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PART 2 - THE POWER OF SOWING AND REAPING

This is part 2 of the New Year series, A Renewed Vision For 2022

1. God set certain unchanging laws into motion. The law of seed-time and harvest is one of those laws. (Genesis 1:11-13, 8:22) Many may not realize the power of sowing and reaping, an absolute principle of physical and spiritual blessing established by God. (Malachi 3:10; 2 Corinthians 9:6-11; Romans 8:5-6; Galatians 6:7-10)
 - Genesis 8:22 *While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease.*
2. Sow a thought and you reap an action; sow actions and you reap a habit; sow a habit and you reap a character; sow a character and you reap a destiny. — Ralph Waldo Emerson

FOUR PRINCIPLES FROM GOD'S WORD

We tend to ignore or underestimate the power of daily, faithful "sowing" into our lives and the lives of others. However, the following principles are as reliable as gravity:

1. **We reap what we sow if we don't give up.**
 - Galatians 6:7-10 *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 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. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.*
2. **We reap according to the amount we sow.**
 - 2 Corinthians 9:6-10 *But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully... 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 work... 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,...

3. **We reap in a different season.** Joseph's faithful sowing into forgiveness, perseverance, etc. saved future Israel!!!

- *Genesis 50:19-21 Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.*

4. **We reap in multiples.**

- *Luke 6:38 But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded [a]a crop a hundredfold." When He had said these things He cried, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"*

FOUR SOIL TYPES

Luke 8:4-15 is Christ's parable which illustrates our heart's receptivity to God's Word using four soils: the hard path, the soil with buried rock, the soil with weeds, and the good, prepared soil.

Luke 8:11-15 *"Now the parable is this: **The seed is the word of God.** Those by the **wayside** (path) are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. But the ones on the **rock** are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. Now the ones that fell among **thorns** are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. But the ones that fell on the **good ground** are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.*

1. **Hard, unrepentant and unreceptive heart** — No faith, disbelief, no action. The seed (God's Word, directive, promise) simply lays there and is then stolen by the devil.
 - *Romans 2:5 But in accordance with your hardness and your (unrepentant) impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,...*
2. **Rock, emotional hearer** — Quick response with excitement. When difficulty, challenges, or sacrifice is required, they turn away.
 - *Mark 10:17-27 ...but (the rich young ruler) was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.*
3. **Weeds, mixed focus and motivation** — The promise is received with personal desire or ambition, using God's promise to acquire wealth, status, etc.

- 1 Timothy 6:10 *For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*
4. **Good soil, the prepared, receptive heart.** The soil has been prepared to receive God's Word, instruction, and direction.
- Acts 2:36-41 *...Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"...*

APPLICATION

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. –Francis of Assisi

Identify one area where you would like to see growth. Using a portion of Francis of Assisi's famous prayer above as a pattern of overcoming "evil" with good (Romans 12:14-21), what kind of seed should you sow?

Continued next week...