SEED-FAITH 200

Spiritual, Physical, and Financial Increase Through the Power of Seed-Faith

by Oral Roberts

SEED-FAITH 2000

by Oral Roberts

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the King James Version of the Bible.

Copyright © 1999

by Oral Roberts

Tulsa, Oklahoma 74171

BK 1203

Printed in the United States of America All rights reserved

SECOND PRINTING

3 / 00

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A Personal Word

PART I—SEED-FAITH: THE

FOUNDATIONS

Chapter 1

How Seed-Faith Was Born In My Heart.

Chapter 2

The Blessing Connection For Your Life

Chapter 3

God Wants To Bless His People With ICI—Ideas, Concepts, And Insights

PART II—SOWING SEEDS OF FAITH

Chapter 1

Sow A Seed To God

Chapter 2

Good Seeds Versus Bad Seeds

Chapter 3

Aim Your Seed Against The Need

Chapter 4

How Your Faith Becomes A Seed You Sow

Chapter 5

How God Feels About Your Needs

PART III—GROWING SEEDS OF FAITH

Chapter 1

What To Do In The Growing Time Of Your Seed

Chapter 2

Expect A Miracle...Where Did That Come From?

Chapter 3

Run To The Blessing!

PART IV—REAPING THE HARVEST

Chapter 1

You Can Get A Receipt From God For Your Giving

Chapter 2

God's Reward System.

Chapter 3

Don't Give Up On Your Due Season To Receive!

Chapter 4

Why Your Seeds May Sometimes Seem To Fail

Chapter 5

How To Plant A New Seed For An Equivalent Benefit

Chapter 6

You Can Order Your Harvest In Advance

A PERSONAL WORD

In 1970 as I prepared the manuscript of the first edition of my book, *MIRACLE OF SEED-FAITH*, there was a burning in my heart to get it into print. The typesetter wrote these words in a letter to me:

Dear Oral Roberts,

I have not met you in person, but I have met you as I've set the type of your new book. I've become obsessed with this astounding concept that faith is like a seed. As I set the type I absorbed the three key principles that you're revealing to the world, and it has changed my life. I have a feeling you've loosed a truth that will change millions of lives!

This stranger struck a key in my spirit, and his words were prophetic.

He said that millions of lives would be changed by reading this book. The first month I offered it, more than fifty thousand people requested a copy.

Over three million families have ordered the book, and at this date—thirty years later—many still ask for a copy each week.

Suddenly people began to discover new ways of giving to God, of trusting the Lord as the Source of their Total Supply and of Expecting A Miracle! They began to understand that everything in life comes from a seed and that God's own Son, Jesus, is called:

◆ The seed of Abraham (see Galatians 3:29)

◆ The seed of David (see Romans 1:3)

◆ The incorruptible seed (see I Peter 1:23) In my fifty-three years in the healing ministry, I have never seen a biblical principle take hold as quickly as Seed-Faith has. As I travel all over this country, when pastors receive the tithes and offerings on Sunday mornings, in essence, I hear them say words such as, "Let's plant our seed and expect God to multiply it back to us."

I have experienced this on a regular weekly basis, and congregations all over the world are being taught to plant a seed and expect God to grow it into a harvest. But it isn't because I said it; it's because God said it throughout His Word. And if God said it and we act on it, then His Word will not return void (see Isaiah 55:11), as God Himself watches over His Word to perform it (see Jeremiah 1:12 RSV).

Many pastors of the great churches across this land tell me that the seed principle is the key to their astounding growth in every area of their lives and ministries!

WHY A SEQUEL TO *MIRACLE OF SEED-FAITH?*

In the thirty years since the book's first printing, we've all realized that there's MUCH MORE in the Word of God on this subject. As this new book goes into print, I believe there will be a new and deeper understanding of this powerful truth of the Bible—**THAT OUR FAITH CAN BE PLANTED AS A SEED TO GOD. I SEE THIS REVELATION BRINGING BACK WHAT SATAN HAS STOLEN FROM GOD'S PEOPLE.** And I also see it providing the means to greatly help us evangelize the world and usher in the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ (see Matthew 24:14).

Now let's look at what the Spirit has been revealing through the three Keys of Seed-Faith:

Key #1: God is your Source.

Key #2: Give that it may be given unto you.

Key #3: Expect a miracle harvest.



PART I

SEED-FAITH: THE FOUNDATIONS

I was at a critical time in my life and ministry when I discovered the three

key principles of Seed-Faith. They have changed my life forever, and my desire now is to help new readers learn and remind old ones about the essential elements of Seed-Faith as God has revealed them to me, including new revelations from His Word.

