

God's Law
Of Sowing
And
Reaping

by B. R. Hicks

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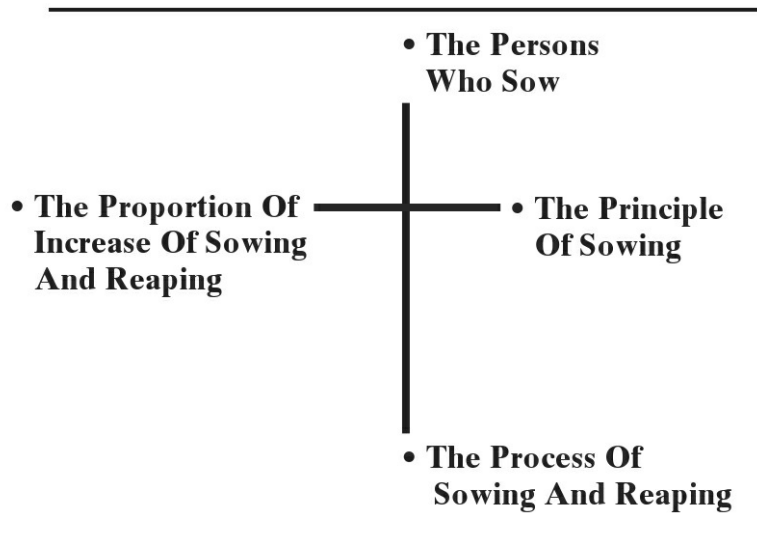
Introduction

God's Word clearly establishes His doctrine of Sowing and Reaping. Sowing consists of the scattering of seeds for growth, either upon the ground in the natural realm or upon the soil of hearts and minds in the spiritual realm. There are numerous varieties of seeds and many different kinds of soil in both the natural and spiritual realms. Every seed that is sown and allowed to grow to maturity will be reaped by the owner of the seed, whether it be naturally or spiritually.

Christians who do not understand the Principle of Sowing and Reaping suffer much frustration and confusion. For example, they pray expecting an instantaneous answer; then, if the answer is slow in coming, they are likely to allow discouragement to cause them to quit praying.

We must realize that we reap today what we sowed in one of our yesterdays. The harvest of whatever evil seeds we sow today will be reaped in one of our tomorrows, not only during the rest of our lives on Earth but also in Eternity unless we make sufficient repentance unto the LORD.

The following chapters set forth the Stature of Truth on the subject of Sowing and Reaping.



My prayer is that all persons who read this booklet will allow the spiritual Seeds of Truth that are sown within these pages to be planted within their hearts and that they will water these Seeds with their own tears and tend them with prayerful diligence until they take root downward and bear fruit upward in their hearts to the Glory of God.

— The Author

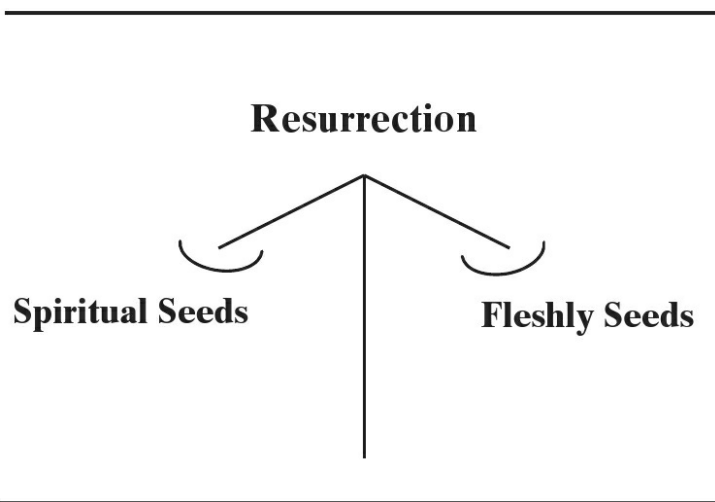
Chapter One

The Process Of Sowing And Reaping

In his first epistle to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul used a picture of natural sowing and reaping to convey the Spiritual Truth of how the mortal body is sown like a seed in the ground and how, at the resurrection, Christ Jesus will raise up a new body in its place.

But some *man* will say, **How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? *Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain:*** But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body (I Corinthians 15:35-38).

In these verses, the Apostle Paul answered the two principal questions about the validity of the doctrine of the resurrection: How are the dead raised up? And, with what body do they come?



In this scene, the first question of some who doubted the reality of the resurrection of the dead was: “How are the dead raised up?” By what power and by what means is this glorious effect produced upon a dead body? The same Unbegotten Resurrection Power and Glory of the Father that raised Christ from the dead will also quicken our mortal bodies in the resurrection. Paul reminded the Christians in Corinth that God’s same divine Power that brings death and revival to the grain of corn that is planted in the ground also will quicken our mortal bodies. Therefore, it is unparalleled weakness and stupidity to doubt God’s Resurrection Power since we see it manifested in the natural world year after year.

The second question — “With what body do they come?” — is answered by the example of a natural seed that is sown in one form or body and, then, comes up with a different form or body. The embryo of the corn seed can sprout only after its outer shell or form has died. A seed must die before it can live. Every seed sown has its own proper body that will produce more seed after its own kind. The body of the *cornstalk* is not sown, but the *seed* is. Then, God’s Resurrection Power causes the cornstalk to spring forth from the seed.

Likewise, within the Seed of the mortal body that is sown in the ground is God’s Unbegotten Resurrection Power that will cause the spiritual, glorified body to spring forth on Resurrection Morning. The dead will rise again and live in their new forms, their new glorified bodies, after the Death in their mortal bodies has been swallowed up by God’s Resurrection Glory.

Sowing in the natural realm occurs when a sower drops a little seed into the ground. Reaping comes after the

embryo of life, encased in the seed, has manifested itself and has grown to maturity in the visible realm.

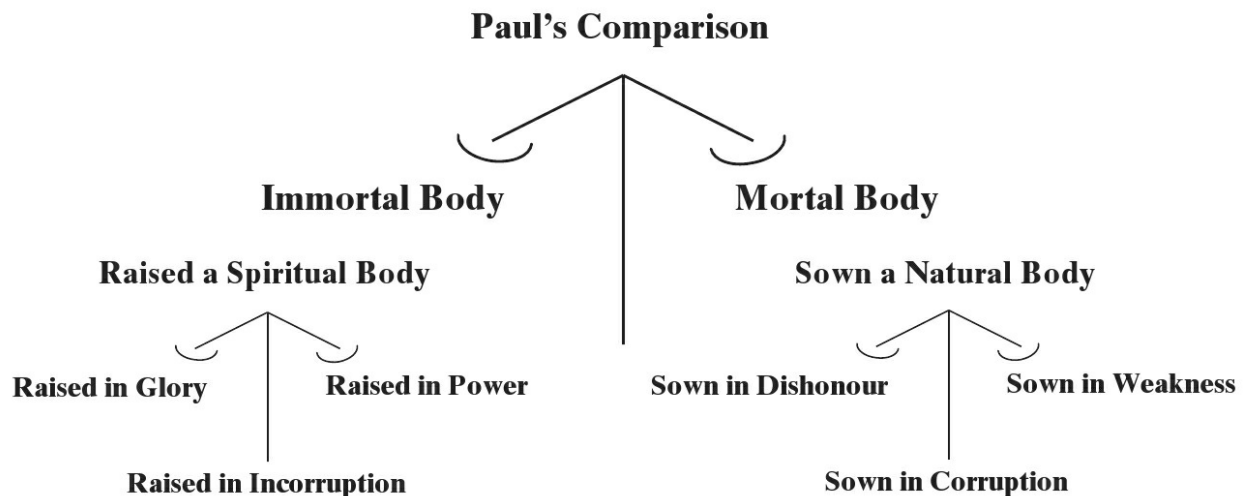
The little fertilized bean seed that is planted has a diametrically different form from the lush green vine with long green beans hanging from it that one sees later in the season. It takes the death process to separate the hard outer shell of the seed from the inner life of the little embryo that is within. Only through death is the inner body or stature of any seed revealed, whether it be in the natural realm or in the spiritual realm.

If we sow natural seeds of beans, wheat, or corn, we reap a natural harvest. If we sow spiritual Seeds of Truth, we reap a mature, spiritual harvest of Christ's Stature. However, the *process of Death* always is involved between the sowing time and the reaping time.

Inside every true believer there is a spiritual Seed that is the Seed of God's Word, the LORD Jesus Christ. The Seed of God's Word is sown, now, within the soil of our mortal bodies. However, for God's Word to grow within us, we must take on Christ's Death daily, by faith, so that the outer shell of our carnal flesh can die, thereby releasing the Seed of God's Word to grow within. If the restricting force of the outer shell of our Adamic nature is removed, God's Seed of Truth is free to spring up and bring forth Spiritual Fruit. Thereafter, Jesus Christ's Stature is manifested in our lives. Likewise, in the resurrection, when the mortal flesh is removed from the body, a new body or a new spiritual form will be raised up. If the LORD delays His Coming, we all will go through the Death process that will destroy our physical bodies; then, we will stand up in a *new* body or a new form at the resurrection.

On Resurrection Morning, the Stature of Word that grew in our hearts will not stand up in the mortality in which it was sown, but the Stature of the Word will be raised up in a glorified, immortal body.

The Apostle Paul made a comparative analysis between the mortal body and the immortal body.



So also is the resurrection of the dead. **It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body.** There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body (I Corinthians 15:42-44).

Let us first examine the stature of the mortal body with its corruption, dishonour, weakness, and its natural state. *First*, as a result of Adam-female's and Adam-male's sin, our mortal bodies are filled with *corruption*. When Adam-male and Adam-female followed fallen Lucifer, their bodies were changed from their originally sound condition to an unsound one that was spoiled, contaminated, and rotten. Their bodies deteriorated from their spiritual, holy condition into a morally unsound or debased, depraved condition. Therefore, at Death, the mortal body is sown in corruption.

Second, the mortal body is sown in *dishonour* at Death. Adam's body in the beginning was the Light bearer of God's Glory. However, when sin entered into Adam's heart, his glorious Light was extinguished that had provided Adam with an illuminated covering. Adam's body was left in darkness, disgrace, and shame. Because of Adam's

sin, all mortal bodies have inherited this shame and disgrace and are sown in dishonour at Death.

Third, the mortal body is sown in *weakness* at Death. It lacks the fighting strength and power to overcome the disintegrative forces of Death that start devouring the mortal body as soon as it is laid in the grave.

Fourth, the *mortal* body is sown a *natural* body at Death. The mortal body arose by God's creative Power from the dust of nature, in accordance with God's Purposive Will. Because Adam-male and Adam-female established their independence from God, the Source of all Existence, their bodies became natural bodies. Consequently, they became mortal parents to whom mortal men were born. Man's existence ceased to be an elevated, spiritual one and became a humiliated, natural one. So, at Death, man's mortal body is sown in the natural realm to return to the dust of nature from whence it was taken.

