

Farming Part 1

“17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; 18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; 19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.” 23 Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.” (Genesis 3:17-19, 23 KJV)

After man sinned, the Lord gave him herbs to eat, *“thou shalt eat the herb of the field”*, and entrusted to him the task to till the ground and from his work on the land to reproduce the herb. Farming is not an easy job; it needs much time and effort. But the man needed to work and plant his herbs so he would be able to eat and not die from hunger. Herbs are easy to be reproduced for they only take few weeks to few months to grow and be ready. But fruits are difficult because they need longer time, probably several years.

When God placed the man in the Garden eastward in Eden, it was planted by the Lord and everything was prepared for the man to live there and eat of its fruit. *“8 And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. 9 And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. 10 And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads. 15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.” (Genesis 2:8-10, 15 KJV)* The Lord established everything in that garden and He provided the rivers to water the trees of the garden. Adam only needed to dress the trees. But when God drove him outside that garden, he needed to do everything with his hands from scratch. He needed to till and prepare the soil, plant the seeds, water the plants and wait patiently till he got herbs to eat. *That is why today planting and working as a farmer is hardly any man’s choice. But let us put in our minds that farming was a form of discipline for man after he sinned against God. It was humiliating for man to dig, to excavate the land and break the clods. He needed to bend his back to do that. But when he was in the Garden of Eden, he just had to raise his hand to pick the fruit from the tree and consume it any time he desired.*

Farming continued to grow and progress. Men continued to farm to secure the source of healthy food. Before the flood, plant food was the only food available to man and beast. Cain became a farmer. *“3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.” (Genesis 4:3 KJV)*

Noah also farmed after the flood. *“20 And Noah began to be an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard.” (Genesis 9:20 KJV)*

Isaac was a farmer. *“12 Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him.” (Genesis 26:12 KJV)* Isaac dug wells to find water. *“18 And Isaac digged again the wells of water, which they had digged in the days of*

Abraham his father; for the Philistines had stopped them after the death of Abraham: and he called their names after the names by which his father had called them. 19 And Isaac's servants digged in the valley, and found there a well of springing water. 20 And the herdmen of Gerar did strive with Isaac's herdmen, saying, The water is ours: and he called the name of the well Esek; because they strove with him. 21 And they digged another well, and strove for that also: and he called the name of it Sitnah. 22 And he removed from thence, and digged another well; and for that they strove not: and he called the name of it Rehoboth; and he said, For now the LORD hath made room for us, and we shall be fruitful in the land.” (Genesis 26:18-22 KJV) Isaac and his men dug wells because water was needed to maintain the plants to yield fruit. He faced repeated troubles because of the wells that he dug, but he persevered till he settled with a stable source of water to sustain his plantation. **We need to persevere to maintain water for our plants.**

The land needed to be watered so the plants would grow and yield fruit. God’s Word show us how that can be: *“10 For the land, whither thou goest in to possess it, is not as the land of Egypt, from whence ye came out, where thou sowedst thy seed, and wateredst it with thy foot, as a garden of herbs: 11 But the land, whither ye go to possess it, is a land of hills and valleys, and drinketh water of the rain of heaven: 12 A land which the LORD thy God careth for: the eyes of the LORD thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year.” (Deuteronomy 11:10-12 KJV)* Land can be watered either by man who constructs channels to bring the water from its source to where the plants are located, or it can be watered directly by God through the rain that He sends to the land in the right season. *“4 Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.” (Leviticus 26:4 KJV)* *“12 The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.” (Deuteronomy 28:12 KJV)*

*** The land is the source of food for man and for the animals. “For the tree of the field is man's life.” (Deuteronomy 20:19 KJV)** Therefore, we need to persevere in farming and in planting trees to provide the necessary food. *** Farming protects the country from ruin.** Egypt and the surrounding nations were protected from famine by the grain that had been stored in the seven years of plenty: *“34 Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint officers over the land, and take up the fifth part of the land of Egypt in the seven plenteous years. 35 And let them gather all the food of those good years that come, and lay up corn under the hand of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities. 36 And that food shall be for store to the land against the seven years of famine, which shall be in the land of Egypt; that the land perish not through the famine.” (Genesis 41:34-36 KJV)*