—Oral Roberts

CHAPTER 1

HOW SEED-FAITH WAS BORN IN MY HEART

At the beginning of my ministry, just prior to my entering the healing ministry, my wife, Evelyn, and I were facing a terrible need in our lives. We had just moved to Enid, Oklahoma, where I was to pastor a small church and attend college while making $55

per week as my salary from the church. The church didn't have a place for us to live, and when I went to the church board for help, *I couldn't get anywhere with them!*

Fortunately a member of the church took mercy on us and invited Evelyn and me and our two children to stay with them. ***Can you imagine two families with several children living in a two-bedroom house that had only about a thousand square feet?***

One day Evelyn had had enough, and she poured out her frustration about it to me. She said, "Oral, if you don't get these children and me a place to live. I'm going home to my mother, and I'm not coming back until you get me a house!" **Let me tell you, that got me into motion!**

That night I went to our prayer meeting with a new anointing! I don't remember everything I preached about, but it was hotter than fire!

The Lord brought Malachi 3:10,11 to me, which states that if you bring your tithes and offerings into His storehouse, He will open the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing where there is not room enough to contain it. And, oh, how I needed a blessing!

At the end of the service I experienced a strong leading to try to raise the down payment for the parsonage. The Lord spoke in my spirit and said, "Take your

week's salary and lay it on the mourners' bench (the altar in front of the sanctuary), and you start the giving." ***Now He was talking about my whole $55 paycheck!***

I told the congregation, "We're taking up an offering for a down payment on a parsonage for the pastor—not only for me but also for any pastor who follows me." Then I laid down my paycheck and said, "Who else would like to give?"

To my absolute astonishment, people popped up everywhere! I mean, people began giving $100 and $20 and other amounts, and the wealthiest man in the church gave $1,000! When the meeting was over, I had the down payment on a parsonage! And the church felt good about taking care of the pastor—any pastor—rather than seeing him and his family nearly starving to death.

After I got home that night, Evelyn asked me how the service went, and I said, "It was good. Wonderful things happened."

"Like what?" she asked.

"I raised the down payment on a parsonage," I replied.

She was shocked as she almost whispered,

"How much did you give?"

"I GAVE THE BEST I COULD—OUR WEEK'S SALARY."

"You didn't give the whole thing!" she cried. "How am I going to buy groceries for our children this week?"

"Honey. I don't know, but THE LORD TOLD ME TO DO IT. so I did it."

It was wintertime, and when we went to bed that night, that was the coldest bed I had ever slept in! Around four o'clock in the morning we were awakened by a loud knock on the door. I ran to open it and found Art Newfield, a man from the church, standing there. He was one of the largest wheat farmers in northwestern Oklahoma.

He apologized for coming by and waking me up so early. Then he said, "Brother Roberts, I was at the service last night, but I didn't give any money for the new

parsonage. I went home and went to bed, but I couldn't sleep. An hour ago I got up and went out into the yard and dug this up." *Then he laid four $100 bills in my hand.*

I had never had a $100 bill in my hand before. **Now he was handing me seven times more than I had given in the offering that night to build a parsonage for the church!**

My $55 had become seven times more!

But the greatest revelation of all came next when Art said to me, "I want to tell you why I gave you this money. I'm a wheat farmer, ***and I know I have to plant a seed to get a harvest in my wheat field. This $400 is not just money. It's a seed of my faith I am sowing to the Lord to get my own needs met. "***

When he spoke those words, something went off inside my spirit! There was a moment when everything in me stood still, and my spirit man leaped as it connected with this divine principle from God.

I was raised on a farm for the first fourteen years of my life, and I had helped my father plant corn and cotton every year. I knew what it was to plant and reap a harvest, but I had never associated this principle with the realm of faith.

Seed-Faith was born in my heart when Art Newfield told me that his gift of four hundred dollars was a seed he was planting because he needed a harvest from God!

EVERYTHING IN LIFE STARTS WITH A SEED

In the beginning God said that as long as the earth remains there will be *seedtime and harvest* (Genesis 8:22). The apostle Paul clearly pointed out the law of sowing and reaping in Galatians 6:7 when he declared, *Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.*

Jesus Himself constantly compared faith with a seed being planted to get a result. In Matthew 17:20 He said, *If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove.* From time to time we all face mountains of need:

◆ Spiritual problems

◆ Sickness

◆ Family problems

◆ Fear

◆ Financial problems

◆ And many more

But in this Scripture the Lord tells us what to do to get the mountains MOVED out of our lives—PLANT A SEED OF FAITH.

The Bible says in Romans 12:3 that God has given every person THE measure of faith, and four times God's Word says, *The just shall live by faith* (see Habakkuk 2:4, Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11, and Hebrews 10:38). *So, really, faith is the key to everything!*

When you take the faith that God has given to you and use it according to His Word, it becomes a mighty tool to move the mountain of need you face in your life. Your seed-sowing and your reaping put you in charge of the harvest God said you would receive. You take control rather than sitting down at the mercy of the devil.