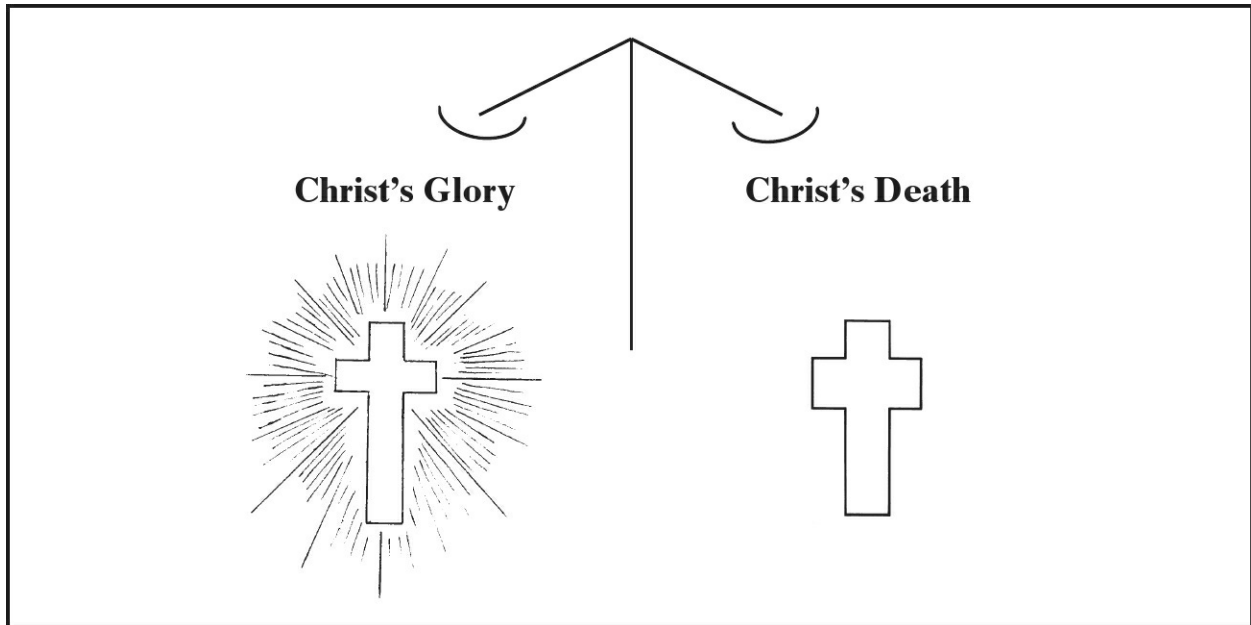
Man's natural body, encased in a shell of mortality, is sown in corruption, dishonour, weakness, and in a natural form. However, believers' immortal bodies are raised up in incorruption, glory, and power, and in the new form of Spiritual Bodies. When the LORD Jesus Christ, by the Unbegotten Glory of the Father, raises up the believer's body in its new, immortal form, it will be incorruptible. It will be pure and morally sound, not liable to decay or destruction. It will be deathless and live forever. The believer's new immortal form of his body will be filled with the splendour, magnificence, and radiance of God's Unbegotten Glory, a Glory of eternal fame and renown.

On Resurrection Morning, the believer's new immortal body will be raised up in God's infinite Almighty Power. God's infinite Power consists of His inherent Ability and His indisputable Right to Rule, to Determine, and to Decide, by His Supreme, Sovereign Authority, the form of our new bodies.

Thus, the believer's *immortal* body will be raised up a *spiritual* body. Our old body has its origin in the dust of the ground, but our new immortal body will have its origin in God's Spirit. Our mortal body was created out of earthly substance, but our new immortal body will be created out of heavenly Spiritual Substance. Our immortal body will be a striking contrast to our mortal body. Our mortal body is corrupt, dishonourable, weak, and natural. But our immortal body will be incorruptible, glorious, powerful, and Spiritual.

After the death of our mortal bodies, the real Spiritual Stature of our hearts will be revealed, whether our hearts are good or evil. This is true for the saint as well as the sinner. Although none of us can escape the Death process, we do have a choice as to the kind of seeds we sow which, in turn, determines the kind of Death we shall experience and the kind of reaping we shall receive.

Christians who spend their days permitting the process of Christ's Obedient Death to work in their hearts will be raised up with a comparable degree of Christ's Glory. If we take on Christ's Death, by faith, and allow it to devour our earthly, unChristlike flesh, we shall be raised with an equal part of His Glory.

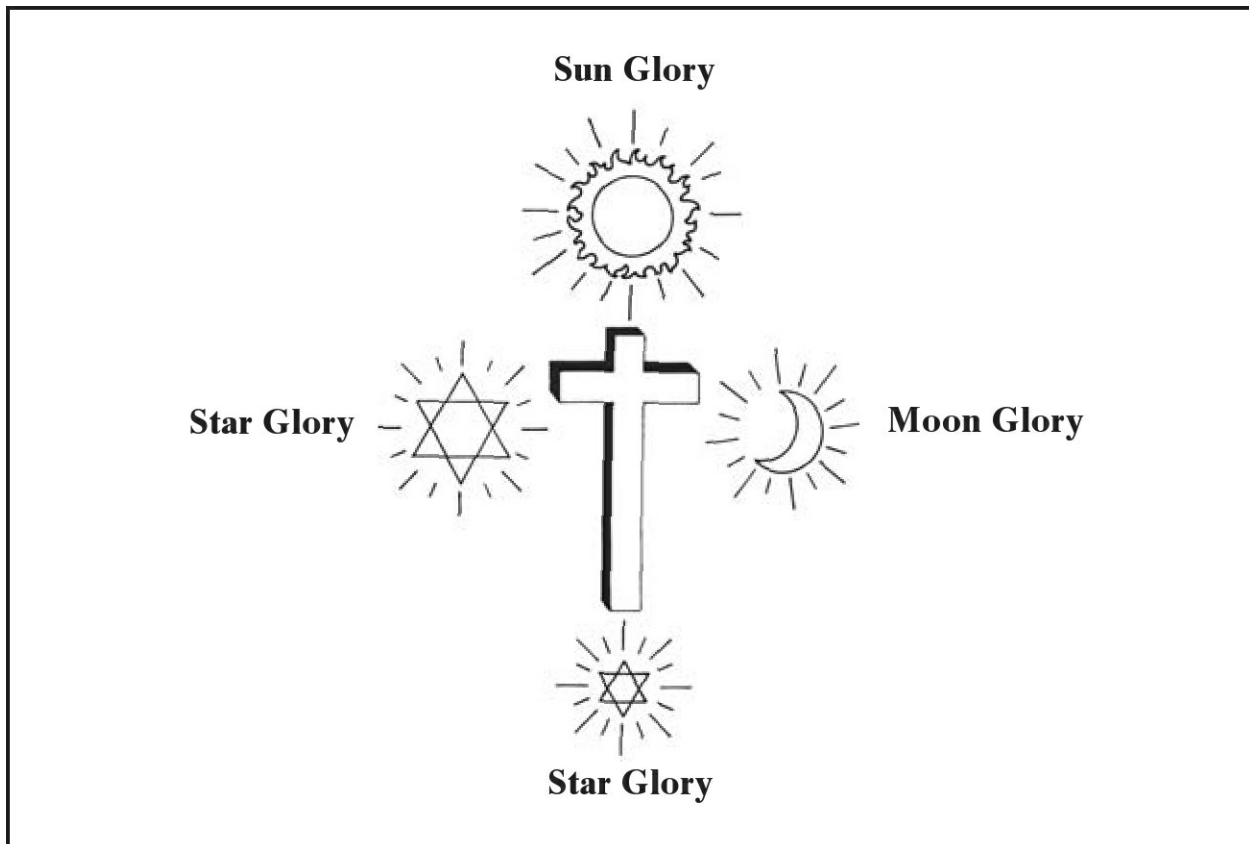


All flesh is not the same flesh: but *there is one kind of flesh* of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds. *There are* also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the

celestial is one, and the *glory* of the terrestrial is another. **There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead....** (I Corinthians 15:39-42).

These verses show the four categories of Glory that Christians will receive in Eternity, depending upon the degree of Christ's Obedient Death that they have allowed to work in their hearts to bring Death to their carnal nature, while journeying through their lifetime on Earth. When they are resurrected, some believers will shine with the Father's splendourous Glory that is like unto the *sun* because they will have allowed Christ's Death to crucify their fleshly disobedience, while allowing God's Word to grow to full maturity in their hearts and lives. Some believers will shine with the Father's Glory that is like unto the glory of the *moon* because they will have gained, in this life, portions of the Spiritual Stature of Christ Jesus equivalent to this degree of Glory. The shining of the Moon Glory on Resurrection Morning will be a lesser degree of Glory than the Glory of the Sun. Still other believers will shine with the Father's Glory that is like unto the light of the *stars* because they will have gained the particular measure of the Spiritual Stature of Christ that will have earned them an equivalent degree of Glory. The shining of the Star Glory on Resurrection Morning will be a still lesser degree of Glory than the Glory of the Moon. Distinctions also will be made between the Glory of the Stars, for some Stars with shine with greater Light and Glory than others, just as natural stars do, today, when viewed from the Earth.

Let us examine Paul's analogy of the Resurrection Glory of saints being equal to the glory of the natural stars, moon, and sun.



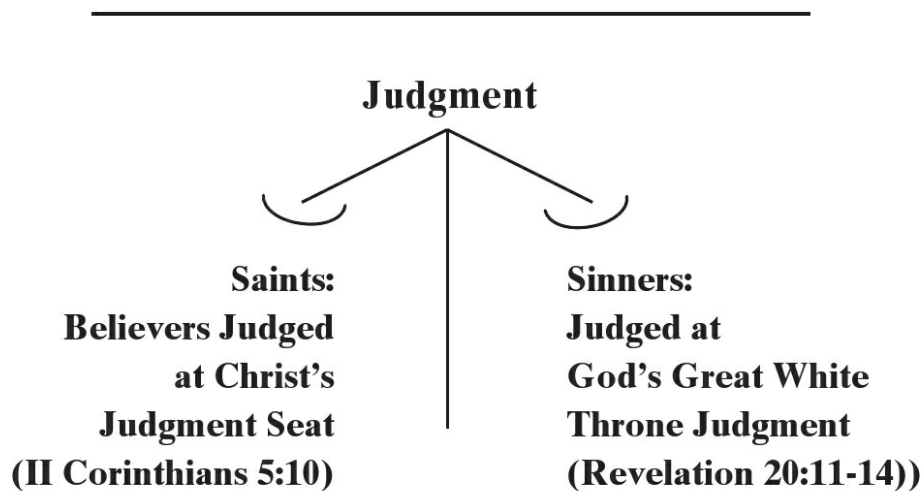
If we choose, now, to sow God's righteous Word in our hearts, by God's Holy Spirit, our carnal nature will *die* daily at the Cross with the *Crucified* Christ, and we will continue to *grow* with the *Resurrected* Christ, from one Star Glory to another Star Glory, then, to the Moon Glory, and, finally, to the Sun Glory. This Light and Glory of the Resurrected Christ is evidenced, now, by the new Spiritual Life that springs up inwardly in our hearts and lives. Our inward degree of Glory will be manifested outwardly through our new glorified bodies at the resurrection, whether it be with the Glory of the Stars, the Moon, or the Sun.

Conversely, if we choose to sow seeds of sinful unrighteousness, we must expect to reap a sinful harvest, as is promised in God's Word. "For the wages of sin is death;..." (Romans 6:23). Death is due the sinner because he has sinned, just as wages are due a servant because he has laboured. All who serve the master called "sin" must expect to be paid the wages of Death by the Master. Therefore, instead of reaping Life that comes from sowing God's Word by God's Spirit, the sinner reaps Death.

When we are "sin's" servant and when we do "sin's" work, we must expect to be paid immediately, as well as in the future. Death is the wages for the least sin. Therefore, when we have received the smallest payment of Death, we no longer feel the reality of God's Presence and the reality of His Word. We begin to lose the conscious awareness of God's Life in our hearts. The LORD seems far away after the master called "sin" has paid us our wages of spiritual Death. Spiritual Death separates us from the consciousness of God's Love, Joy, and Peace.

The believer must repent of the wages of Spiritual Death in the old heart. In order for a believer to stride forward in his spiritual education and moral development, he must learn to repent of his Spiritual Death since it is the wages of sin.

