

Farming Part 2

God's Word teaches us about farming. Solomon wrote about the plants. "33 And he spake of trees, from the cedar tree that is in Lebanon even unto the hyssop that springeth out of the wall." (1 Kings 4:33 KJV) Solomon planted vineyards and provided water for them, "4 I made me great works; I builded me houses; I planted me vineyards: 5 I made me gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all kind of fruits: 6 I made me pools of water, to water therewith the wood that bringeth forth trees." (Ecclesiastes 2:4-6 KJV)

King Uzziah was fond of agricultural work. "10 Also he built towers in the desert, and digged many wells: for he had much cattle, both in the low country, and in the plains: husbandmen also, and vine dressers in the mountains, and in Carmel: for he loved husbandry." (2 Chronicles 26:10 KJV)

God teaches us how to plant. "2 And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes." (Isaiah 5:2 KJV) * We are taught that the land we want to plant it should be fenced around so as to not allow trespassers to step on the new plants or pick up the fruits. * God teaches us to choose the best of our seed to plant and to observe and watch what we plant and attend to its needs. "1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman." (John 15:1 KJV)

Farming needs continued and persistent effort for its sustenance; otherwise poverty will be our lot. "30 I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; 31 And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down. 32 Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction. 33 Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: 34 So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man." (Proverbs 24:30-34 KJV) * Many people have good resources to farm but they don't show diligence, therefore you see the lands that surround their houses without fruit. * The prudent hard-working wife cultivates a garden and motivates her household into teamwork to maintain it. "16 She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard." (Proverbs 31:16 KJV)

God teaches us the right season and the right time to plant. "1 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: 2 A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted." (Ecclesiastes 3:1-2 KJV) "4 He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap. 6 In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good." (Ecclesiastes 11:4, 6 KJV)

God has taught us how to get water as we pray. "7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:" (Matthew 7:7 KJV) God has taught us to pray and ask Him to send us rain so our plants will be watered, "17 Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it

rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. 18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit." (James 5:17-18 KJV) "16 Now therefore stand and see this great thing, which the LORD will do before your eyes. 17 Is it not wheat harvest to day? I will call unto the LORD, and he shall send thunder and rain; that ye may perceive and see that your wickedness is great, which ye have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking you a king. 18 So Samuel called unto the LORD; and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day: and all the people greatly feared the LORD and Samuel." (1 Samuel 12:16-18 KJV) God has taught us that sin can hinder the coming of the rain, but prayer and confession of sin will bring the rain and heal the land: "35 When heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against thee; if they pray toward this place, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin, when thou afflictest them: 36 Then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy servants, and of thy people Israel, that thou teach them the good way wherein they should walk, and give rain upon thy land, which thou hast given to thy people for an inheritance." (1 Kings 8:35-36 KJV) "14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14 KJV) Therefore, we need to be careful lest sin takes away the rain and the blessings of God and makes our land sick and infertile.

"16 And Caleb said, He that smiteth Kirjathsepher, and taketh it, to him will I give Achsah my daughter to wife. 17 And Othniel the son of Kenaz, the brother of Caleb, took it: and he gave him Achsah his daughter to wife. 18 And it came to pass, as she came unto him, that she moved him to ask of her father a field: and she lighted off her ass; and Caleb said unto her, What wouldest thou? 19 Who answered, Give me a blessing; for thou hast given me a south land; give me also springs of water. And he gave her the upper springs, and the nether springs." (Joshua 15:16-19 KJV) Achsah was a wise woman. When she got a piece of land, she worked it out to secure a source of water to water it.

God has shown us how the plants grow and the right time to harvest them. "26 And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; 27 And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. 28 For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. 29 But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come." (Mark 4:26-29 KJV) We get so encouraged when we see plants growing under the power of God. It is He who makes them grow and prospers the work of our hands.

God has taught us the right time to sow; for in every place there is a right time to plant a particular plant. "31 And the flax and the barley was smitten: for the barley was in the ear, and the flax was balled. 32 But the wheat and the rie were not smitten: for they were not grown up." (Exodus 9:31-32 KJV)

God has taught us the right time to plant every plant and the time to harvest and how to do it. "23 Give ye ear, and hear my voice; hearken, and hear my speech. 24 Doth the plowman plow all day to sow? doth he open and break the clods of his ground? 25 When he hath made plain the face thereof, doth he not cast abroad the fitches, and scatter the cummin, and cast in the principal wheat and the appointed barley and the rie in their place? 26 For his God doth instruct him to discretion, and doth teach him. 27 For the fitches are not

threshed with a threshing instrument, neither is a cart wheel turned about upon the cummin; but the fitches are beaten out with a staff, and the cummin with a rod. 28 Bread corn is bruised; because he will not ever be threshing it, nor break it with the wheel of his cart, nor bruise it with his horsemen. 29 This also cometh forth from the LORD of hosts, which is wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working.” (Isaiah 28:23-29 KJV) The day after I wrote this part of the book, we had dried a large amount of mustard seed. I learned from what I had written that to take the seeds easily and speedily from the ears, we need not crush the ears but gently beat them with a staff. We were able to collect a large number of mustard seeds using this method that we had learned directly from God’s Word in *Isaiah 28:23-29*.