Each act of faith is a seed planted, and it will be multiplied back to you many times, according to God's Word!

Friend, Jesus Christ is the Seed that God planted. **He is God's covenant of blessing for every man.** Because of Jesus and through Jesus, I can make a partnership of blessing with God, which I call my ***Blessing-Pact Partnership.*** In this partnership with the Lord, I have discovered the following three key principles of Seed-Faith:

#1 GOD IS YOUR SOURCE

You may think you're dealing with man in getting your needs met, but people are only instruments. God can use people as His delivery system, but you must understand that God is your Source.

You must deal directly with almighty God as your loving Father. He is THE

SOURCE of your total supply.

What do I mean by that? Every tree has a root system. It has hundreds of little roots, but the main source of many trees is the taproot.

As long as the taproot is anchored in the soil and receives water, ***it will sustain the tree and the tree will bear much fruit.***

The same is true in your life. If your root system is in God—if your taproot is anchored in Him—His Word says you can make it. Of course, you may have made many other things your root system in place of God as the main source of your supply. Perhaps you have made someone or something else your source.

Perhaps your source is rooted in:

◆ Your spouse

◆ Your children

◆ Your parents

◆ Your church

◆ Your friends

◆ Your thinking

◆ Your emotions

◆ Your job

◆ Your bank account

◆ Or someone or something else

These are necessary to you, *but they are not the Source of your life!* One or more of them can be cut away from your life, but if your inner man is still anchored in your main Root System, the Main Tap Root, the Center Point—God, your Source—**you will continue to live and be fruitful and multiply.**

When God is your Source, He can touch someone to be His instrument to help

you.

Always remember that:

◆ GOD IS THE SOURCE.

◆ MEN ARE THE INSTRUMENTS.

By looking to God as the Source and not to men, you can be confident, positive, and expectant THAT HE WILL PROVIDE!

LEE BRAXTON'S DISCOVERY THAT GOD WAS HIS SOURCE

I remember when an associate of mine, Lee Braxton, a successful businessman who was working in my healing ministry as a dollar-a-year man, came to me distressed and said,

"Oral, I've lost it all."

"You lost what?" I said.

"My stocks. Haven't you read that the bottom fell out of the stock market last week?"

Since I had no stocks, I had not been following the stock market.

"I'm wiped out," Lee told me.

I looked at this good man who had walked away from owning several corporations to literally give himself and the earnings he might have made in order to help me take God's healing power to my generation. No associate had been more effective. Lee was the man behind my getting on hundreds of radio stations and in 1954 breaking into prime-time television to bring the "healing line" directly into the homes of America so people could see that GOD IS A GOOD GOD and He still heals today.

Seeing the hurt on Lee's face, I felt for him.

Then a word of knowledge came to me for him. "Lee, who is your source?"

"What do you mean?" he asked.

"Is it the stock market or the eternal God who is your source of total supply?"

"You're trying to tell me something, aren't you?" he asked.

We both carried little pocket New Testaments, so I said, "Lee, turn over to Philippians 4:19 and read it out loud to me."

He read, *"My GOD shall SUPPLY all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."*

I said, "Does it say, 'My stock market shall supply all of my needs'?"

As he looked at me, I said, "The stock market has a record of going up and going down, and once in my lifetime, in 1929, it completely crashed. I know you've been living principally off the earnings of your stocks.

But, Lee, you can't afford to look to your stocks as anything but an instrument. God is your Source, and there are no UPS and DOWNS with Him."

"That's a completely new thought to me," he said.

"It was to me, too, for far too long," I said.

"But my discovery of the miracle of Seed-Faith and its three Bible keys, the first being GOD IS MY SOURCE, has changed my life from depending on the undependable to trusting God as my Source of supply. He never changes, never fails, and promises to multiply our seed sown."

We talked on a little while. Then I reminded Lee, "You have been serving the Lord in my ministry without salary. You have brought about amazing changes in helping me communicate the Gospel to millions. Just know in your heart that what you've given of yourself, also of your funds, is seed you've sown to God as your Source. Now is the time to look directly to Him with your faith and expect a miracle harvest!"

"You really believe that, don't you?" Lee said, as he felt my sincerity and enthusiasm.

He said, "I want to think and meditate on this before I get back to you."

Weeks passed, and one day Lee said to me, "Oral, have you heard about the stock market?"

"No," I replied.

"It's up and going higher every day!"

"Good," I said.