At the Judgment Seat of Christ, believers must give an account for their unrepented spiritual Death. At God's Great White Throne Judgment, sinners must give an account for their unrepented Spiritual Death.



Paul industriously laboured to obtain God's acceptance for the Prize of being in Christ's Bride. Therefore, Paul died daily to his sinful flesh that, left unrepented, produces Spiritual Death instead of Spiritual Life.

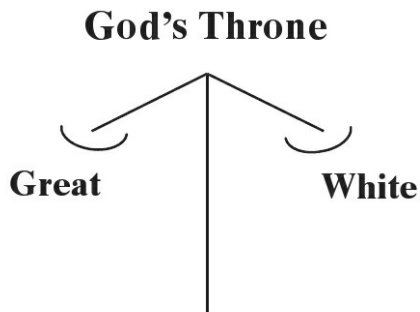
For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad (II Corinthians 5:10).

The certainty of Christ's Judgment of believers is eternally fixed. All saints must appear before His Judgment Seat. The LORD Jesus Christ will appear there in flaming Fire to judge all the wood, hay, and stubble or Spiritual Death of every believer. Every deed of every believer will be judged, whether it was done out of the Life of Christ or out of the Death of the believer's flesh. Therefore, as believers, we should be excited and persuaded to repent of all Spiritual Death and to live a holy life that is committed totally unto Christ, the Great Judge. Then, we can appear before His Judgment Seat with confidence and comfort.

After physical death, all sinners will be resurrected to stand before God's Great White Throne Judgment Seat, where they will be judged according to whatever degree of Darkness they have attained through their Spiritual Death in this life. All the seeds of sin, whether they be the sinful seeds of fornication, adultery, or wickedness that were sown in secret, will be revealed and brought to light at God's Great White Throne Judgment. Each person's stature of wickedness will be resurrected to stand up in an immortal body that will be judged and cast into the Lake of Fire, which is the Second Death or Spiritual Death.

And I saw a **great white throne**, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. **And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.** And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: **and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death** (Revelation 20:11-14).

It was the revelation of Judgment at this Great White Throne that made Felix's heart to tremble. God's Throne is both Great and White.



God's Throne is *great* in size and extent. It is mighty, high, and chief above all other thrones. It is distinguished for its antiquity because it was before all things. God's Throne is *white*, reflecting, radiating; and it transmits the splendourous Rays of His Righteousness, Justice, and Purity.

All wicked dead — great and small, rich and poor, high and low, old and young — will appear there. The Sea (Pit), Death, and Hell will surrender all the souls that are confined there; the graves will surrender all the bodies that belong to these wicked souls; and all the roaming, wicked spirits will again be reunited with their souls in their wicked, resurrected bodies and will be brought before God's Divine Tribunal to give an account for their sinful disobedience toward God, His Name, His Spirit, and His Word. God will judge righteously out of the truthful facts that are written in the open books. Each sinner will receive his proper wages of Spiritual Death in proportion to his sinful deeds.

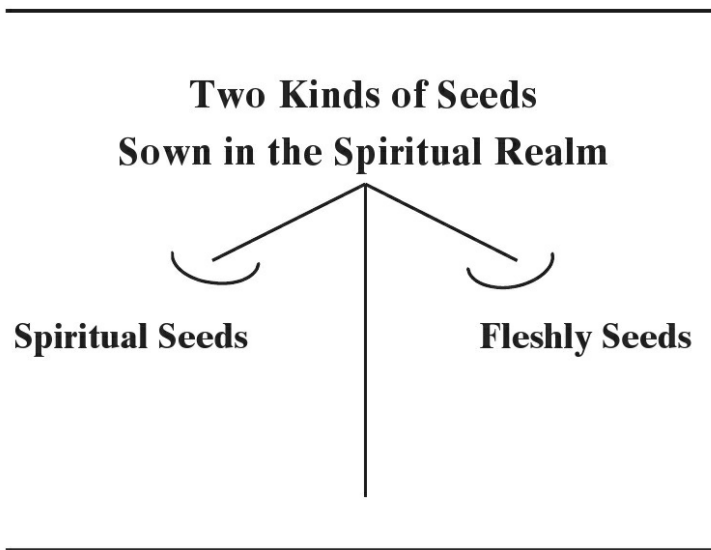
Since it is impossible to escape the Death process, whether we be a saint or a sinner, let us pray for Christ's Wisdom so that we can sow the right seeds. Only by abundantly sowing the Seeds of Truth will we be assured of reaping a bountiful harvest of spiritual Life as well as natural life.

Chapter Two

The Proportion Of Increase Of Sowing And Reaping

What is sown and what is reaped as an increase is proportionate. Whatever is sown, whether good or evil, always becomes greater in size, amount, and degree. Seeds that are sown take root, grow, and multiply, which results in an increase in size — seeds into plants — and an increase in seeds that the mature plant produces.

Two kinds of seeds can be sown in the spiritual realm: Spiritual Seeds and fleshly seeds.



There is only so much soil into which these two kinds of seeds can be sown. We can sow spiritual Seeds or fleshly seeds in the soil of our own hearts and minds or in the soil of other hearts and minds. We must choose between sowing the Seeds of the Spirit of Truth bountifully or sparingly and between sowing the seeds of fleshly falsehoods bountifully or sparingly. If we choose to sow the Seeds of the Spirit of Truth liberally, we will reap a satisfying increase of Truth and Life in the soil of our own hearts and minds and in the hearts and minds of others. However, if we are stingy with the Seeds of Truth and Life and sow sparingly, we will be ashamed and grieved when we appear at Christ's Seat of Judgment because of our lack of Truth.

The Apostle Paul confirmed the Spiritual Principle of reaping according to the proportion of sowing.

But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully (II Corinthians 9:6).

Not boasting of things without *our* measure, *that is*, of other men's labours; but having hope, **when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged** by you according to our rule abundantly, (II Corinthians 10:15).

God's Spirit of Truth in His Word commands us to sow deeds of living charity to those in need. If we desire a bountiful increase or a good return at harvest time, we must bountifully sow the Seeds of Truth, not pinch nor spare our time and energy now. We must sow deliberately, according to what we have purposed in our hearts. We must take thought according to the design of the Father's Master Plan and the Son's Purposive Will. We cannot sow accidentally by our human senses nor hastily by the importunity of others and expect to reap a good and bountiful increase.

God does not want us to sow good deeds grudgingly or out of necessity because we have been forced and squeezed to satisfy someone's importunity. This kind of sowing is corrupted by our uncrucified malice and resentment in our carnal will.

We are to sow good deeds out of willing, liberal hearts and out of crucified, surrendered, and obedient wills. We are to draw out our souls to the hungry, and we are to satisfy the afflicted soul with the Bread of Truth that is accompanied with a spirit of sympathy, pity, and love. We are to be cheerful and glad that we have had the opportunity and ability to sow satisfying Deeds of Truth. What is given to others in God's Perfect Will is far from being lost, regardless of the kind of response we receive. It is like the precious seed which, having been cast into the ground, is not lost, although it lies buried for a long time under the cold clods of earth. It shall come up in springtime, and it shall bear fruit in harvest time. The willing, faithful sower in springtime will reap a bountiful increase in harvest time.

Because God loves a cheerful sower, the liberal sower may expect to reap a liberal increase. We never can be a loser by doing that which pleases God. We have every reason to trust God's Goodness, Justice, and Faithfulness. As we liberally sow in spiritual and temporal things, we will reap good things, liberally, in both the spiritual and natural realms.

The Eternal Reward that we reap for sowing Seeds of Truth and Deeds of Love will endure forever. God blesses the good Seeds we sow so that we can have Bread for the present and an increased supply of Seed for future sowing. Thus, we are increased in our ability to continue doing good by sowing more and more Seeds of Truth. Sowing according to God's Perfect Will *never* impoverishes but truly makes us rich in Christ Jesus.

All good sowing redounds to the Praise and to the Glory of God. Those who receive our precious Seeds of Truth and our glorious Deeds of Truth are filled with gratitude and praise to the LORD's Holy Name. Thus, the LORD's Name is blessed constantly by His willing servants who continually yield to be good sowers of His good Seeds of Truth. Thanks be to God for His Unspeakable Gift, Christ Jesus, Who has given us His Eternal Grace so that we can be good sowers in spiritual faith and hope of receiving the proper proportion of increase!

However, if we live carnally and sow the seeds of pleasure of our own idolatrous flesh, God cannot bless what few good Seeds we might sow. Israel is our instructive example. When Israel was living in idolatry, although she sowed good seed in the ground, God could not bless her because her good seed were corrupted by her idolatry.

The Prophet Jeremiah confirmed the Principle that the idolatrous flesh corrupts the good seed that is sown, even in the natural realm.

They have sown wheat, but shall reap thorns: they have put themselves to pain, *but* shall not profit: and they shall be ashamed of your revenues because of the fierce anger of the LORD (Jeremiah 12:13).

Israel had corrupted herself by her idolatrous ways. She had sown the seeds of pleasure of her idolatrous flesh; therefore, her natural land lay desolate in humility, mourning before God. Yet the inhabitants of the land were so senseless and stupid that they neither laid it to heart nor mourned for their having sown the seeds of sensual pleasure to their idolatrous flesh. The desolation of the ground upon which they walked shamed them and proclaimed God's displeasure over their fleshly seeds of idolatry, but still they took no heed.

They sowed wheat; however, instead of reaping that which would have been a comfort and a satisfaction to them, they reaped thorns of grievous vexation. Israel sowed wheat that should have been her security and comfort, but she reaped the thorns of miserable disaster, both from without and from within. All her crops disastrously failed; therefore, her labours were in vain.

Israel's poverty and her lack of increase in her fields were a divine demonstration that she was under God's displeasure from within. Furthermore, the prevailing attacks of the enemy from without were a witness that she also was under God's displeasure from without. If we are under God's divine favour and not His divine frown, we will have God's divine increase of Bread within, and we will have God's protecting Power against loss from the enemy without.

How glorious is the splendour of God's illuminating Truth that first reveals our power of choice. This enlightenment *enables us to choose* to sow good Spiritual Seeds instead of sensual, fleshly seeds; and, second, *it strengthens us in our choice* to sow good Spiritual Seeds. However, we are the ones who have the power to decide just how bountiful each one of our harvests will be. Thus, our reaping on the spiritual side and on the fleshly side always is proportional to the measure that we have sown. The more fleshly seeds we cast into the soil of our hearts and minds, the more thorns of disaster we will reap, both within and without. But the more Spiritual Seeds that we

cast into the soil of our hearts and minds, the more Spiritual Plants will spring up, grow to maturity, and multiply themselves in our lives and in the hearts and lives of those with whom we share God's Seeds of Truth.

Chapter Three

The Principle Of Sowing

The Principle or Law of Sowing and Reaping is simple. If a person plants corn, then corn will come up, and he will reap corn. Whatever is planted always will come up with the same nature it had when it went down into the ground.

Farmers know and accept this principle in the natural realm. No farmer ever plants corn and, then, cries because wheat fails to come up. He knows that he must plant wheat if he expects to reap wheat.

God's Word clearly confirms the Principle of Sowing and Reaping.

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for **whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap**. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting (Galatians 6:7,8).

We need to take heed lest we deceive ourselves into thinking that when we sow fleshly seeds of corruption we can expect to reap a harvest of Spiritual Life and Peace. We cannot expect to enjoy the fruitful reward of God's Word in the form of Love, Joy, and Peace, if we neglect our duty to live in obedience to His Commands. If we deceive ourselves by sowing the sensual, corrupt seeds of a vain show of pretense and profession, we most assuredly will not impose our vain deceit upon God Who is perfectly acquainted with our deceitful heart, our deceitful words, and our deceitful deeds. God cannot be deceived, and He cannot be mocked. Therefore, our conduct, now, will determine the account we will give before God, the Judge, in that great Day of Judgment.