*** Farming requires time, effort, an attitude of obedience, patience, and perseverance, a piece of land or soil and source of water.** It is rewarded by the yield obtained free of charge. The blessedness of farming can be enjoyed by being willing to comply with the discipline of God, accepting hard work and a hard life. *** Farming from the Bible’s point of view is not a profession but a way of life and a requirement.** Every man needs to plant and harvest herbs, vegetables, and fruits.

*** Many people have houses with gardens full of beautiful flowers of different scents and colors.** But actually, God wants us to plant plants so that we can eat of their fruits, leaves,

flowers, and seeds. * It is a source of living, a way to exercise our bodies, live healthy lives and at the same time behold their beauty. It is a way to save money, to enjoy fresh food, to work as a team with our family members, and enjoy the wonders of God. We can only marvel at their growth from a mere seed to a huge fruit-bearing tree.

It is one way of saving our finances. In many parts of the world, people are living in houses that are surrounded by lands and they have a source of water such as rain to water the plants. Men, women, and children in their free time can get involved in planting and surely they will get a harvest of what they plant.

I had a dream that recurred several times. In the dream, I was collecting coins belonging to my country from the dry soil. In the dream the coin collection was going on and my two hands were full and still, everywhere I found coins that I needed to collect. Around me, there were people moving around but not one of them thought of bending down and collecting the coins that I was seeing. I was wondering in the dream why the people were not coming and collecting because what I was collecting was equal to a day's wage.

Around the building that I am residing and where our church worship center is located, there is a piece of land beside and behind it full of sand. On that land, one day we found a big sack of coins belonging to different countries. Some of these coins were of high value and we added it to our church treasury. On the same piece of land, the Lord directed my wife to plant vegetables of various kinds. She dug and prepared the land for planting. We utilized the water that we collected after washing dishes and clothes, carrying it in buckets to water these plants. After a while, we dug small channels in the ground and directed the water from our kitchen into these channels to water our plants. For the last few years, we have been using the products of our own garden. I have stopped going to the market to buy vegetables. The whole family is involved in the garden; one plants and the other waters. ***“6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.” (1 Corinthians 3:6 KJV)*** We don't need to buy fertilizer. We use as fertilizer the fallen leaves of the trees, the vegetable and fruit peels, and the eggshells after we powder it. We collect these materials and put them into sealed containers layered with any kind of soil and then covered with water to decompose by itself, and in a few month's time, they serve as fertilizer.

We collect containers of different sizes to grow plants. We stack in the lower parts of the containers dead leaves and the vegetable peels and add water to it, then above this layer we put the soil and sow our seeds. In a few months' time when the plants begin to grow, there is natural compost to support the plants and enable them to yield good fruit.

We get large quantities of vegetables and sometimes there is a surplus which we store. During the harvest time, we are very joyful to harvest very big pumpkins, lettuce, tomatoes, gourds, greens, beans, and eggplants. We freeze a portion of the vegetables to keep a reserve for the hot summer months because the place we reside in is very hot and most of the plants cannot survive the heat. Moreover, in summer the price of vegetables shoots up. That's why we gather our vegetables in autumn, winter, and spring and freeze them to consume in summer.

In spring, when our vegetable garden is green and well-watered and colorful, it is visited by swarms of honey bees. The plants produce flowers that attract the bees to feed on the pollen. The bees help the plants in fertilization and thus increase their harvest.

Every month I am able to save because I don't need to go to the market to buy vegetables. The extra money I collect over a period of a few months which I give as a burnt offering to the Lord.