"But the best thing is, I'm no longer depending solely on my stocks. I'm into Seed-Faith, finally realizing that my work with you as a gift to God is seed sown, and on the other end of each seed is a harvest waiting for me to reap."

He straightened his shoulders and, with a new light in his eyes, said "Oral, I'm a new man. I'm no longer dependent upon people or things but upon God as my Source. And this is the lifestyle I'll live the rest of my life."

I was deeply moved by Lee's confession of faith. For the next twenty years before his homegoing, Lee Braxton continued not only to be my associate but also was in demand as a speaker in large financial seminars. Thousands of people in the business and professional field learned from him. With my friend Demos Shakarian, Lee became a cofounder of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship, International, which has grown to more than one million members.

I think of Lee as I write this sequel to the first edition of the *MIRACLE OF SEED-FAITH*, and I recall that day when he received the revelation from above that God was his Source. Had he not done so, his distress was so deep over the rise and fall of the stock market that it's very probable it could have destroyed him. Knowing God as his Source saved his present and future. And I know it will do the same for you.

#2 'GIVE, THAT IT MAY BE GIVEN UNTO YOU'

(see Luke 6:38)

One of the many key Scriptures Jesus gives us for this second principle of Seed-Faith is found in Acts 20:35. He declared, *It is more blessed to give than to receive.*

I used to wonder what Jesus meant by that Scripture. It seemed so contrary to

real life. To me it seemed more blessed to receive than it was to give. But one day the Lord revealed to me the word "productive." **I realized He was saying, "It's more *productive* to give than to receive."** Then God gave me a revelation as to why it is more productive.

It became very clear that only what we give can be multiplied, not what we receive!

In Jesus' feeding of the five thousand, there was no way the boy who gave his lunch of five small loaves and two fishes to Jesus could ever have conceived of how the Lord would multiply it and feed so large a crowd of hungry men, besides women and children! (See John 6:1-13.) **The small seed-lunch became Seed-Faith when it was given to the Lord. He blessed it and multiplied it, and twelve baskets were filled with the leftovers!**

Jesus multiplied not only the boy's material supply **but also his faith.** ***I certainly would think that from that moment on the young boy could remember that his faith was like a seed, and when he used it, it would grow bigger and multiply when Jesus came on the scene!***

I cannot estimate the number of times I've recalled the giving of my $55 weekly salary and learning through my friend Art Newfield that it wasn't just money I gave but a seed I sowed. From that one experience, I changed the way I looked at my tithing to God—not as a debt I owed, but as a seed I sowed.

Using this second key of Seed-Faith from that day forward lifted my thinking and believing that as I sowed I'd reap, as I gave I'd receive, and that every successful thing I accomplished started with a seed sown first.

The same was true for multiplied thousands of people when the Seed-Faith revelation came to them.

#3 EXPECT A MIRACLE!

God has certain faith principles listed in His Word. When these are learned, faith helps us to . . .

◆ Sow a seed against the need.

◆ Follow the seed-sowing with speaking to our mountain of need.

◆ Then immediately get into the faith attitude of expecting a miracle harvest.

When we do these things by our faith, we a **state of knowing.** The first two—sowing and speaking—get us into a position to go from thinking and believing, wishing and hoping, to moving directly into a state of knowing. And it's that **state of knowing** that truly causes us to **EXPECT A MIRACLE!**

Expecting a miracle is the attitude absolutely essential to your life. Just as you look TO God as your Source and give TO Him as seed that you sow, so you also expect to receive your miracle FROM Him as your Source.

Do I always expect after I've done the first two key principles? Sometimes I forget, or I get busy and let my attitude of expectancy slip.

But I know that when I put God first as my Source and give seeds of faith, **He always sends a miracle.** If I'm looking for it, I recognize it when it comes and I reach forth and receive it. ***If I'm not expecting, I usually miss it. God sends it every time, but by not expecting it, I let it pass me by.***

When I let this happen, that is the moment when the devil tries to convince me that Seed-Faith doesn't work. But the Bible says in John 8:44 that satan is a liar and the father of lies.

Instead of believing him, I take ahold of myself and check my attitude of expectancy.

Expecting a miracle every day can become a way of life—one that makes every day exciting as you wonder what God will do in your life today!

BEING A CHRISTIAN IS THE BEST DEAL A PERSON EVER HAD!

Nothing I do gives me as much joy as sharing the three key principles of Seed-Faith with people who are facing needs.

◆ These principles are eternal.

◆ They are a God-given system.

◆ They are as old as the Bible.

◆ AND I BELIEVE THEY WORK!