It is our choice in this present time to sow either good Seed or evil seed. In the world to come, we will reap the harvest of these Seeds. As the farmer reaps in the time of harvest according to the natural seeds he has sown, so also shall we reap in the future Judgment Day according to the Seeds we have sown, now, in this present world. Those who sow the corrupt seeds of selfishness by living a carnal, sensual life, and who spend all their time, their thoughts, and their energies satisfying their own desires, must expect to reap corruption both now and in that great Day. However, those who sow the holy Seeds of selflessness by living a spiritual life and spend their time, their thoughts, and their energies studying God's Word, praying, honouring God and serving Him, surely must expect to reap Everlasting Life and peace, both now and in that great Day.

Unfortunately, not all Christians take God's Law of Sowing and Reaping into consideration when sowing their Seeds. Very often we see believers sow the sensual, corrupt seeds of the flesh. Then, we watch them weep bitter tears when they see fleshly corruption and spiritual Death manifested in their lives, and we hear them question God as to why He allowed such Death to fall upon them. Such people seem to be totally unaware of God's Principle of Sowing and Reaping. If, as believers, we are reaping Death in our hearts and minds, it is because we have sown to the flesh; therefore, we are reaping corruption and Death. However, if we want to reap Everlasting Life, we must cooperate with God's Law of Sowing and Reaping, and we do this by planting God's Seeds of Life and Truth in our hearts.

God's Principle of Sowing and Reaping is an ancient one. God instituted this Law in the beginning days of the present Creation.

And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, **and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so**. And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the third day (Genesis 1:11-13).

All of God's countless created seeds are governed by His one great Law of Sowing and Reaping. Each natural seed must work solely within its own kind and allow itself to develop within the divinely appointed sphere of its own species; thus, the fruit of its own kind will be reaped.

God's irrevocable Law governs every tiny natural seed and its embryo in its innermost being so that it is constrained to produce seedlings and plants after its own kind.

God's Law of Sowing and Reaping is the Governing Force that rules with such mighty, infallible Power that each tiny seed must definitely grow within God's limits and according to His prescribed form. Likewise, in the spiritual realm, every tiny Seed, whether good or evil, will produce its own kind.

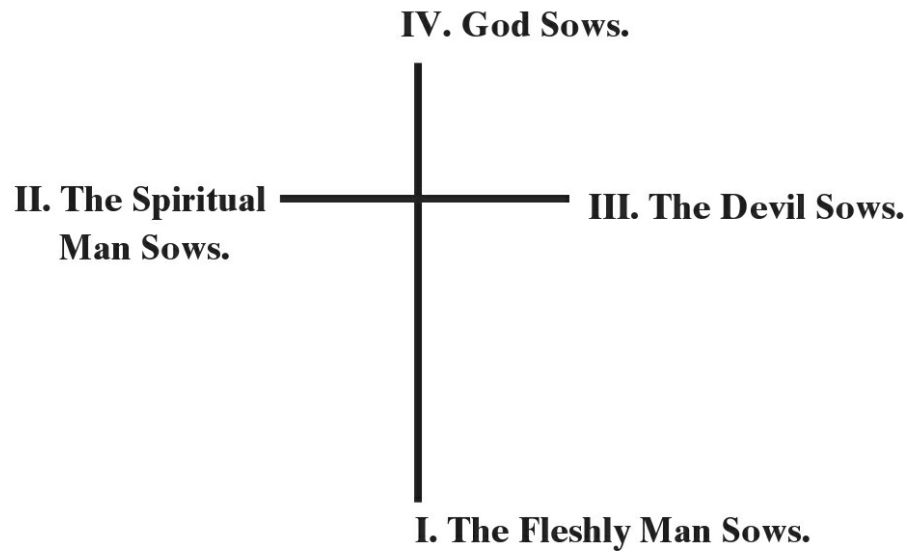
Every seed, natural or spiritual, is under God's Law to bring forth after its own kind. This is why it is impossible for the poisonous, deadly seeds of the flesh to bring forth Life. They *must* bring forth the sinful, deathly nature that is in them. In like manner, the holy Seeds of God's Word and God's Spirit *must* bring forth the Living, Divine Nature that is in them.

Whichever Seeds we plant will be the same Seeds that will come up and manifest themselves in our hearts and lives. The same Seeds that we have planted in this life will produce the harvest that we will reap, both in this life and in Eternity. In the resurrection, each person will be resurrected with the same nature he had when he went down to the grave. If a man dies a sinner, he will come up a sinner. If a man dies a believer, he will come up a believer. Each believer will be resurrected with whatever degree of Christ's Spiritual Stature he has attained unto in this life. Since this is true, we should pray daily, beloved, for God to grant to us the Wisdom to plant, in our hearts, God's holy Seeds of Truth that will produce the kind of harvest we want to reap in the resurrection.

Chapter Four

The Persons Who Sow

God's Word reveals a Stature of Truth concerning the four different types of persons who sow in the spiritual realm: the fleshly man, the Spiritual Man, the Devil, and God Himself.



First, let us examine the fleshly, sensual man who sows corrupt seeds to the satisfying of his carnal appetites.

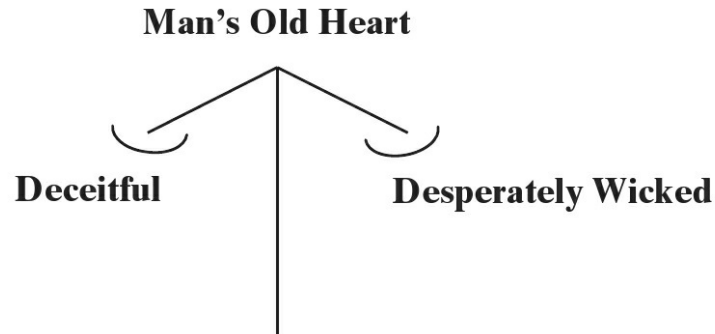
I. The Fleshly Man Sows.

Before coming to Jesus Christ, we have only one heart, and it is a wicked one.



The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? (Jeremiah 17:9).

According to God's Word, then, man's old heart is deceitful and desperately wicked.



Man's old heart is deceitful or fraudulent, treacherous, and crooked; it is desperately wicked or "wicked, wicked," as it reads in the Hebrew. Man's old heart is frail, feeble, melancholy, woeful, and incurably sick. The Bible refers to man's old heart as the *carnal heart*, the *old man*, or the *fleshly man*.

When we accept Jesus Christ as our personal Saviour, He gives us a new baby heart, as it were, which is called our New Man or our Spiritual Man.



Our old heart or our fleshly man pertains to the temporal, bodily desires of our flesh or, by implication, the unregenerate carnal desires and appetites of the flesh. We understand, then, that the part of our carnal heart or fleshly man that has not yet come under subjection to God's Word and Spirit busily sows various kinds of seeds, each of which produces Death in us if we allow them to grow.

Our fleshly man or our old heart sows seeds, and the first kind of seed that the old heart or the fleshly man sows is wickedness.

A. The Fleshly Man Sows Wickedness.

When the fleshly man sows wickedness, he reaps wickedness.

Even as I have seen, **they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same** (Job 4:8).

In Hebrew, the word for *wickedness* means toil, wearing effort, worry, whether of body or mind; grievousness, iniquity, labour, mischief, misery, miserable, painful, perverseness, sorrow, travail, trouble, wearisome, wickedness.

Those who plow, plow in hope. The old heart plows in iniquity, around its own will, and expects to receive gain by sin because it sows wicked plots, plans, and schemes. But the harvest of the wicked will be a heap of desperate sorrow in God's Day of Judgment.

Isaiah the Prophet confirmed the Principle of Reaping Grief and Sorrow under God's Mighty Hand of Judgment.

In the day shalt thou make thy plant to grow, and in the morning shalt thou make thy seed to flourish: but the harvest shall be a heap in the day of grief and of desperate sorrow (Isaiah 17:11).

The old heart or fleshly man sows with great care and labours with great expectations of a fruitful harvest, but what he experiences in his reaping is only bitter disappointment. A sinner sows not the body that shall be in the harvest, but he sows the Seed of Death. Therefore, God gives the sinner the kind of body of Death that he deserves, which is according to the Seed of Death that he has sown.

Our corrupt self-will that rules in our old heart or fleshly man is one of the most wicked, perverse things in the world. The wickedness of our Pride of Revelation, with its unified sense, always has an image of revelation of how capable its human sense is to know what is good for one and what is evil for one. Therefore, it feels that it is worthy to rule and to govern all things. Our Pride of Redemption always tries to help our Pride of Revelation by implementing its plots and plans, by doing things the way our fleshly man wants them done instead of how God wants them done. When our fleshly, corrupt Pride of Redemption fails in its effort to redeem us from a particular low place in which God has placed us, we, like Job, sow the wicked seeds of murmuring and complaining against God's Headship in our life; consequently, we reap many more grievous, miserable, painful days of suffering. The quickest way to put an end to our mental grief, misery, woe, and affliction is to stop sowing the seeds of murmuring and complaining.

B. The Fleshly Man Sows Disunity.

The fleshly man always sows seeds of separation, dissensions, disagreements, and discord among all people, among the brethren, and among friends. God's Word mentions the following three classes of disunity that the fleshly man particularly sows.

1. The Fleshly Man Sows Discord Among All People.

Frowardness *is* in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually; **he soweth discord. Therefore shall his calamity come suddenly;** suddenly shall he be broken without remedy (Proverbs 6:14,15).

Because our old heart contains frowardness or stubborn willfulness, it continually sends forth discord. The Hebrew word for *discord* means a contest or quarrel, brawling, contention, contentious, discord, strife. We would be shocked if we were to count the many seeds of discord that our fleshly man sows, even in a single day's time. The fleshly man quickly quarrels with anyone who fails to agree with him and support his personal opinions, thoughts, and devices that are contrary to the righteousness of God's Word. Although he may not brawl physically with another person, the fleshly man constantly sows words that stir up the brawling spirit in those around him. Consequently, he reaps sudden calamity and sudden brokenness because of the discord he has sown. In other words, the person who sows disunity and discord suddenly finds himself broken and without unity.

Always, God's retribution unexpectedly overtakes the one who sows discord. We see the seriousness of the sowing of discord in God's fierce declaration of the reaping of His *retribution* upon this kind of wicked sowing.

2. The Fleshly Man Sows Discord Among the Brethren.

These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* an abomination unto him:... A false witness *that* speaketh lies, and **he that soweth discord among brethren** (Proverbs 6:16,19).

Discord is listed among the seven things that are abominations to the divine Nature of God's Holy Soul. Discord is anything that one tells that provokes disunity among God's people who are members of the same spiritual circle. It is wicked to sow dissensions among the brethren whose mutual spiritual relations are amicable. For example, we may just drop a seed of suspicion about a brother's or a sister's spiritual integrity and, then, quickly forget about it. However, the person who received this seed of discord does not forget it. The seed of suspicion soon grows into a great big tree of doubt and disbelief concerning that individual's spiritual integrity. Finally, all unity between the two brethren is broken. The person who sowed the original seed of discord can expect to reap God's Holy Hatred against his dastardly deed.

3. The Fleshly Man Sows Strife.

A froward man soweth strife [discord]: and a whisperer separateth chief friends (Proverbs 16:28).

The last class of discord that the fleshly man sows is translated as *strife* in the above verse. This class of discord or strife separates chief friends.

A froward man is a person of "upside-down utterances," or one who speaks lies. This particular class of discord comes from the Hebrew root word *maw-dohn*, which means to contest, to quarrel, to be contentious, strife; from *deen*, which means to rule, judge as umpire, to strive, and to execute judgment; in other words, it means contention for superiority. As we strive for the high place, we scatter seeds of murmuring, complaining, and backbiting that promote and provoke disunity and disharmony among chief friends.

