

PULPIT COMPANION

**THERE IS
POWER IN
THE RELEASE**

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-7

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This powerful message takes us deep into the heart of spiritual multiplication through the parable of the sower in Matthew 13.

We discover that the Christian life isn't about hoarding what God has given us, but about releasing it with intentionality and faith. The Greek word 'spiro' reveals three transformative movements: sowing intentionally, scattering faithfully, and planting strategically. Each action represents a different dimension of our spiritual journey. When we sow intentionally, we make deliberate choices to invest in God's kingdom, not out of compulsion but from a heart of worship. When we scatter faithfully, we continue giving goodness, kindness, and love even when some seeds fall on rocky ground or among thorns—we don't let past disappointments change who God created us to be. When we plant strategically, we position our resources for generational impact, building not just for today but for believers who will come after us.

The message challenges us to examine what we're holding onto that God is asking us to release. Whether it's our finances through tithes and offerings, our time, our talents, or even our love in relationships, growth only begins when our hands let go. The harvest we long to see in our lives, families, and communities is waiting on our willingness to release the seed.

SCRIPTURES FROM PULPIT AI

- Matthew 13:3-9 - The Parable of the Sower (read in full during the sermon)
- Leviticus 27:30 - "Every tithe of the land whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the trees, is the Lord's. It is holy to the Lord."
- 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 - "Now remember this, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly. And he who sows generously... will also reap generously..."
- 2 Corinthians 9:9 - "As it is written and forever remains written... He scattered abroad. He gave to the poor. His righteousness endures forever."
- 2 Corinthians 9:10-11 - "Now he who provides seed for the sower and bread for the food will provide and multiply your seed for sowing..."





DEVOTIONAL

Day 1: Preparing the Soil of Your Heart

Reading: Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23

Devotional:

Before any seed can produce a harvest, the soil must be ready. Jesus taught that the same seed produces different results depending on the condition of the ground it falls upon. The sower scattered generously, but only the prepared soil yielded a harvest.

Today, ask yourself: What is the condition of my heart's soil? Are there rocky places of unforgiveness that prevent deep roots? Are there thorns of worry, materialism, or distraction choking out what God wants to grow in you? Is there hardened ground where God's Word cannot penetrate?

God cannot multiply what falls on unprepared ground. The harvest you're praying for may be waiting on the heart preparation you've been avoiding. Just as a farmer tills the ground, breaking up the hard places and removing the stones, God wants to work in your heart—but He needs your cooperation.

Reflection Questions:

- What "rocks" or "thorns" do I need to remove from my heart today?
- Where have I become hardened to God's voice?
- What would it look like to be "good soil" in this season?

Prayer:

Lord, till the soil of my heart. Break up the hard places. Remove the stones of bitterness and the thorns of distraction. Prepare me to receive Your Word and produce a harvest that glorifies You. Amen.





DEVOTIONAL

Day 2: Sowing Intentionally

Reading: 2 Corinthians 9:6-8; Galatians 6:7-9

Devotional:

"He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows generously will also reap generously." This is not manipulation—it's a kingdom principle. God has established spiritual laws that govern harvest, and one of them is this: you cannot reap what you refuse to release.

Sowing intentionally means giving with purpose, not under compulsion or grudgingly. It means deciding in your heart what you will release—whether it's your tithe, your time, your talents, or your testimony. Growth only begins when the hand lets go.

Many of us are waiting for a harvest while still clutching the seed. We want God to bless us, but we're unwilling to release what He's asked us to give. We want increase without investment, multiplication without release. But as long as the seed stays in your hand, the harvest will never touch the land.

What seed is God asking you to release today? Is it financial? Is it forgiveness? Is it your time or your gifts? Whatever it is, know this: what you release in obedience, God will multiply in abundance.

Reflection Questions:

- What have I been holding back from God?
- Am I sowing sparingly or generously in my relationships, finances, and service?
- What would it look like to give "thoughtfully and with purpose" this week?

Prayer:

Father, help me to sow intentionally. Remove the fear and hesitation that keeps me from releasing what You've asked me to give. I trust that You will multiply what I release in faith. Amen.





DEVOTIONAL

Day 3: Scattering Faithfully

Reading: 2 Corinthians 9:9; Luke 6:38; Proverbs 11:24-25

Devotional:

The ancient farmer didn't stop scattering seed just because some fell on rocky ground or among thorns. He kept walking, kept throwing, kept trusting that some would fall on good soil. Scattering is an act of faith—faith that God will bring the increase even when you can't control where the seed lands.

