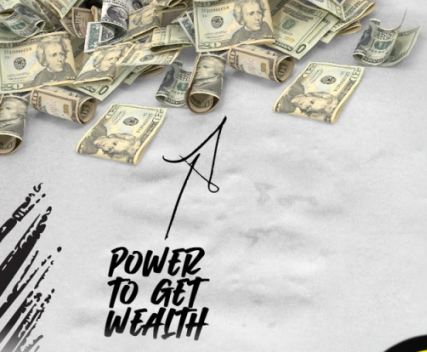




GIVE UP



SOWING INTO YOUR NEXT LEVEL



SERMON OUTLINE · GIVE UP SERIES

PART 1: I GOT THE SEED

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KEY

SERIES SCRIPTURES

MATTHEW 6:21 · ESV

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

PROVERBS 22:9 · ESV

Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor.



ACTS 20:35 · ESV

In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

PROVERBS 21:5 · ESV

The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty.

PROVERBS 10:4 · ESV

A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.

PROVERBS 12:24 · ESV

The hand of the diligent will rule, while the slothful will be put to forced labor.

2 Corinthians 9:6–11 is written out in full in Section VI.

I A CULTURE OF INSTANT GRATIFICATION

In a culture that is driven by instant gratification, many people only know how to live with today in mind.

Language like inheritance doesn't mean much to us, because very few have experienced it in their lifetime.

As our world has drastically changed from agricultural necessity to synthetic and processed foods, many have never planted a seed in their life.



GIVE UP



When we look at Scripture, we see Jesus often referring to seeds and plants, farming, reaping and sowing.

THIS SERIES IS TO CHALLENGE HOW YOU PERCEIVE NOT JUST GIVING, BUT GENEROSITY.

II LET ME GIVE YOU SOME DATA

The Facts

- **Scripture:** There are roughly 2,300+ verses dedicated to financial matters, more than the number of verses dealing with faith and prayer combined.
- **Jesus' Teachings:** Jesus spoke about money and possessions in nearly 15% of all His recorded teachings.
- **The Parables:** A large portion of Jesus' parables (roughly 11 to 16 out of 39) focus on wealth, stewardship, and how people handle money.
- **Frequency vs. Other Topics:** Jesus talked about money more frequently than He did about heaven, hell, or sex.

III SEEDTIME AND HARVEST

ECCLESIASTES 11:4 · ESV

He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap.

GENESIS 8:22 · ESV

While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.





Ways Scripture describes giving:

- **Tithing:** Historically derived from the word meaning "a tenth" (10%), often directed toward supporting local ministry and the priesthood/church staff.
- **Almsgiving:** Secret, direct giving or compassion shown to the poor and needy.
- **Offerings & First Fruits:** Free-will gifts given above the tithe, or honoring God with the first portion of an increase or paycheck.
- **Seed and Bread:** 2 Corinthians 9:10 describes God providing "seed to the sower" (resources meant to be invested into His kingdom) and "bread for food" (provision for daily living).

MANY OF US UNDERSTAND HARVEST, BUT VERY FEW OF US TRULY COMPREHEND SEED.

SAVING IS NOT SEEDING, WHICH IS WHY MANY OF US HAVE EXPERIENCED LITTLE TO NO HARVEST.

While money will be mentioned, this is not just in terms of money.

YOUR JOB IS NOT YOUR HARVEST. IT'S YOUR SEED.

IV WITHOUT A VISION THE PEOPLE PERISH

PROVERBS 29:18 · ESV

Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law.

KJV: "Where there is no vision, the people perish."

That word perish means to cast off restraint.





WORD STUDY · HEBREW: PARA'

In the context of Proverbs 29:18, the King James Version (KJV) translates the Hebrew verb para' as "perish," which modern translations render as "cast off restraint," "run wild," or "go naked/uncovered."

CAST OFF RESTRAINT.

? Can you locate areas in your life that don't have a vision?

V MONEY AND THE HEART

- **The Heart's Indicator:** How a person earns, spends, saves and gives reveals their true priorities and trust.

MATTHEW 6:21 · ESV

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

- **A Rival for Allegiance:** Jesus explicitly taught that people cannot serve both God and money.

MATTHEW 6:24 · ESV

No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

- **Neutrality of Wealth:** The Bible does not teach that money or wealth itself is evil. Rather, the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils.





1 TIMOTHY 6:10 · ESV

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

VI HE GIVES SEED TO THE SOWER

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6–11 · ESV

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, "He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

I WANT TO TAKE IT FURTHER AND SAY HE GIVES YOU HARVEST IN A DECISION.

- He gives you a business in an idea.
- He gives evolution in a new thought.
- He gives comfort in the Holy Spirit.