Some people are not only vicious themselves, but they labour to dig up something evil with which they can slander another's reputation. Through envy and jealousy, they sow evil suspicious, evil surmises, and evil innuendos. The burning lips of a sower of discord or strife can devour and consume the bonds of love between chief friends. The strong bond of love between friends vexes the person who sows discord because he loves no one but himself. Therefore, he labours untiringly to plant burning suspicions for the purpose of separating chief friends.

If we sow discord and separation between chief friends, we must expect to reap separation from God and separation from our own chief friends.

C. The Fleshly Man Sows Iniquity.

He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity: and the rod of his anger shall fail (Proverbs 22:8).

The fleshly man sows iniquity by using crooked, deceitful plots and plans to gain power, privilege, possessions, and prosperity. Ill-gotten gains never bring a person to true prosperity. He who does an iniquitous deed surely will reap vanity. An iniquitous thing never will do a person good nor give him lasting satisfaction because he always will meet with disappointment. When one creates trouble for others, one prepares trouble for himself since men always reap what they sow.

The Hebrew word for *iniquity* is *eh-vel*, which means to be morally unjust, to be unequal, to be partial, to be perverse, unrighteous, or wicked. We are the most partial to our fleshly man, our *Self*. We always want to control everything so that we can please *ourself*. When we complain against the circumstances of our lives, we indirectly accuse God of being unjust to us, of being unequal in His dealings with us as His children, of being partial by giving a blessing to someone else when He should be blessing us. We certainly do not gain favour with the LORD by sowing these seeds of unjust, complaining against Him and the Holy Nature of His Name. God's Word says that the one who sows this kind of iniquity shall reap vanity.

The Hebrew word for *vanity* is *aw-ven*, which means to pant, to exert oneself in vain, to come to naught; strictly nothingness, trouble, vanity, wickedness; specifically an idol. Instead of reaping a harvest of love, joy, and peace that comes from planting surrender, humility, and obedience, we will find our life filled with the empty nothingness of our idolatrous *self*, when we allow our fleshly man to do the sowing.

The fleshly man's rod of anger, the rod of his arrogance or the rod of his power shall fail. God will cause him to be deprived of his ability to act lawlessly. God will cause him to reap misfortune for his sowing of iniquity.

D. The Fleshly Man Sows Wind.

For **they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind:** it hath no stalk; the bud shall yield no meal: if so be it yield, the strangers shall swallow it up (Hosea 8:7).

The fleshly man, in spite of all his diligent work, can sow nothing of lasting, eternal value.

Because the people to whom the Prophet referred had sown wickedness and had led lives of wickedness, they were authors of their own reaping or punishment. The Law of Sowing and Reaping operates inexorably. God told these evil sowers that no effort of theirs would prosper; instead, frustration would attend all their sowing. Their agricultural efforts would be futile. If, by chance, their fields produced a little, others would reap the benefit. Therefore, all the labours of an evil sower ultimately will be in vain.

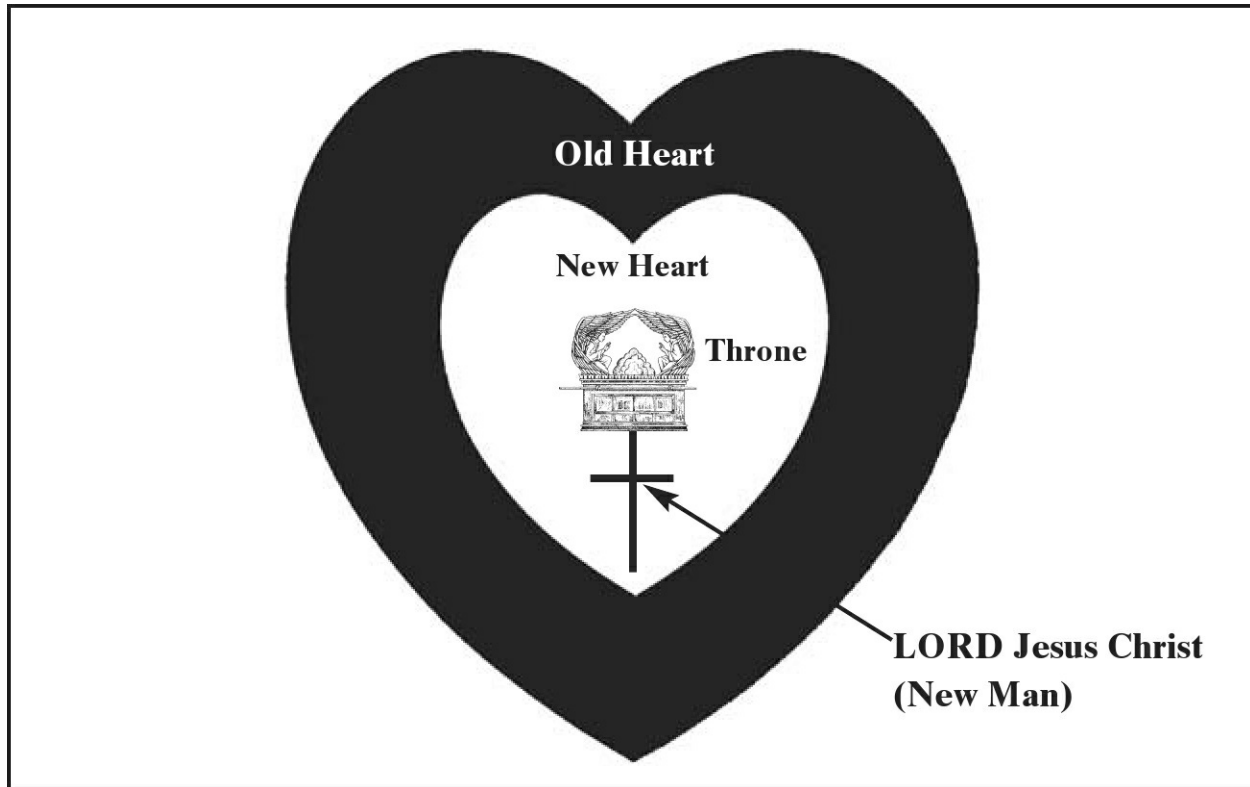
In the first verses of this same chapter in Hosea, God had reminded Israel that she had gone after false gods, the flesh, and the world in an effort to find satisfaction for her soul. Then, God made her to know that the achievement of her desire for satisfaction was impossible because she had failed to plant Living Seeds of true worship to the One and Only True LORD. Israel's idolatrous worship of false gods was like trying to fence in the wind. She had planted the dead seeds of idolatry that had absolutely no power to put a root downward or to bear fruit upward.

Nothing the world, the flesh, or the Devil has to offer has any Life in it. It is all as empty and barren as the wind, as far as our Spiritual Man is concerned. If we proceed in our willful disregard for God's Word, by sowing the empty wind or breath of the flesh, we can expect to reap exactly what Israel reaped — the whirlwind of God's fierce Anger poured out in His Divine Judgment.

Thus, we have seen how the fleshly man sows. He sows wickedness and reaps wickedness. He sows three classes of disunity and reaps calamity, brokenness, and God's Holy Hatred. He sows iniquity and reaps vanity. He sows the empty wind or breath of the flesh and reaps God's whirlwind of Judgment. Surely, the prospect of reaping such an undesirable harvest should discourage all of us from allowing our fleshly man to sow his evil seeds in our own heart and in the hearts of others!

II. The Spiritual Man Sows.

The Spiritual Man is the LORD Jesus Christ Who comes into our hearts when we confess our sins, repent, and ask Christ to be our Saviour. Jesus Christ is Pure and Holy; therefore, He cannot and will not share His Throne in our heart with our fleshly man who is Satan's agent. This is why Jesus Christ creates within us a New Heart, a New Man, when He becomes our Saviour.



In the Book of Ephesians, Paul commanded us to put on Christ, the New Man, Who is created in Righteousness and true Holiness.

And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that **ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness** (Ephesians 4:23,24).

After the LORD Jesus Christ has become our Saviour, the principles, habits and dispositions of our soul, spirit, and will in our old man, our old heart, must be changed by the sanctifying Power of the Water of God's Word and the Fire of God's Spirit in order for a lasting change to be wrought in our carnal, unChristlike behaviour.

Our old man must be *put off*, and the New Man must be *put on*. Our corrupt human nature is likened unto a man because, like the human body, it consists of many diversified parts. Our sinful, old man causes corruption in our soul that daily will grow worse and worse until the Crucified Christ mortifies him. Therefore, we must put off our old man and be *renewed* in the spirit of our mind. We must allow God's Spirit to renovate our mind and to cleanse it from doubts and fears. We must allow Christ to replace our broken-down faith with His Trust and Confidence and to repair our reverence with His Holy Respect and Awesome Veneration, thereby restoring our mind back to an unimpaired condition. It is God's Wise Design in His Master Plan to refresh and restore our mental vigour and our spiritual strength through Christ Jesus our LORD. Thus, when we put on the New Man, the new Nature of Christ's Regenerating Grace, we will be enabled to walk in this world as Christ walked and live a life of true Righteousness and true Holiness unto the LORD.

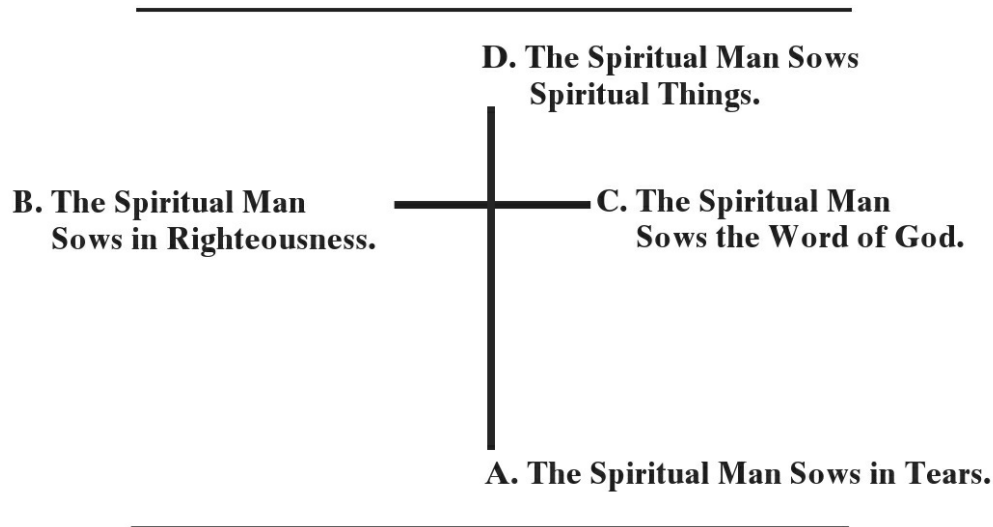
In the Book of Colossians, Paul again commanded us to put off the old man and to put on the New Man.

But now ye also **put off all these**; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have **put off the old man with his deeds**; And have **put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him**: (Colossians 3:8-10).

God commands us to put off the evil emotions of anger, wrath, and malice, and the unChristlike words of blasphemy and filthy communications. We must mortify inordinate, poisonous passions that cause us to think, to

feel, to say, and to do things that are contrary to Jesus Christ's sweet Holy Nature. Our unholy passions are malignant and filled with wicked sins. If anger, wrath, and malice pollute the spirit of our mind, our speaking, and our behaviour, we will be unChristlike. Our mind will then be contrary to the Law of Truth and Love. We cannot espouse Christ and His Nature until we are divorced from our old man, our old "husband," Adam the First. If we have put off the old man, we also will have put off his deeds of anger, wrath, and malice. Likewise, if we have put on Christ, we also will have put on Christ's Deeds of Truth and Love. Feeding on the revealed Light of the Knowledge of Truth in Christ renews our New Man.