The Lord has increased our faith and trust in Him as He has shown us on several occasions that as we obey Him, He will be the one to add blessings to our lives and give us the harvest so that we can eat the fruit of our land. ***“12 Yea, the LORD shall give that which is good; and our land shall yield her increase.” (Psalms 85:12 KJV)*** We give to our church members what God has blessed us with, and we have taught our members and our co-workers in the different congregations by sharing with them our experience in farming and storing food. We got a good number of them to get started on their own gardens and their experience has been the same. And every time they harvest, they bring to the Lord their firstfruits. That reminds me of what happened at the time of Solomon. ***“25 And Judah and Israel dwelt safely, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, from Dan even to Beersheba, all the days of Solomon.” (1 Kings 4:25 KJV)***

My Dear and Beloved: Let us serve God's purpose and commit ourselves to live the style of life that the Scripture of this message teaches us about farming.

- Let us be willing to work as a team with our family members to start to use the resources available for us to farm and to plant the various herbs, vegetables and trees of fruits.
- Let us use whatever land available for farming, or even cans and various containers that we can put soil in them
- Let us keep time and effort in order to fulfill the task of farming.
- Let us humble ourselves before God and willingly accept the discipline of farming as God ordained it on us to go through.
- Let us be hard working in tilling the ground, breaking the clods to prepare the land to put the seed to grow.
- Let us be diligent to bring a source of water to water the plans and on time so they will grow and we will have the harvest.
- Let us be teachable and allow God to teach us and to guide us how to plant.
- Let us be willing to change our attitudes, to have more faith and to be more patient, hard working and persevering so we will have a big harvest of healthy food
- Let us commit ourselves to have good stewardship to all what we had received from God.
- Let us enjoy the other benefits of farming being a source of living, a way to exercise our bodies, healthy lives and at the same time behold the beauty of the plants. It is a way to save money, to enjoy fresh food, to work as a team with our family members, and to enjoy seeing the wonders of God.

Let us pray ...

My Prayer: Father God in Heaven, I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord, thank you for your Word to me in this message that showed me the importance of the good practice and style of farming. Lord thank you for all the resources that you had placed in my hand from land,

water, seeds, fertilizer, and the team with me from my family members that we can start this good work of yours.

Confess and renounce now all your sins. Confess and renounce your laziness; escaping doing the hard work and suffering for Christ. Confess your lack of patience and perseverance. Confess and renounce doing your own will and plan and not the will and the plan of God. Confess your bad stewardship and your bad example to others in using the resources. Confess and renounce wasting your time being yoke with non believers and on the Media, TV, games and news. Confess your lack of reading of God's Word and your lack of prayers. Confess your non willingness to serve God as His Word teaches us and your non willingness to suffer for Him. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins _____

Lord I commit myself to the teaching and to the principles that I received in this message. Lord I commit myself to start to farm according to what I have from resources. Lord teach me how to do such and bless the works of my hands and let be fruits out of all this work. Lord I commit myself also to use my time to serve you and to reach new people to preach to them the gospel and give them your Word.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and came back to you, willing to do your will and the good plan that you have for them in their lives and to get involved in farming and in serving you. Lord use them to be good examples in their places and bless all the works of their hands. Lord provide all their needs and sustain their resources so they will continue to serve you.

Lord, bless us as your church as we continue to teach your Word and implement your instructions to your people. Lord we commit ourselves to continue to teach about the importance of farming and motivate others to start to farm around their places of living. Lord we commit ourselves to go forward reaching new people and places with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the spiritual gifts that we need to go and evangelize, and make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

Farming Part 1. Genesis 3:17-19, 23. Genesis 2:8-10, 15. Genesis 4:3. Genesis 9:20. Genesis 26:12, 18-22. Deuteronomy 11:10-12. Leviticus 26:4. Deuteronomy 28:12. Deuteronomy 20:19. Genesis 41:34-36. 1 Corinthians 3:6. Psalm 85:12. 1 Kings 4:25.

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