By now you should have begun to see that through your giving you can redirect your faith. **You can know that it is actually seed sown for an expected harvest.** *EACH TIME YOU GIVE, LET IT BE A POINT OF CONTACT TO HELP YOU RELEASE YOUR FAITH FOR GOD TO SEND YOU A MIRACLE HARVEST. I MEAN, DO IT EACH TIME!*

In the following chapters, I'm going to share with you other important aspects of this tremendous Bible truth as the Lord has revealed them to me. ***But first I have a testimony that I believe will bless your socks off!***



Desperate Mother

Determines To Receive by Faith!

Oral, I was a single mother raising two girls alone when I ran across

your MIRACLE OF SEED-FAITH book. I had a job, but I was barely making ends meet. Then I read your book, and what a blessing it was! I also read Malachi 3:10 where God says, "Prove Me." So I did.

My daughters and I needed money, food, clothes, and furniture. We had one bed —that was it! I was one desperate woman, determined to receive in faith. I had no money, so I looked for something to seed. I seeded to a local missions group some of our best clothes, a portion of our food, and some loose change I found in my car.

Two days went by and nothing happened. But on the third day my baby-sitter gave me a beautiful living room suite and a truck-load of groceries! For the next few weeks strangers gave me brand-new clothes, food, money, and even toys! Food and clothes were everywhere—in cabinets, on counter tops, and in chairs.

These are just some of the many blessings I've received since I began proving God according to His Word!

Kelly from North Carolina

CHAPTER 2

THE BLESSING CONNECTION FOR YOUR LIFE

At one time in my ministry I did not know that the Word of God says it is God's highest wish to bless you. He declares in III John 2, *Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.* **In other words, God wants to connect His blessing with your life.**

Since He created us, it's important to find out what God thinks of us and wants for us.

Notice He calls us "Beloved." Then He goes into detail about His concerns for our lives.

His highest wish is for our good.

Why do I say that? ***Because God is a good God.***

The Blessing Connection For Your Life **Get that Scripture into your spirit. I believe that when you do, your whole attitude will be UP and not down!**

Now let's look at the three parts to the Scripture in III John 2:

#1 "Beloved, I wish above all things that you may prosper." God wants you to have the money and resources you need IN THIS LIFE. He wants whatever you do according to His Word to prosper. Prosper is a way up, not a way out. God wants to lift you up in your spirit, in your soul (your mind, your will, and your emotions), in your family, in your finances, and in every other area that affects your life. God wants you to prosper. In fact, He said He wishes it above all things!

#2 "And be in health." Notice that the Lord said "be in health" rather than saying "I want to heal you." That is a BIG difference!

Of course, if you need healing, He wants to heal you. But His highest desire is for you to walk in continuous health all of your life—to be in a constant state of health.

#3 God also said, "Even as your soul prospers." *Above all other things, His highest wish is for your soul to prosper.* His highest wish is for you to prosper spiritually, physically, and financially—all three. I mean, He wants you to prosper in every area of your life, and He wants to pour out His blessings in order to get you to that place. **This is God's Blessing Connection for your life!**

The Blessing Connection may not eliminate all the bad things in your life, but I believe it will bring far more of the good things of God into your life and give you the promise of eternal life with Him in heaven!

Another key Scripture God has given me for the Blessing Connection is John 10:10: *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I* [Jesus] *am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

This Scripture boldly declares that the devil is a bad devil, but God is a good God!

I remember drawing a line in my Bible between satan's evil work and Jesus' promise to bring to us the more abundant life. I hope you'll do the same in your Bible at John 10:10.

KNOWING WHO GOD IS OPENS THE DOOR TO THE BLESSING CONNECTION

Abraham, the man who the Bible says is the father of all who have faith (see Galatians 3:7), was a man who knew who God was, and he stepped into this Blessing Connection.

Melchizedek, a priest of God, told him, *Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: AND blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he* [Abram] *gave him tithes of all* (Genesis 14:19,20).

In this Scripture, Melchizedek points out four important characteristics of God:

◆ HE IS THE MOST HIGH GOD.

◆ HE IS THE POSSESSOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH.

◆ HE IS THE DELIVERER FROM ALL OF OUR ENEMIES.

◆ HE EXPECTS US TO DO OUR PART AND GIVE GOD TITHES OF ALL WE HAVE.

Abram, whose name was later changed to Abraham, had firsthand knowledge that God was his deliverer from all of his enemies.

When an enemy army captured his nephew Lot and his family and the people of Sodom and Gomorrah, Abraham set out to rescue them (see Genesis 14). He overcame the enemy army with only a handful of men and rescued Lot and the people of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Then God allowed them to take away all the riches of the conquered army.

The Bible then says that Abraham GAVE GOD TITHES OF ALL. Why? **Because he understood who the Lord is.** He understood that when you know God as most high God—elevated above everything else in your life—you understand that God, not man, possesses heaven and earth. Abraham clearly understood this. He also understood that it is God, not man, who can deliver you from ALL of your enemies. And he understood that He had a Source for his life: God!