Our New Man, our Spiritual Man, our LORD Jesus Christ, is capable of sowing Seeds that will cause us to reap a much better harvest than the seeds sown by our fleshly man. Let us examine the fourfold sowing of our New Man, our Spiritual Man, the LORD Jesus Christ.



The LORD Jesus Christ moistens His Seeds of Truth with His saints' spiritual, prayerful tears.

A. The Spiritual Man Sows in Tears.

Our Spiritual Man does not rush out with great pride to sow his Seeds of Truth; he humbly moistens the Seeds of Truth with his tears before sowing them in the hearts of others. As a result, the Seeds of Truth sprout and take root downward more quickly in the soil of others' hearts and minds; thus, the Seeds bear fruit upward more quickly.

The peasant sows his natural seed with tears of labour and anxiety, but when the time of harvest comes, and he reaps the fruit of his labours and tears, his tears give place to joyful singing and rejoicing. Likewise, the Spiritual Man who sows spiritual tears also will reap joyful praise and thanksgiving in the Day of Judgment.

He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves *with him* (Psalm 126:6).

In order to gain a greater appreciation for the significance of this verse, we must go back to the Hebrew meanings of the words *weepeth*, *precious*, and *seed*.

The Hebrew word for *weepeth* means to bemoan, to bewail, to make lamentation, to mourn, sore, with tears, to weep.

In Hebrew the word for *precious* means a sowing; it also means a possession, precious, price. It comes from a root word meaning to draw along, to draw out, to sound, to prolong, to develop, to march, to remove, to delay, to be tall, to continue, to defer, to extend, to forbear, to give, to handle, to make long, to sow, to scatter, to stretch out.

The word for *seed* in Hebrew means fruit, plant, sowing time, posterity, child.

Whatever Seeds our Spiritual Man is able to sow, he receives from Jesus Christ. They are precious Seeds because they were bought with a precious price — the price of Christ's very own Life's Blood. Every detail of our Salvation and total Redemption was drawn out in Eternity, and Jesus let all these Seeds that were sown in His Heart grow until

they passed through Death and reached full maturity. The Fruit or the Seed of the Living Word is what our Spiritual Man sows.

Those who sow the Seeds of Truth must be surrendered for the impact of a fate sodden with tears. God's Graciousness and Goodness fill our fate with loneliness, separations, and sufferings that are just "heavenly windows" through which He releases our spiritual tears for the moistening of His Seeds of Truth. But, when the reaping comes, after the Seeds of Truth have been sown in tears in the hearts of others, and after the Seeds have grown up to mature Trees, bearing the Fruits of honour and reverence for Moral Truth and Right, the sower will gratefully rejoice and exult in the harvest. Therefore, it does not matter however long the sodden path of tears may be, for we surely will return to the New City with exultation, bearing our sheaves with us. However, we first must learn to weep gratefully and to pray over the Seeds of Truth in our own hearts before weeping over the Truth in others' hearts.

Until we can weep and cry over God's Living Seeds of Truth in our own hearts, there will be no moisture for the Truth to take root downward in our hearts and to bear fruit upward in our lives.

We have not been moved or touched very deeply with God's Truth until our hearts have been sodden with the tears of gratitude. Once our eyes have been opened to see clearly what a dear price these precious Seeds of Truth have cost Jesus, we will be able to weep and mourn over the hardness of our carnal hearts. We will be able to lament over the pain and suffering that our sinful flesh has caused Him. When these Seeds of Truth begin to become *precious* to us, we will moisten them with our tears of gratitude, which will cause them to sprout humility roots downward and to bear exalted fruits of love, joy, and peace, upward, in our own lives.

Our Spiritual Man sows in tears, but he reaps joy. This joy is not just a one-time joy. We can experience this joy over and over again; we can rejoice every time we think of each precious Seed of Truth that has been sown in our hearts and in others' hearts.

B. The Spiritual Man Sows in Righteousness.

When Christ Jesus, our Spiritual Man, sows the Living Seeds of Truth, He sows them in righteousness. God pleaded with Israel to break up the fallow ground of her heart and to sow in righteousness.

Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for *it is* time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you (Hosea 10:12).

This verse was the Prophet's fervent call to repentance. The breaking up of the fallow ground is an essential, preparatory work for expecting a fruitful harvest.

If God's repentant people do their part, God will do His part by responding and by helping them to reap an abundant spiritual harvest. If one sows Righteous Deeds of Truth, he surely will reap a harvest of God's Mercy.

The wise man in the Book of Proverbs also confirmed this Spiritual Principle of Sowing Righteousness and Reaping God's Reward.

The wicked worketh a deceitful work: but **to him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward** (Proverbs 11:18).

The wages or rewards of the wicked are deceitful because they promise lasting satisfaction when, in reality, they possess only temporary values. Hence, the deceitful wages of the wicked are wages of falsehood. But those who sow righteousness reap a sure reward of everlasting Truth that is of eternal, enduring worth.

In the New Testament, the Apostle James also confirmed the Spiritual Principle of Sowing Righteousness and Reaping God's Reward.

And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace (James 3:18).

The fruit of righteousness is sown in peace, and it produces a harvest of love and joy. When one chooses to sow the insecurity of distrust and the unrighteousness of falsehoods, thinking of all the advantages they propose to reap by them, they still reap all the disadvantages and misery of their agitations and contentions. Therefore, let others reap the fruit of their agitations and contentions, if they so choose; but let us sow Seeds of righteousness in peace so

that we may enjoy the enduring worth of the fruit of our labours for Christ's sake.

What is the meaning of sowing in righteousness? *Righteousness* means to think right, to feel right, to be right, and to do right. What is the right thing to do? It is always right to break up the hard fallow ground of pride in one's carnal heart. It is always right to get out the stones of hardness, indifference, and mercilessness in one's heart. It is always right to pull out the roots of bitterness, frustration, and anger from one's heart so that the soil of the heart and mind will be peaceful and, therefore, ready to receive new Seeds of Truth of Christ's Humility and Righteousness.

Unsound, corrupt thinking produces corrupt ideas that, in turn, produce corrupt feelings, unsound words, and deceitful deeds. This explains why we sometimes can treat others in such unChristlike ways. When we are not thinking righteous thoughts about them, we cannot speak righteous words to them or about them. Righteous thoughts always will produce righteous words and righteous actions.

Thoughts of righteousness do not belong to our old fleshly man. He cannot think righteously; therefore, he cannot sow good words and deeds of righteousness. The Seeds of righteous thoughts, words, and deeds are sown by our Spiritual Man, Christ Jesus. When these Seeds of righteousness spring up in our hearts, we reap new, abundant Mercies from God that overflow in our souls in such a plentiful measure that we always have sufficient mercy to share with others.

C. The Spiritual Man Sows the Word of God.

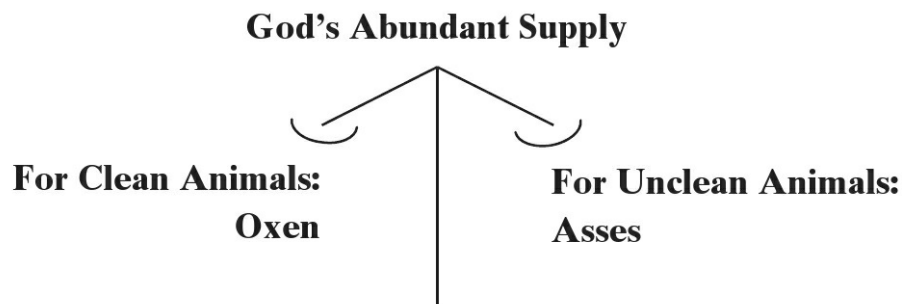
Christ Jesus, our Spiritual Man, sows the Word of God in our hearts and in others' hearts.

Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters, that send forth *thither* the feet of the ox and the ass (Isaiah 32:20).

In this verse, Isaiah prophetically addressed the husbandmen of Israel's rejuvenated and prosperous country that will exist during Christ's Millennial Reign.

The "all waters" in this Scripture give an assurance of an abundant water supply for the fields and the cattle during Christ's Millennial Reign. During this time, the ox and the ass will feed in rich pastures, secure from capture by marauding enemies. The ground will be so blessed by the presence of the Bridegroom and the Bride during the Millennial Reign that the husbandmen shall be able to sow all grounds by all waters. Good crops will be gathered in everywhere. The corn shall come up so thick that the husbandmen shall turn in their oxen and their asses to eat the tops of it, thereby keeping it under control.

The ox was listed among the clean animals that were acceptable for the Jews to eat. The ass fell into the category of unclean animals. Although one was clean and one was unclean, God still provided water and food for both of them.



God's great Mercy during Christ's Millennial Reign will provide plentifully and abundantly for both the clean and the unclean. Likewise, the Apostles in the early Church, as spiritual husbandmen, went forth to sow the Seeds of God's Word in the soil of hearts and minds *beside all waters*. They preached the Gospel of Truth wherever they went. They cast the good Seeds of Truth into the soil of hearts and minds that had been softened and moistened by

the Waters of God's Spirit.

In like manner, the LORD wants our Spiritual Man to sow the good Seeds of Truth in our own heart that has been softened and moistened by the tears of intercession and travail in the Holy Ghost. He also desires that we sow His good Word beside all waters, as it were, in the hearts of the saints and in the hearts of sinners. We are to give God's good Word to both the clean and the unclean. It is not our responsibility to force another person to eat. We are to sow the good Seeds of Truth and, then, leave the growth of the Seed and the harvest of them to the LORD, for God promises wages both to the sower and to the reaper.

And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together (John 4:36).

Christ Jesus will pay all whom He employs in His Work, whether they be sowers or reapers. Although Christ's sowers and reapers have many occasions to cry to Him day and night, they never will have cause to cry against Him as an unjust, hard taskmaster. There is a present reward for the sower and the reaper; they have the joy and delight of sowing the good Seed of God's Word in their own hearts and in the hearts of others, and they also have the joy of seeing it grow to fruition. The sowers and the reapers share the joy of harvest, but the profit and the Glory belong to the Owner and Master of the Harvest, the LORD Jesus Christ. Therefore, the LORD's servants should mutually rejoice in each other's success and usefulness rather than envying and striving with one another.

(As it is written, **He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever.** Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for *your* food, and multiply your seed sown, **and increase the fruits of your righteousness;**) (II Corinthians 9:9,10).

Those who disperse the good Seeds of Truth and deeds of righteousness receive lasting honour and eternal reward. The Apostle Paul prayed to God in behalf of these generous sowers that they might receive eternal gain. He beseeched God, Who ministereth Seed to the sower and Bread to the eater, to grant them present blessings and future blessings by increasing their Seed for present food and by increasing their Seed for future sowing. If we disperse the good Seeds of Truth, we will have sufficient Bread for ourselves, and God will bless and multiply the Seed that we have sown so that we will have ample Bread to share with others.

The person who allows God's Word to be sown in his heart and, then, permits it to grow to fruition reaps Eternal Life. Both the sower and the reaper will enjoy Eternal Life. Before we can sow Seeds of Truth in another person's heart, these Seeds of Truth must pass through the sowing and reaping stages in our own hearts. However, God first has to give us the Seeds before we can plant them. Then, after receiving the Seeds of Truth, we must plant them in our hearts. As these Seeds of Truth grow to maturity, we personally begin reaping the satisfying Eternal Life of Christ that is in them. Those who sow mature, fertilized Seeds of Truth in the hearts of others also enjoy reaping the added delight of watching Christ's Life spring up and grow all over again.

D. The Spiritual Man Sows Spiritual Things.

The Spiritual Man sows spiritual things, but he reaps carnal or natural things for his labours so that his natural needs will be supplied.