GOD GIVES US ALL SEED MOMENTS.



Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly (2 Corinthians 9:6). Whatever a man sows, that will he also reap:

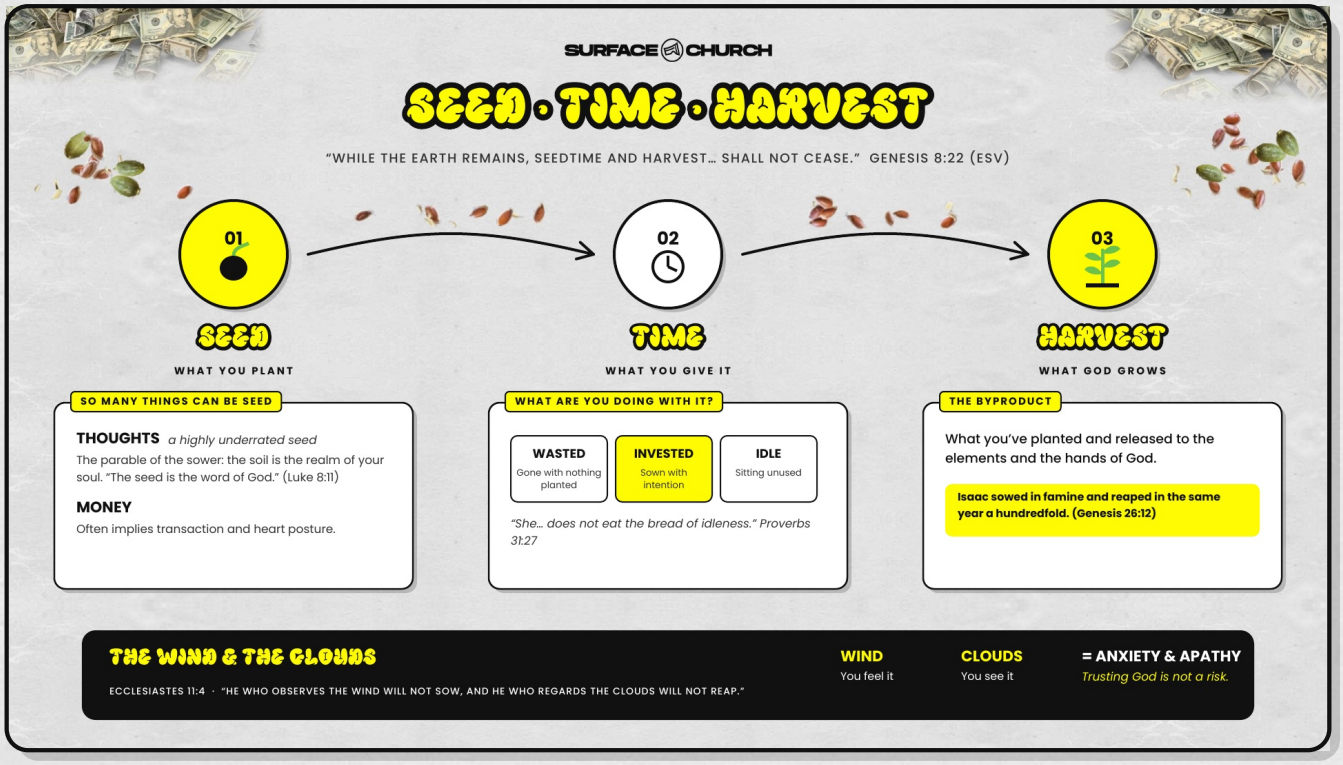
GALATIANS 6:7 · ESV

Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

There are opportunities in the text to become a steward of more.

VII SEED, TIME, HARVEST

Three attributes that remain in the earth and are active today (Genesis 8:22)



A. Seed: so many things can be seed

- **Thoughts:** A highly underrated seed. The parable of the seed and the sower breaks down the soil as the realm of your soul.

LUKE 8:11 · ESV

Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

- **Money:** Often implies transaction and heart posture.