The last great revelation in this passage in Genesis explains that Abraham knew he was to give God the tithe (or the tenth) of all he 36

The Blessing Connection For Your Life had—one-tenth of everything.

This was not just a good idea; it was an established principle of God. It was His system, His established way of doing things.

And Abraham knew by revelation that in order to see the hand of God move in his behalf, he must be OBEDIENT to God's established ways of doing things. Those ways are not there to be questioned or analyzed or negotiated.

They are to be obeyed. Abraham obeyed God, and then the blessings came.

You give tithes and offerings out of your heart with joy when you know who God is and what His Word says!

FIVE STEPS TO HELP YOU TAP INTO GOD'S BLESSING CONNECTION

#1 Give your firstfruits to God. Proverbs 3:9 says, *Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase.*

From the very beginning God taught His people about giving their firstfruits to Him. It began with Cain and Abel and continued on through the children of Israel. It was practiced by Jesus Himself and was followed by the Christians of the early church.

God's financial system is not for His prosperity; it's for OUR prosperity! We must let God grow our firstfruits into His best harvest so that we can get the Gospel to all people!

#2 Give according to the measurement that God has established: "Bring ALL the tithes" (see Malachi 3:10). Tithe means the tenth. *In **the Bible ten is the number which represents increase.***

A pastor once told me a story about a young man who began to tithe after he had received Christ as his Savior. He earned only $70 a week, but he faithfully gave his $7 tithe after each paycheck.

Soon he started to get raises, and he continued to tithe. Eventually the young

man was earning $700 a week. ***He had gone from making almost nothing to a prosperity he had only dreamed of!***

Then a doubter said to him, "Do you know that you're giving $3,640 a year? That's what you used to make in a whole year!"

The young man didn't know how to handle this criticism, so he told his pastor, "I'm in trouble. I'm giving as much now in tithes as the total amount I used to make."

The pastor said, "Let's pray about this." So he prayed, "Lord, this man is having difficulty giving You the tithe on such a large amount.

Lord, please reduce this young brother's salary back to $70 a week so he has to give only $7 in tithes."

As he prayed, the pastor felt a tug on his trouser leg. "Pastor, stop praying. I get the point!"

Tithing works because it is a divine measurement for God's increase. But you must give your tithe as a seed unto God as worship to Him, according to His holy Word, and then expect a harvest.

#3 The third step to help you get into the Blessing Connection is to make a covenant with the Lord to give to Him with your finances according to the Bible. Your money is an extension of yourself. Through your financial giving, you release back to God what is rightfully His.

Leviticus 27:30 declares that the tithe belongs to God, and it is holy unto Him. It's not an unreasonable amount. But God is not looking at our "amount." He is looking at our obedience or, in some cases, disobedience.

And He will not reward disobedience.

Think about that for a moment. What parent does reward disobedience? When we set reasonable rules for our children's own good, we reward their obedience. This is how we learn to be in harmony with each other. God teaches us how to be in harmony with His Word, and we are always better for it.

Now just because you give your money to the Lord doesn't mean that you're

giving *yourself* to Him. *Giving the tenth without giving of yourself may increase your blessings, BUT IT WONT GAIN ALL THAT GOD HAS FOR YOU!*

The Bible says that where your treasure is, there is where your heart will be also (see Matthew 6:21). You can't give of what you treasure without giving your heart with it.

What do you love? What do you treasure? If you love money and treasure it, you can never give to God with a pure heart.

If you really love God, you will happily give of your treasure and be glad you were obedient. God loves a cheerful giver (see II Corinthians 9:7). It's easy to be cheerful when you know you're giving with a cheerful heart in obedience to God's Word.

#4 The fourth step to help you enter into the Blessing Connection is to give God praise continually, along with your tithes and offerings (see Hebrews 13:15.) I've discovered that when I praise the Lord both verbally and in my spirit, I minister to Him. It blesses Him, and in turn He blesses me.

Psalm 103:1-5 says we are to bless the Lord with ALL that is within us: *Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: who for-giveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

When we bless the Lord, we are entitled to His benefits, ***and He also rebukes the devourer off our lives.***

According to Malachi 3:10,11, when we bring our tithes and offerings to the Lord, He promises to rebuke the devourer, the devil, for our sakes!

What does the word "rebuke" mean? In Mark, chapter 4, Jesus was in a boat with His disciples, riding out a terrible storm on the Sea of Galilee. They cried out to Him, "Don't You care that we perish?" Then Jesus ***rebuked*** *the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still.*

And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm (v. 39).