We learned also from the plants many things about life and we understood clearly why many of Jesus’ parables were about plants. A seed can produce up to a hundredfold if we follow the following Biblical instructions:

I. Removing rocks: *“5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth.” (Matthew 13:5 KJV)* We need to remove stones and rocks from the soil that we are using to plant.

II. Keeping adequate soil: *“5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth. 6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.” (Matthew 13:5-6 KJV)* We need to keep adequate soil to plant.

III. Removing thorns: *“7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them.” (Matthew 13:7 KJV)* We need to remove thorns so the plants will grow.

IV. Preparing good ground: *“8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.” (Matthew 13:8 KJV)* Good soil needs to be prepared free from stones and with a good fertilizer.

V. To be aware of tares: *“25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.” (Matthew 13:25 KJV)* We need to remove weeds so the plants will grow.

VI. Tithing our income so God will remove the pest: *“10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. 11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.” (Malachi 3:10-11 KJV)* We need to tithe our income so God will send His blessing on the works of our hands and He will remove the devourer so it will not harm the works of our hands.

VII. Giving our firstfruits to God who will maintain the good harvest: *“9 Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: 10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.” (Proverbs 3:9-10 KJV)* We need to bring our firstfruits to God so He will give us great and abundant harvest.

VIII. To be aware of worms that can consume the plant overnight: *“6 And the LORD God prepared a gourd, and made it to come up over Jonah, that it might be a shadow over his head, to deliver him from his grief. So Jonah was exceeding glad of the gourd. 7 But God prepared a worm when the morning rose the next day, and it smote the gourd that it withered.” (Jonah 4:6-7 KJV)* We learn not to be angry and rebel against God and His will when we fail to reach the lost. Otherwise, God will send worms to destroy our plants and that will disturb our peace.

IX. To use fertilizer: *“7 Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? 8 And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: 9 And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.” (Luke 13:7-9 KJV)* Fertilizer will strengthen the plants and make them grow faster and into more robust form. We use as fertilizer the fallen leaves of the trees, the vegetable and fruit peels, and the eggshells after we powder it. We stack all those in the lower parts of the containers, 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.

God has taught us how to store for times of scarcity: *“47 And in the seven plenteous years the earth brought forth by handfuls. 48 And he gathered up all the food of the seven years, which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities: the food of the field, which was round about every city, laid he up in the same. 49 And Joseph gathered corn as the sand of the sea, very much, until he left numbering; for it was without number.” (Genesis 41:47-49 KJV)* *“6 Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: 7 Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, 8 Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.” (Proverbs 6:6-8 KJV)*

God has taught us to be patient so that we shall be successful farmers in our vineyards and in God’s Kingdom. *“7 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.” (James 5:7 KJV)* And we will be rewarded with a harvest. *“6 The husbandman that laboureth must be first partaker of the fruits.” (2 Timothy 2:6 KJV)*

My Dear and Beloved: Farming is not an option or a profession but a style of Christian living that the Bible states and the Word of God describe it. Farming is a discipline from God; it teach us skills, it develop in us good attitudes and commitments to God to be diligent people, hard working, having stewardship, people of prayers, tithe and firstfruits givers, to be patient, persevering, preachers for His Word and enjoyers of His great blessings.

Let us pray . . .

My Prayer: Father God 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 all your blessing that you had put in the lifestyle of farming. Lord thank you for all the teaching and the encouraging Word that I learned in this message.

Confess and renounce now all your sins. Confess and renounce your lack of hard work, being patience and persevering person. Confess your laziness and your lack of diligence in doing your work. Confess your lack of prayers and lack of reading God's Word. Confess your lack of giving your tithes and your firstfruits to 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 non willingness to serve God and spread His Word to the non believers around you. 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 continue to do farming and to do your will in my life. Lord I commit myself to spread your Word and to reach new people with the gospel of Jesus. Lord I commit myself to be good steward of all what you gave to me. Lord I commit myself to tithe my income and to bring my firstfruits to you. Lord I commit myself to reproduce more fruit of the Holy Spirit, love, joy, peace, gentleness, kindness, meekness, faith, patience, long-suffering, and self-control, so people will see Christ through my life.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and came back to you and are willing to do the good works that you prepared in advance for them to do. Lord teach them your ways and guide them step by step in their lives and grant them success in all the works of their hands.

Lord, continue to bless us as your church and lead us to teach your people your Word and your ways. 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 take the message and spread it and make it reach all the congregations, families and the members of 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 2. 1 Kings 4:33. Ecclesiastes 2:4-6. 2 Chronicles 26:10. Isaiah 5:2. John 15:1. Proverbs 24:30-34. Proverbs 31:16. Ecclesiastes 3:1-2. Ecclesiastes 11:4, 6. Matthew 7:7. James 5:17-18. 1 Samuel 12:16-18. 1 Kings 8:35-36. 2 Chronicles 7:14. Joshua 15:16-19. Mark 4:26-29. Exodus 9:31-32. Isaiah 28:23-29. Matthew 13:5-8, 25. Malachi 3:10-11. Proverbs 3:9-10. Jonah 4:6-7. Luke 13:7-9. Genesis 41:47-49. Proverbs 6:6-8. James 5:7. 2 Timothy 2:6

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