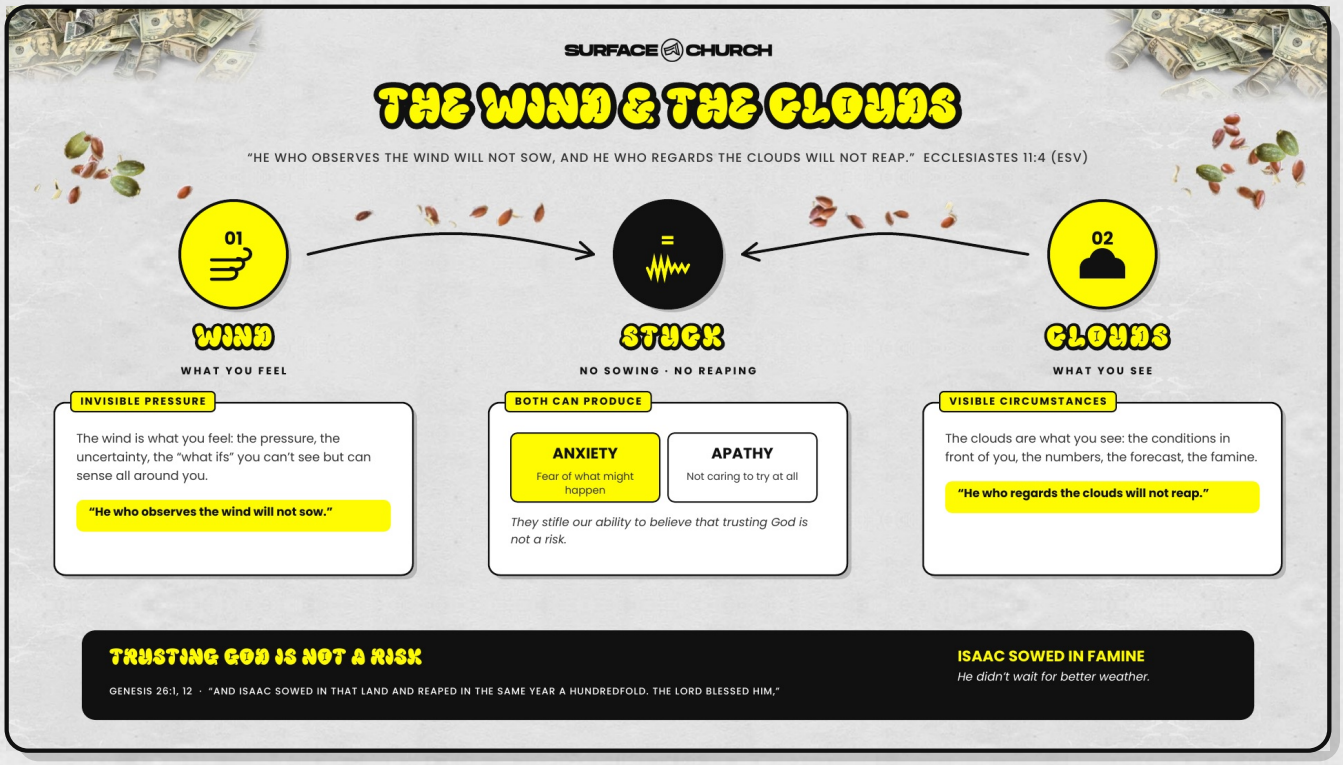
B. Time

- Wasted time, invested time, idle time.
- Idleness: the bread of idleness.

PROVERBS 31:27 · ESV

She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.

C. Harvest: the byproduct of what you've planted and released to the elements and the hands of God



- The wind and the clouds (Ecclesiastes 11:4): one you feel and the other you see.



- Both can produce anxiety and apathy, and they stifle our ability to believe that trusting God is not a risk.

ISAAC SOWED IN FAMINE.

GENESIS 26:1 · ESV

Now there was a famine in the land, besides the former famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Gerar to Abimelech king of the Philistines.

GENESIS 26:12 · ESV

And Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold. The LORD blessed him,

Many of us understand instant gratification more than delayed gratification.

Money has become, for many, all about us, and not about us saying thank you.

VIII GIVING VS. GENEROSITY

PROVERBS 3:9 · ESV

Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce;

GIVING IS HOW WE HONOR GOD WITH EVERYTHING HE GIVES US.

GENEROSITY IS HOW WE DEMONSTRATE THE LOVE OF GOD TO OTHERS.





PROVERBS 11:25 · AMP

The generous man [is a source of blessing and] shall be prosperous and enriched, And he who waters will himself be watered [reaping the generosity he has sown].

PROVERBS 11:24 · MSG

The world of the generous gets larger and larger; the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller.

IX WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU HAVE A HARVEST?

YOU DON'T USE IT ALL.

LEVITICUS 19:9–10 · ESV

When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God.

LEVITICUS 23:22 · ESV

And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, nor shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the LORD your God.





- **What it said:** Farmers were instructed not to harvest the corners or absolute edges of their fields, nor to pick up grain or grapes that fell to the ground during the harvest.
- **Who it was for:** The leftover crops, known as gleanings, were left intentionally for the poor, the needy, the fatherless, the widow and the foreign resident (sojourner).
- **The Purpose:** It provided a system of social welfare that allowed people in need to gather food with dignity through their own labor, rather than just taking a handout. A famous example is Ruth gleaning in the field of Boaz (Ruth 2).