If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things? (I Corinthians 9:11).

The Apostle Paul had sown his spiritual life in the form of time, energy, fastings, and prayers so that he could see the Corinthians grow to spiritual maturity in the LORD Jesus Christ. Paul's sowing of spiritual things entitled him to the privilege of reaping or receiving a part of the Corinthians' carnal lives in the form of tithes and offerings.

God commanded in His Word that the ox was not to be muzzled while he was treading out the corn nor hindered from eating while he was preparing the corn for His Master's use (Deuteronomy 25:4; I Timothy 5:18). This Law was given not only because of God's concern for the oxen but also to teach mankind that all who labour for his good, whether the labourer be man or beast, should be allowed to feed upon the fruits of his labours.

Therefore, God's servants who give their lives to feed souls should not have their mouths muzzled. The eternal,

spiritual things that God's faithful servants sow in His people are much better than the temporal, carnal things they reap. If God's faithful servants give themselves up completely to increase the Eternal Life of God's Word in the souls of the saints, it is a small thing for them to reap temporal things. Those who enjoy the spiritual benefits of God's Word that have come to them through His faithful servants should not begrudge the just reaping to which His servants are entitled.

Unfortunately, many ministers in this generation are filled with a greedy desire to reap temporal tithes and offerings without ever having sown the spiritual things that qualify them to receive the temporal life and the carnal things from their congregations. Many of them fill their days going places and doing things that please their sensual self instead of waiting on God in the Word for new Seeds of Life for their own souls and for the souls of their congregation. Very few preachers pour out their lives in real fastings in Holy Ghost intercession and travailing prayers for their flocks. Yet they seem to feel no remorse about accepting the money that their people earn by pouring out their lives week by week. Instead, so many ministers seem to feel that they are worthy of reaping temporal things without sowing eternal spiritual things.

The fact that some ministers abuse and misuse God's Principle of Sowing and Reaping does not negate the reality and the true spiritual experience of God's faithful servants. Those who sow, in us, the spiritual things from their spiritual lives are entitled to reap some of our natural things. Our tithes and our love offerings are God's natural provisions for helping His servants continue to do what He has called them to do.

III. The Devil Sows.

The sowing that is done by the Devil always produces a crop of tares. Let us examine Jesus' Parable of the Wheat and the Tares, for it reveals the Devil's sowing.

Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. So the servants of the householder came and said unto him Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? **from whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, An enemy hath done this.** The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn (Matthew 13:24-30).

Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field. He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; The field is the world; **the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; The enemy that sowed them is the devil;** the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear (Matthew 13:36-43).

Jesus compared God's children to the seeds of wheat that are sown in God's field. The Devil's children are compared to the seeds of tares that he sows alongside God's wheat or children. The Devil sows his tares in the same church and, sometimes, in the same family.

The Devil sows his tares beside God's wheat in order to try to steal from the wheat the substance from the soil in the Field of Truth. Therefore, the wheat must constantly battle the tares for the Living Substance of Truth. The tare always is trying to steal the Truth by speaking with the deceptive words of his father, the Devil. For example, the tare says, "You received everything when Christ saved you. You do not need the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. At least, I am sure you do not need to speak in tongues to have the Holy Ghost dwelling in you. Such a statement is just the teaching of overwrought, emotional people. Neither do I think that being baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ is necessary. If these things were Truth, surely the mainstream of Christianity would acknowledge them today. You do

not have to accept all these teachings to grow in God.”

The Devil’s tares constantly speak lies and falsehoods in order to rob the wheat of the Living Substance of Truth. It is not our responsibility and duty, however, to pull up and to root out the tares, even when we recognize them for what they are. Our responsibility is to fight for God’s Living Substance of Truth and to be on guard lest we “eat” the deceitful words of the tares. We must not allow our mouths to swallow the errors and falsehoods of the tares, lest the Devil’s lies find their way down to the inside of us and take root in our hearts, thereby governing and influencing our thoughts so that we find our minds opposing God’s Truth.

Remember, the tares always are out to rob us of the Living Substance of Truth in God’s Word. They will steal from us — if we allow them to do it — the very Living Truth that is necessary for us to experience and to feed upon in order to grow up to spiritual maturity in the LORD Jesus Christ.

A day of reaping will come for the Devil and for his tares. In the Day of Harvest, the Son of Man shall send forth His Angels to gather up all the Devil’s tares, all that offend, and all that do iniquity in Christ’s Kingdom. The tares shall be gathered together and cast into the Lake of Fire, along with their father, the Devil. Thus, the tares, the Devil’s children, will reap the same eternal Destruction as their father, the Devil.

IV. God Sows.

Since God is the greatest Sower of all and since He is Eternal, there is no doubt that what He sows will grow to maturity and be reaped in His appointed harvest season.

God’s first sowing was when He sowed the Nation of Israel.

A. God Sowed Israel.

Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that **I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of man, and with the seed of beast** (Jeremiah 31:27).

Through the Prophet Jeremiah, God prophesied that in contrast to the state of the land at that time, which was sparsely populated with men and beasts, God would sow the Seed of men and cattle in abundance during the Millennial Reign of Christ, the Messiah.

And I will sow her [Israel] unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to *them which were* not my people, Thou art my people; and they shall say, *Thou art* my God (Hosea 2:23).

During the days of the Millennial Reign of Christ, the Messiah, God will sow Israel with Seed. Israel will increase plentifully, as seed sown in fertile soil. Israel shall return to God, and their guilt will be expiated when they receive Christ, the Messiah. They shall be accepted by God, and they shall be His people.

Zechariah also prophesied about how God would sow Israel in exile among the nations after she had rejected Christ Jesus as her Messiah.

And I will sow them among the people: and they shall remember me in far countries; and they shall live with their children, and turn again (Zechariah 10:9).

God’s blessing, fruitfulness, and sowing of Israel will begin while they still are in exile among the nations. Ultimately, Israel will remember her LORD and turn again to Him in penitence. Then, God will return the people into their land.

It always has been God’s Plan for Israel, “His choice vine,” to grow until she fills the whole Earth with the Knowledge of the LORD and His Righteousness. In the beginning, God intended that Adam-male and Adam-female pass the choice Fruit of His Wisdom and Knowledge to the rest of the world, but they sinned; consequently, they were exiled from the Garden of Eden and lost their opportunity to fulfill their mission to the world.

Later, God personally planted the Nation of Israel as a choice vine among the nations of the world so that she could send forth the choice Fruit of God’s Wisdom and Knowledge to the whole world (Isaiah 5:1-7). However, instead of remaining a true vine and bringing forth good grapes, Israel degenerated into a wild vine, bearing wild

grapes. Instead of teaching the other nations to love the LORD and His Way, Israel's sour fruit caused the world's nations to hate Israel's God and to reject Him as their Sovereign Ruler.

When natural Israel became a wild vine and brought forth wild grapes, God cast her aside for a season. Hence, she momentarily lost her opportunity to fulfill her mission to the world. But God grafted the New Testament Church into Christ Jesus, the True Vine, in the place of natural Israel, thus giving the Church an opportunity to lay hold of the choice Fruit of God's Wisdom and Knowledge so that the Church could share Christ's Living Truth with the whole world. For many generations, now, God has given the Church world a chance to bring forth good fruit so that it can feed and nourish all the peoples of the Earth.

In spite of the Church's good union with the True Vine, Christ Jesus, the Church world also, for the most part, has failed to fulfill its mission to the whole world. The Church world has failed to grow to spiritual maturity in the LORD Jesus Christ, the place God has ordained for it to grow. Thus, just as Adam-male and Adam-female failed to do God's Purposive Will in the Garden, and just as natural Israel failed to do God's Purposive Will in the Old Testament Dispensation, so also has the Church failed to do God's Purposive Will in the New Testament Dispensation, which is to teach the nations of the Earth to love the LORD and His Christ and His Way.

These three failures by God's Creation do not mean, however, that the Divine Master Plan of the Creator has failed. God still is going to fill the world of mankind with the Fruit of His Wisdom and Knowledge of His Choice Vine, the LORD Jesus Christ (Habakkuk 2:14). During the Millennial Reign, Jesus Christ and His Bride (composed of overcoming saints out of natural Israel and the overcoming saints out of the Church who freely chose to grow to spiritual maturity) will disperse the Wisdom and Knowledge of the LORD to all nations. Christ and His Bride will teach natural Israel and all the nations of the world to love the LORD and His Christ and His Way. Those who receive and eat of Christ's Wisdom and Knowledge will enter into the Perfect Age in which the Righteousness and Peace of God's Headship will fill all things. Hallelujah!

B. God Sows Light.

God is Light; therefore, He sows Light for the righteous.

Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart (Psalm 97:11).

Just as the natural seed in the earth must be hidden under the cold clods of darkness before it springs forth, so also is God's Light hidden, for the present, under darkness, but it is sure to spring forth in God's appointed season. God has sown Light in the "Womb of Time" for the righteous. The Seed of Light that God has sown in this present world for the righteous will bud, bloom, blossom, and ripen to fruition in Eternity-Future.

The Hebrew word for *light* means illumination or luminary (in every sense, including lightning and happiness), bright, clear, day, morning, sun. This kind of Light goes beyond the light of the natural sun. In this verse *light* is the same word used to describe the Light with which God clothes Himself. God's Light reaches into the very soul and spirit of man and causes him to be truly happy. This Seed of Light is sufficient to bring complete joy to the heart and soul of a righteous man. A righteous man has an *upright attitude of Light* that causes him to find joy only in what is good and right. A righteous man has an upright attitude of Light that causes him to be aware that he has taken God's divine Path; therefore, he feels exceedingly great pleasure and joy because he has obediently fulfilled his duty.

The Psalmist said: "...[I]n thy light shall we see light" (Psalm 36:9). In God's Light that has been sown and willingly received in hearts, God sows more Light of Truth and greater Light of Joy and Peace. Thus, God sows more of His Light of Truth and happiness for those who walk righteously in all the Light they already have received.

C. God Sows Gladness.

God does not sow the plants of sadness growing in the believer's spiritual garden. He does not sow weeds. God is the Sower of gladness!

Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart (Psalm 97:11).

The word for *gladness* in Hebrew means blithesomeness or glee, exceeding gladness, joyfulness, mirth, pleasure, rejoicing. When we walk uprightly and do God's Will, He sows Seeds of gladness, Seeds of mirth, Seeds of

pleasure, and Seeds of joy in our hearts. Therefore, we can walk rejoicing all along His pathway of life. The plants of sadness, discouragement, and misery do not grow out of the Seeds that the LORD has sown. These evil seeds are sown by the flesh and the Devil. God sows gladness for those who have an upright attitude of Light in their hearts.

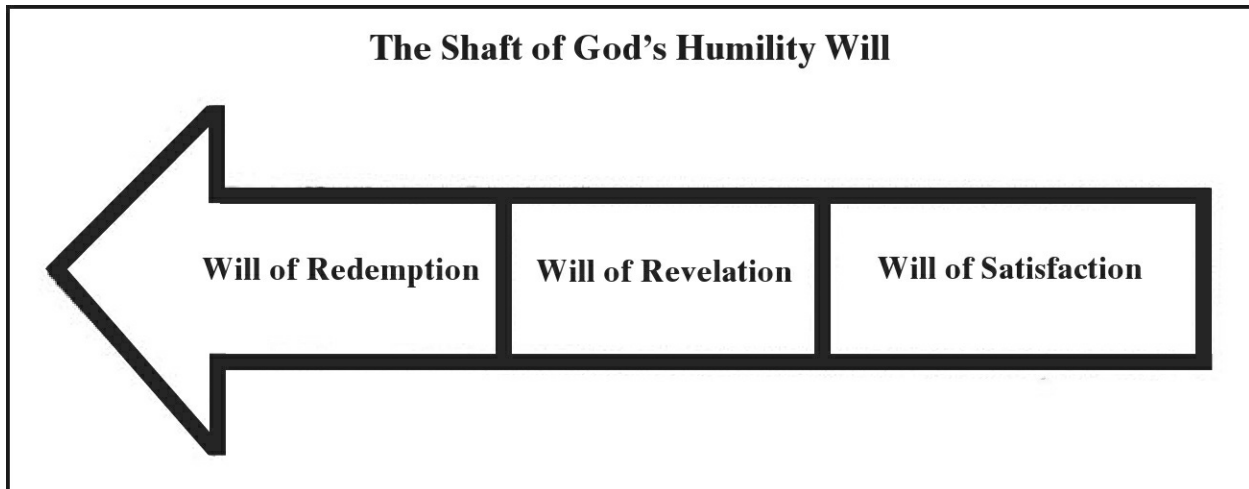
D. God Sows Good Seed.

