

Pastor's Perspective July 2007

He Provides Seed to the Sower

*Now he who provides seed to the sower and bread
for food will also supply and increase your store of seed...
II Corinthians 9:10*

I don't know why I haven't seen it — I've read these verses in II Corinthians 10:6-11 about sowing generously many times, but one morning as I sat praying and asking the Lord for a word I heard these words that begin verse 10 of II Cor chapter 9... "He provides seed to the sower." Who does He provide seed for? The sower. In other words, if you don't intend to sow what has been given you, you will not be given seed. Jesus is looking for sowers, people who will give away what has been given to them. Whether it's a word that He has enlightened to your heart, a testimony of His goodness, financial blessing, gifts or fruit of the Spirit, talents or provisions of any kind, God wants us to be sowers. God wants us to give away what we have been given. Yes, you can keep some of it, OK?! But don't hoard. Be a giver! Be a generous giver. Look for opportunities to give / sow.

Graham Cooke has a saying, "If God can pull it through you, He will give it to you." Don't clog up the network of the Kingdom... give. When you look at a gift that you have been given as solely yours, you have mentally clogged up the stream of heaven. There are no dams in heaven. Rivers, yes. Water falls, yes. Rain, yes. Dams — N O. Things are always pouring out.

We have a ministry to the poor and to street people down in Kensington, Philadelphia. We provide a hot meal and clothes and Bibles to those in need. When we serve the meal we have a person assigned to each table to sit there and talk to the folks that come. We want to listen to their stories

and pray for them. One day I was sitting across from this guy who had a bag that he carried around that had a few items of necessity in it. I found out that some of the things had been given to him from other street people. You see, they all are in great need and they know what it is to be in need so they share with one another. Street people share with one another! They share basic necessities that you and I take for granted. If they can sow at that level, can not you and I share from our abundance?

Sowing is to be fun. Jesus said that it is more blessed (makarios — fortunate, happy, privileged, favorable) to give than to receive (Acts 20:35). Sometimes I've sown and I have felt like I'm losing something. Sometimes I've sown out of guilt. Sometimes I've sown and actually been happy about doing it. I have to work at being a cheerful giver. The mind of man is selfish. The mind of the Spirit is to give liberally and enjoy doing so. And the Spirit will give plentifully to those who do the same.

Plan to sow. Plan to sow today. Plan to sow every day. Make sowing a passion. For God so loved the world that He gave...

Pastor Gene