The literal meaning of the word for rebuke in the Bible is, "Stop it! That's enough!" If we bring our tithes and offerings into God's great work on earth, He rebukes the devourer who is crashing against our lives. ***He says to satan and his demonic spirits, "Stop it! That's enough!"***

#5 The fifth step of the Blessing Connection is to keep records of your tithes and offerings. You need to be certain that you have met God's divine measurement. Don't guess about your giving. ***Keep records of***

everything you make and give! This is a principle of God. It's part of His system of operation for our lives. Be careful to pay close attention to what God says our part of the connection is.

(See the back of this book to order your free copy of the book, *GETTING YOUR HOUSE IN ORDER.)*

THE BLESSING CONNECTION WORKS!

It was in my experience in Enid, Oklahoma, that I learned tithing is THE Bible way to open the door to God's Blessing Connection. ***It caused me to fall in love with sowing my seeds to God!*** I can never thank my friend Art Newfield enough for revealing to me the word about my giving as a seed I sow to God. And I honestly believe this is what has enabled me to accomplish everything I've accomplished for the Lord!

Sowing and reaping is not man's idea. It was God's idea all the way back to Genesis.

While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease (Genesis 8:22). This was established by God.

It's His system. I can't tell you how it connected in my soul to know that what I was doing was according to God's system of seedtime and harvest.

Stay with me now as we move toward the revelation God has given me concerning the **blessing that is greater than you can contain** (see Malachi 3:10).

CHAPTER 3

GOD WANTS TO BLESS HIS PEOPLE WITH ICI— IDEAS, CONCEPTS, AND INSIGHTS

I believe one reason many Christians don't tithe is that they have not "proven" the Lord.

They don't have proof yet that God is a good God and that He eagerly desires to bless His people.

This may seem to sound presumptuous. It may sound too "unreligious" to think that we could be so bold as to "prove" God. How dare we—as humans—prove God! It goes against the way many of us have been taught. We are taught to be so in awe of God that we can't relate to Him in a personal way.

It's true that God is awesome, but the fact is we were created to fellowship with Him. You can't fellowship with someone you can't talk to or relate to. But God said that not only can we talk to Him but also He will fellowship with us and we can prove Him. We can take Him at His word and prove His promises are true in the most personal way.

Many years ago the Lord showed me what He meant when He said in Malachi 3:10, "Bring your tithe, your tenth, into My work and prove Me now and see if I will not open the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing on you more than you can contain."

I said to the Lord, "I've always been able to contain any blessing You gave me. But You said You would pour out a blessing on me that I wouldn't be able to receive or contain it all.

How can that be?"

God said, "You haven't proven Me. If you bring in the tithe as a seed of your faith, I will open you the windows of heaven and POUR

you out blessing after blessing. You need to expect 'exceeding abundantly above ALL you can ask or think'" (see Ephesians 3:20).

Then He gave me a revelation about ICI: IDEAS, CONCEPTS, AND

INSIGHTS.

He said, "Tell the people I don't pour money out of heaven.

◆ "Money doesn't fall out of heaven.

◆ "Houses don't fall out of heaven.

◆ "Cars don't fall out of heaven.

◆ "Jobs don't fall out of heaven.

"Stop looking to heaven for those things.

The blessings of God come through ideas, concepts, and insights which come from heaven."

When He said, "I will pour out blessings upon you so great that there will not be room enoug to receive them," He was saying, "I will pour out so many ideas, concepts, and insights that your mind won't be able to take them all in!"

And then God showed me Luke 6:38: *Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, SHALL MEN GIVE into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.*

This says men will be moved to give to you.

God uses people. He moves on their hearts so that they obey, and miracles begin to happen to you through them.

Our job is not to figure out how God chooses to create the blessings. Our job is first to sow our seed, next to speak the word of faith, and then to expect a miracle. God is the creator of ideas, concepts, and insights. He may move on total strangers—or family and friends—and give them an idea of how to bless you and be a part of the harvest. Or He may give you the idea, the concept, or the insight to carry out that which will bring positive change and supply into your life.

Remember, God is your SOURCE.

I no longer look to the place I sow my seed to become my harvest field or to make it my source. It may come from there, but it may not.

The harvest is up to God and the people through whom He chooses to bless us. He is in charge of the ideas, concepts, and insights which, because of sowing our seeds of faith through our tithes and offerings, will light up our inner selves and put us in position to reap—to receive.

This ICI concept was forever branded in me early in my ministry when I was pastoring a small church in Toccoa, Georgia. The leading man in that church was Bill Lee, a manager in the LeTourneau plant which manufactured huge earth-moving equipment.

He told me that Mr. LeTourneau was a deeply committed Christian who was very poor when he gave his heart to Christ. But he had a great dream and a great desire. He had read Malachi 3:10,11 and had decided to take God's word literally and give Him the tithe of all he earned.