All the Seeds that God sows are good, and because they are Living Seeds, they have the potential of producing more good Seeds.

Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field. He answered and said unto them, **He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom;...** (Matthew 13:36-38).

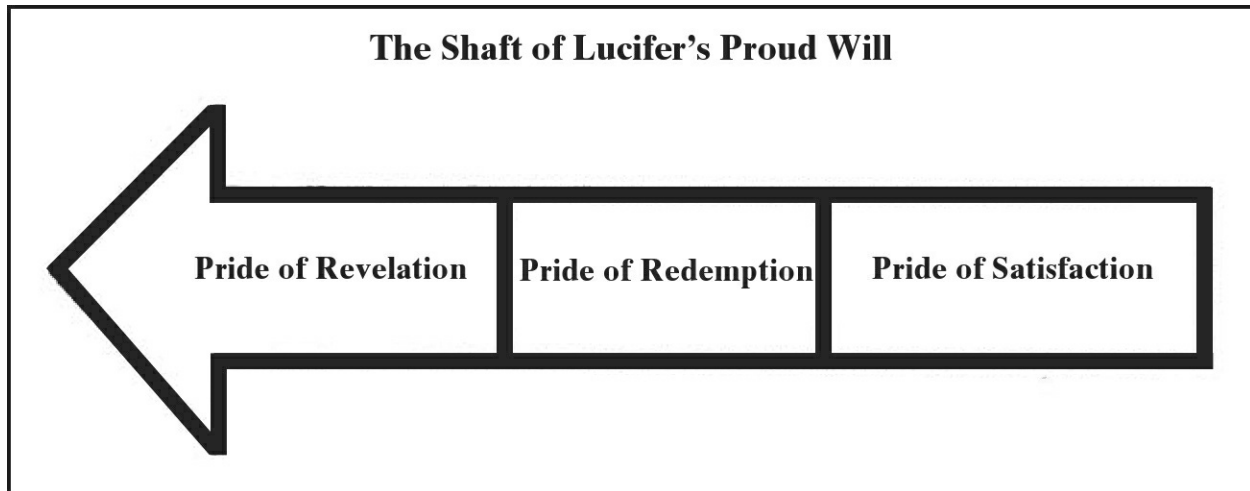
The good Seed are the children of the Kingdom; they are God's children. They are precious, holy Seed (Psalm 126:6; Isaiah 6:13). The Seed or the saints are dispersed here and there according to God's Purposive Will, although some places are sown more thickly than others. If God should so chose, He could sow all His children in one little corner, as it were. Instead, He sows them throughout the whole Earth so that they might be bright and shining lights in all parts of the Earth. The Heavenly Father desires that His saints be living witnesses of His Purposive Will to all the crooked and perverse generations of this world.

We always can tell whether a person is bearing witness of God's Purposive Will or whether he is showing forth the inimical will of fallen Lucifer by remembering that the Shaft of Jesus Christ's Humility Will always is revealed in the same order: first, He reveals His Will of Redemption; second, His Will of Revelation; and, third, His Will of Satisfaction.



Jesus Christ's Redemptive Will consists of His mighty Works of Redemptive Love, Joy, Peace, and Mercy. Jesus Christ's Revelation Will consists of His Illuminating, Fruitful Light of Sincerity, Surrender, Gentleness, and Faith. Jesus Christ's Will of Satisfaction consists of His Pleasurable Fruits of Long-suffering, Goodness, Humility and Meekness, and Temperance.

Fallen Lucifer also has a will, but his will is diametrically different from and opposite to the Holy Will of the LORD Jesus Christ. Therefore, Lucifer does not offer us his prideful will in the same order which God offers His Will. Lucifer first projects his pride of revelation; second, his pride of redemption; and, third, his pride of satisfaction.



The story of historical events in the Garden of Eden shows the striking contrast between the Holy Will of Jesus Christ, the Creator, and the unholy will of fallen Lucifer, the creature. God's Word reveals how differently the natures of these two Wills work. God gave Adam-male and Adam-female His Will of Redemption before the Serpent offered his proud, corrupt will to Adam-female.

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die (Genesis 2:16,17).

Jesus Christ's Holy Nature of Love, Joy, Peace, and Mercy in His Redemptive Will caused Him to give the newly created pair the Command that forbade them to eat of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. If Adam-male and Adam-female had accepted Jesus Christ's Redemptive Will, they would have obeyed God's Word. Then, God, in turn, would have given them the rest of the shaft of His Will, which consisted of His Will of Revelation and His Will of Satisfaction.

Our first parents' refusal of Jesus Christ's Redemptive Will and their disobedience to God's Word caused them to reap Death, spiritually and naturally. Since they refused God's Redemptive Will, they missed obtaining God's Perfect Will of Revelation and Satisfaction at that time.

When the Serpent approached Adam-female, he tested her to see how well she knew and loved God's Redemptive Will. "Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" (Genesis 3:1). Adam-female's response to the Serpent's question proved that, in reality, she never had received God's Redemptive Will into her own heart and will. Her response was: "[G]od hath said, Ye shall not *eat* of it, neither shall ye *touch* it, *lest* ye die" (Genesis 3:3). Thus, she added to God's Truth, and she took away from God's Truth.

God never told Adam-male and Adam-female that they could not *touch* the Tree. He plainly told them not to *eat* of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. God also had assured them that if they ate of the forbidden Tree they would *surely* die. But Adam-female took away from God's Truth by saying, "*lest* ye die." In order words, she said that God had said, "You *might* die." She added to the Truth in one place and took away from it in another. She actually changed the Truth of God's Redemptive Will, which was her only protection against Lucifer's corrupt will. As a result of her answer to his question, Lucifer saw that Adam-female was not joined firmly to Jesus Christ's Redemptive Will of Love, Joy, Peace, and Mercy, so he hastened to project his corrupt will of revelation to her.

Lucifer, working through the Serpent, offered Adam-female his deceitful, prideful revelation by saying, "*Ye shall not surely die*" (Genesis 3:4). He said, in essence, "My exalted will of revelation is better for you than Jesus Christ's Humble Will of Redemption."

After Adam-female had swallowed this portion of the Serpent's will of revelation into her will, the Serpent quickly offered her his pride of redemption.

For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and **ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil** (Genesis 3:5).

The Serpent offered Adam-female exaltation by promising to make her a god. He promised to give her power to redeem herself from the low place of servitude and subjection under God, her Owner and Master. He promised to make both Adam-female and Adam-male gods so that they would be able to redeem themselves out from under subjection to God and His Word.

Since Adam-female already was puffed up with the Serpent's lying pride of revelation that told her that she *probably* would not die for disobedience to God's Word, she eagerly accepted this second portion of the Serpent's will, his pride of redemption, that entered her when he said, "Ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3:5). In other words, he offered her power to redeem herself from the place of ignorance that would lift her to the place of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

When the Serpent offered Adam-female his will of satisfaction with the deceitful knowledge that she would be a *god* or a "decider of good and evil," he failed to tell her that knowledge outside of God's Will brings Death, both spiritually and naturally. Pride always puffs up and brings Death! Adam-female swallowed all the Serpent's proud will of revelation, redemption, and satisfaction. The Serpent's proud will became a "pathway" that led Adam-female immediately to the forbidden Tree. Adam-female then ate the Fruit of the forbidden Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, and she also shared the Fruit of the Tree with her husband who *deliberately* chose to eat the forbidden Fruit.

As descendants of fallen Adam-male and Adam-female, we all have inherited from them (our first parents) this corrupt will that is serpentine in nature. However, when we give our hearts to Jesus Christ, He makes us His children by giving us a new spiritual birth and by sowing His Will of Redemption, Revelation, and Satisfaction in our New Heart. This New Heart is what enables God's children to speak the Truth and to do Jesus Christ's Will in the same order as it was given in the Garden: the Will of Redemption, the Will of Revelation, and the Will of Satisfaction.

Regardless of whether God's Word and Jesus Christ's Will are sown personally by God or by one of His children, they always cause those who accept them to become a child of God, a good Seed, who will enjoy Christ's Life and Peace.

God's Sowing includes His Sowing of Israel; His Sowing of Light; His Sowing of Gladness; and His Sowing of Good Seed.

In closing, let us briefly review the main Stature of Truth that we have studied in this booklet.

The first major point of our study revealed that the process of sowing and reaping is separated by the death process. The process of death separates between the sowing and the reaping, whether we be a saint or a sinner.

The second major point showed that the proportion of increase or reaping is based upon our liberality in sowing. If we sow many Seeds, we will reap a greater harvest than if we sow sparingly.

The third major point disclosed the Principle involved in Sowing and Reaping. We will harvest or reap — with interest — exactly what kind of Seed we have planted.

The fourth major point listed the four persons who sow Seeds that have power to take root downward in our hearts, to bear fruit upward, and to produce a harvest that must be reaped. Seeds are sown by the fleshly man, by the Spiritual Man, by the Devil, and by God Himself.

The fleshly man sows seeds of wickedness and reaps wickedness. He sows seeds of discord and reaps disunity. He sows seeds of iniquity and reaps vanity. He sows the wind and reaps the whirlwind.

The Spiritual Man, who is created in Righteousness and true Holiness, sows in tears and reaps joy. He sows in Righteousness and reaps Mercy. He sows the Word of God and reaps Eternal Life. He sows Spiritual Things and reaps natural things that meet his natural needs.

The Devil sows tares. Jesus compared God's children to wheat and the Devil's children to tares. The Devil sows his tares, his children, in God's field, alongside God's wheat or God's children. In the Day of Judgment, God's Angels will gather up all the Devil's tares and cast them into the Lake of Fire, along with their father, the Devil. Thus, the children of the Devil will reap the same Eternal Destruction as their father.

God Himself sows Israel, "His choice vine," among the nations of the world. During the days of Christ's Millennial Reign, because Israel will have repented of her rejection of Christ as her Messiah, she will share His Wisdom and Knowledge with the world.

God sows Light in the "Womb of Time" for the righteous. This Seed of Light will bud, bloom, blossom, and ripen to fruition in Eternity-Future. God sows Gladness for the upright in heart. Thus, those who receive God's Seeds of Gladness into their hearts and allow them to grow to maturity will walk rejoicing all along His pathway of life. God sows good Seed, and each of these Living Seeds has the potential of producing more good Seeds.

Beloved, it impossible to overemphasize the importance of Sowing and Reaping. We should ask the LORD, daily,

to make us conscious of who is doing the sowing in our lives. If we want to reap a good spiritual harvest, we must begin to cooperate with our Spiritual Man and with God. The more of Christ's Living Seeds of Truth that we allow Him to sow in our hearts, the less we will *have* to reap from the flesh and from the Devil — now, in this life, and in the Eternal Ages to come.

May God bless and keep you until His soon return.