Have you stopped scattering because you were hurt? Did you give your love, time, or resources to someone who didn't appreciate it, and now you've closed your hand? The enemy wants you to stop being generous, to stop being kind, to stop showing love—because he knows that scattered seed changes the world.

Don't let a bad experience change who God made you to be. You are called to be benevolent and generous in all circumstances. Yes, be wise about where you plant strategically, but don't stop scattering goodness, kindness, and love. The sower never stops sowing because of the soil.

When you scatter faithfully, you're not responsible for the response—only for the release. What people do with your kindness is between them and God. Your job is to keep scattering, trusting that God will bring the harvest in His time.

Reflection Questions:

- Have I stopped scattering because of past disappointments?
- Where is God calling me to scatter seeds of kindness, generosity, or love today?
- Am I trusting God with the outcome, or trying to control the harvest?

Prayer:

Lord, help me to scatter faithfully without fear. Restore my trust that You will multiply what I give. Keep me from becoming hardened by past hurts. Let me continue to be generous, knowing that You see and will reward. Amen.





DEVOTIONAL

Day 4: Planting Strategically

Reading: 2 Corinthians 9:10-11; Psalm 126:5-6; Ecclesiastes 11:1-6

Devotional:

While scattering is about faith, planting is about wisdom. To plant strategically means to invest in the future with intentionality. It's not emotional giving—it's generational giving. It's not throwing seed everywhere—it's positioning it where it will produce the greatest harvest.

Strategic planting asks questions: Where has God prepared the ground? What investment will bear fruit not just for today, but for the next generation? How can I position my resources, time, and energy to create lasting impact?

You don't plant to survive; you plant to thrive. You don't plant to maintain the moment; you plant to multiply toward the future. Every tithe becomes a testimony. Every offering becomes a share in God's harvest plan. Every act of strategic generosity builds the kingdom for those who will come after you.

The harvest never comes overnight, but it will come on time. What you plant today may not be fully realized in your lifetime, but generations yet unborn will benefit from your obedience. The question is: Are you willing to plant seeds you may never personally harvest?

Reflection Questions:

- Where is God calling me to plant strategically for the future?
- What legacy am I creating through my current giving and serving?
- Am I willing to invest in something that may not produce immediate results?

Prayer:

Father, give me wisdom to plant strategically. Help me to see beyond this moment to the harvest You're preparing for future generations. Let my life be an investment in Your eternal kingdom. Amen.





DEVOTIONAL

Day 5: Trusting the Harvest

Reading: Leviticus 27:30-32; Malachi 3:10-12; Mark 4:26-29

Devotional:

The farmer who plants a seed doesn't dig it up every day to check if it's growing. He trusts the process. He waters, he waits, he watches—but he doesn't control the growth. That's God's part.

The same is true for us. Once we've sowed intentionally, scattered faithfully, and planted strategically, we must trust God for the harvest. We don't give to manipulate God or to force His hand. We give because we trust that He is faithful, that He keeps His promises, and that He will multiply what we release.

The tithe was never about taxation—it was about testimony. It declared: "God, You are my source. You sent the rain, You sustained the soil, and now I return the first and best to You." It's an act of worship that says, "I trust You more than I trust my bank account."

Increase begins and ends with God. When we release our seed—whether financial, relational, or spiritual—we're not hoping God will come through. We're declaring that He already has. The harvest is guaranteed not because of our worthiness, but because of His faithfulness.

So release the seed. Trust the process. And get ready—the harvest is coming.

Reflection Questions:

- Am I trusting God with the seeds I've planted, or am I trying to control the outcome?
- What does it look like for me to worship God through my giving?
- How can I prepare my heart to receive the harvest God is preparing?

Prayer:

Lord, I release every seed into Your hands. I trust You to bring the harvest in Your perfect timing. Help me to worship You through my obedience, knowing that You are faithful to multiply what I've sown. Prepare my heart for the abundance You have promised. In Jesus' name, Amen.





SMALL GROUP GUIDE : "There is Power in the Release"

Opening Prayer:

Key Scripture:

Matthew 13:3-9 (The Parable of the Sower)

Discussion Questions:

1. The pastor said, "If you don't sow, you can't grow." What does this mean beyond just financial giving? How does this principle apply to relationships, time, and talents?
2. In the parable, the sower scattered seed on different types of soil. Why did the sower keep scattering even though some seed wouldn't produce fruit? What does this teach us about persistence?
3. What's the difference between giving to "maintain" versus giving to "multiply"? How does this shift our perspective on generosity?
4. The sermon mentioned three types of soil where seed fell: the path (hard ground), rocky ground (shallow), and among thorns (choked). Which of these best represents an area of your life right now? What needs to change for that ground to become fertile?
5. "The sower never stops sowing because of the soil." Have you ever stopped being generous, kind, or loving because someone didn't respond the way you hoped? How can you restart that "scattering"?
6. The pastor shared his sister's advice: "Don't let anyone call you by another name than the one you were given." How have negative words or labels from others affected your willingness to release seeds of goodness? How can you overcome this?
7. Sow Intentionally: What is one area where you need to give more intentionally rather than emotionally or reluctantly? (This could be time, money, forgiveness, encouragement, etc.)
8. Scatter Faithfully: Where do you need to keep "scattering" even though you haven't seen results yet? (A difficult relationship, a ministry effort, prayers for someone, etc.)
9. Plant Strategically: What seed could you plant today that would benefit the next generation? How can you invest in something beyond your immediate needs?
10. The pastor mentioned the Compassion Fund as a strategic way to help those in need. What practical ways can our group participate in meeting needs in our community?





Practical Applications:

This Week's Challenge: Choose ONE from each category

RELEASE (Let Go):

1. ☐ Identify one thing you've been holding onto (hurt, unforgiveness, fear, money, time) and prayerfully release it to God
2. ☐ Clear out possessions you're hoarding and donate them to someone in need
3. ☐ Let go of a grudge or offense and reach out to restore that relationship

SOW (Give Intentionally):

1. ☐ Commit to consistent, intentional tithing or increase your current giving
2. ☐ Identify someone who needs encouragement and intentionally invest time with them this week
3. ☐ Volunteer for a ministry or community service opportunity

SCATTER (Give Faithfully):

1. ☐ Show kindness to three different people this week without expecting anything in return
2. ☐ Scatter seeds of goodness in your family - do something unexpected for each family member
3. ☐ Practice generosity with a "difficult person" in your life - scatter love on rocky ground

PLANT (Give Strategically):

1. ☐ Set up or contribute to a fund for future ministry, missions, or compassion work
2. ☐ Mentor someone younger - invest in the next generation
3. ☐ Create a giving plan for the next 6-12 months that goes beyond your comfort zone

Key Takeaways:

1. Growth only begins when we release - As long as seed stays in your hand, there can be no harvest in the land.
2. Three movements of faith (Spiro):
 - a. Sow intentionally - deliberate, purposeful giving
 - b. Scatter faithfully - trust God even when results aren't immediate
 - c. Plant strategically - invest in the future, not just the moment
3. Sowing is not for survival, but to supply all needs - We don't give to maintain; we give to multiply.
4. The tithe is testimony, not taxation - It declares God as our source and first priority.
5. What leaves your hands today will live in hearts tomorrow - Generational impact comes from present obedience.





GROUP ACTIVITY

Seed Planting Exercise:

Provide each person with paper and pen. Have them draw or write out:

1. The Seed - What do I have to give? (gifts, talents, resources, time)
2. The Soil - Where should I plant it? (family, church, community, specific person/ministry)
3. The Harvest - What impact do I hope to see? (changed lives, strengthened relationships, kingdom growth)

Share with the group if comfortable, then pray over each person's "planting plan."

MEMORY VERSE

2 Corinthians 9:6 "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."

PRAYER FOCUS

Pray for:

- Eyes to see where God wants us to release seeds
- Faith to keep scattering even when we don't see immediate results
- Wisdom to plant strategically for future generations
- Hearts that give cheerfully, not grudgingly
- The church's compassion ministry and those who will be blessed through it
- Specific needs shared by group members

Prayer Prompts:

- "God, help me release..."
- "Give me faith to keep scattering..."
- "Show me where to plant strategically..."





CLOSING THOUGHT

"There's power in the release. When we release the seed, God will raise a harvest of ministries, grow a church of influence, bless a people of faith, and multiply the movement of God."

Final Question: What seed is God asking you to release today?

BEFORE NEXT WEEK

- Journal about your experience with sowing, scattering, and planting
- Share your testimony with the group via text/email if you see God move through your obedience
- Read ahead for next week's sermon in the "Getting Ready for the Harvest" series
- Continue to pray for the harvest God is preparing in our church and community

LEADER NOTES

- Be Sensitive: Money discussions can be uncomfortable. Emphasize that this is about heart posture and trust in God, not just finances.
- Share First: Leaders should be vulnerable about their own struggles with releasing and generosity.
- Celebrate Stories: If anyone shares a testimony of God's faithfulness through giving, celebrate it!
- No Pressure: Make it clear that giving is between each person and God - no guilt or manipulation.
- Practical Help: If someone is struggling financially, connect them with church resources or the compassion fund mentioned in the sermon.

