Living

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, April 16th

The Universe Operates through natural principles *because the Creator Does.*

The Bible reveals Spiritual principles to help guide us to God and His plans. These include:
The Passion (*Open Heart*) Principle. (Col. 3:16-24); The Purpose (*Open Hand*) Principle. (Ex. 3,4)
The Path (*Open Door*) Principle. (Rev. 3:7-13) and this morning we'll discuss:

“The Preparation (Seed) Principle” Mt 13

“Seed” is mentioned 254 times in the Bible, Often metaphorically.

The importance of planting even small seeds or “preparations” can't be overstated.

Sow a thought, and you reap an action; Sow an action, and you reap a habit;
Sow a habit, and you reap a character; Sow a character, and you reap a destiny!

Ralph Waldo Emerson

Into Every Field (Life) A Little Seed Will Fall.

1. God Is Busy Planting **Good** Seed. Mt 13:24 *“The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good (kalos: valuable, virtuous) seed in his field.”* Lk 8:11 *“The seed is the word of God”*
Mt 13:19 calls it *“the word of the kingdom”*

A. The *initial* purpose of the seed is to produce **life** Jn 1:1-5; Mt 13:38

1) Before it can do this, it must germinate. Jn 12:24

B. The ultimate purpose for the seed is to produce **fruit**. Gal. 5:22,23

1) “Fruit” isn't for the plant, but for the Planter! Jn 15:8 *“Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.”*

Jn 15:16 *“I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit.”*

2) Without fruit, there will be no more seed! (*The seed is in the fruit!*)

C. To help propagate (spread) the seed God uses:

1) **People** *“a sower went forth to sow.”* Vs 3 This is part of the Great Commission. Mt 28:18-20

2) **Problems** (Acts 8:3,4) *“Therefore they were scattered abroad and went everywhere preaching.”*

God can even use the “birds” to spread the seed. (Gen. 50:20; Psalm 76:10; Ro. 8:28)

“The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church” Tertullian of Carthage (155-220 AD)

2. Satan Is Busy Planting **Bad** Seed Mt. 13:25 *“His enemy came and sowed tares”*

A. Satan also uses people, problems, and pressures to spread his seed.

1) The more trusted the source, (*Messenger*) the more trusted the seed. (*Message*)

2) False prophets are mentioned at least 146 times. Mt 7:15 *“Beware of false prophets...”*

B. His seed is usually disguised as thoughts, feelings, or attitudes that:

1) Seem reasonable (Ro. 1:28)

2) We assume are our own (Mt 16:23) and/or

3) Maybe even come from God! (Jn 16:2) Sadly they're actually from *“seducting spirits and doctrines of devils.”* (1 Tim. 4:1) (Jer. 17:9; John 10:10a; James 3:14-16; 2 Tim 3:13)

C) He tries to sow these seeds early on, before we develop the ability to recognize or resist him. Ecc. 12:1 *“Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not,”*

- 1) God describes these seeds (thought patterns) which grow into “Strongholds” which must be torn down with Truth! (2 Cor 10:3-5)
- 2) It’s from these strongholds that he sows more seeds (lies and false reasoning) which he uses to attack God’s truth in our lives. See Eph. 6:10-18

Not only does Satan plant his own seed...

D. He tries to sabotage the soil (mind) through: Mt 13:

- 1) **Distraction:** *“then cometh the wicked one...”* to snatch God’s seed before it can take root. V 19
- 2) **Obstruction:** He “plants” his rocks (bitterness, pride, lust, habits, prejudice, tradition) so that even if God’s seed takes root, it can’t go deep because of obstacles. Vs 20,21
- 3) **Competition:** His seed (weeds/worries/worldliness) competes with / chokes God’s seed. Mt. 13:22 *“the cares* (mer’imna: divide, distract) *of this world and the deceitfulness* (apat’ē: delusion, cheat) *of riches* (“*and the Lusts of other things*” in Mark 14:19) *choke the word* (sympni’gō: crowd/ srangle) *and it* (the seed of God’s word) *becometh unfruitful.”*

3. We’re Busy Planting **Selfish** Seed. Gal. 5:19-21

(see 1 Cor 3:15; Ph. 3:19)

Conclusion: We need wisdom to *“take our thoughts captive”* 2 Cor 10:3-5 in order to determine their source. (God, Satan, or Self)

Biblical Example: In Mt. 16:15 Jesus asked his disciples: *“whom say ye that am I?”*
Peter answered (16) *“thou art the Christ, the son of...God.”*

Who planted this “Seed thought” in Peter’s mind?

Notice Jesus’ response Mt. 16:7 *“Blessed art thou, Simon ... for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.”* Mt 16:21-23 *“From that time began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go to Jerusalem, suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.*

Who planted this seed thought in Peter’s mind?

But he turned, and said., Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest (phroneo) not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.”

Practical Example: Pam and Bob served as Missionaries in the Philippines when Pam got pregnant with her 5th child. She developed amoebic dysentery during the pregnancy and was very sick.

Her doctors told her to abort the baby for her own safety because the medicines had done irreversible damage to the baby. She told God that if He would give her a son, she would name him Timothy and dedicate him to God. We know that son as Tim Tebow!

Who’s voices are you listening to?

What seeds are they sowing into the soil of your soul?

What will these seeds produce in and through your life?

Are you prepared to do some “weeding” and “Feeding”?

Ps 126:6 *“He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.”* **What will you be bringing to God in that inevitable day!**