MR. LETOURNEAU HAD DECIDED TO MAKE GOD HIS PARTNER

He had learned that tenth in the Bible means increase, and he decided to test God regarding his dream of building great road-building machines which had never been made before.

As he continued to tithe, **God caused his dream to become a reality. *He prospered so much that instead of giving God 10 percent of his income, he eventually gave the Lord 90 percent and lived off the 10 percent!*** I mean 90 percent of his income went to God's work!

In addition to his invention of the first great earth-moving equipment, he established LeTourneau College in Longview, Texas.

Now that is what I call an adventure in great faith! This was the first time I'd ever heard of anyone stepping out to this extreme in taking God at His word.

Bill Lee explained, "R. G. LeTourneau is the first man I've ever known who understands that when God pours out a blessing where there's not room enough to contain it, it doesn't mean He pours money out of heaven."

Bill Lee said, "Mr. LeTourneau began to tithe very early after he became a Christian, even though at first the uncontainable blessing was not being poured out upon him. He did it because God's Word said to do it, and he was being obedient to God's Word. He was trusting God and taking Him at His word no matter what anyone said or thought. Mr.

LeTourneau's trust was completely in God and His Word.

"Although his finances had not changed, Mr. LeTourneau noticed that right after he began to tithe, suddenly new ideas, concepts, and insights began to pour into his mind about building big earthmoving machines.

"The more faithful he was in tithing, the more the ideas came. One day they came so fast that he stopped everything he was doing and said, 'Lord, these ideas are coming from You, not men.'"

I asked Bill Lee how Mr. LeTourneau knew the ideas were being poured into him through his tithing. He said, "Oh, he could easily tell that. If he stopped tithing, the ideas became blurred or stopped coming altogether. As he began to tithe again, the ideas would begin to come again.

"That's when God spoke in his spirit that tithing opens a person up to receive the greatest ideas God can give."

"What did he do?" I asked.

"He called industrial architects and had them draw the plans for massive earth-moving equipment. Being somewhat of an engineer himself, he sat down with the architects and engineers and helped design these machines."

God gave Mr. LeTourneau ideas in areas that completely baffled everyone else.

Without his ideas, these machines might never have been possible. Today the LeTourneau earthmovers, now manufactured by the Caterpillar Company, are used all over the country as proof that God's ideas are more than just good ideas. They are divinely inspired.

ONE IDEA FROM GOD CAN CHANGE YOUR WHOLE EXISTENCE

When I heard Mr. LeTourneau's story, I believed it and I wanted to meet him. At

the time I met him, he was an older man. He took an interest in me and verified what Bill Lee had shared with me. I yearned to learn to tithe as a seed I sowed. Mr. LeTourneau helped put me on the right road in obeying God to tithe.

And I began to expect to receive ideas, concepts, and insights to help me fulfill the dream I had of taking God's healing power to my generation.

Evelyn and I came into *agreement* that we would tithe consistently, thankfully, and joyfully, and we would expect God to open the windows of heaven and pour out ideas on us like He had on R. G. LeTourneau.

Oral Roberts University, with its more than seventeen thousand graduates, became one of the great ideas God poured into our lives.

Everything we've built and done for the Lord has happened through our obedience and agreement to tithe by sowing our seed—getting into giving and receiving. We have done our best to listen for His ideas, concepts, and insights **and carry them out by our faith!** We do this to this very day.

If you are faithful to His Word, I believe God will pour out ideas, concepts, and insights

◆ In your job

◆ In your business

◆ In your family

◆ In your big problems

◆ In your little problems

◆ In your middle-sized problems

◆ In every area of your life

One idea from heaven can change your whole financial flow. *One idea from heaven can change your whole existence!*

Why not put your faith to work and see what God can do! Begin to take God at

His Word. Begin right now to confess with your mouth: **"MY GIVING IS CAUSING THE WINDOWS OF HEAVEN TO OPEN, AND GOD IS POURING OUT IDEAS, CONCEPTS, AND INSIGHTS INTO MY MIND GREATER THAN I CAN CONTAIN. HE IS IN CHARGE OF BRINGING IN THE MIRACLES THAT CAN HAPPEN IN MY LIFE! AND THESE I WILL RECEIVE!"**

Now I have an exciting testimony to share with you from one of our Seed-Faith Partners who got into sowing his firstfruits to God when he heard my son Richard share about Seed-Faith on his nightly live TV healing program, *Something Good Tonight—THE HOUR OF HEALING!*



Corporate Tithing Opens Door To Unexpected Contract!

Richard, I was so touched when you gave your testimony on TV about what it was like when you became President of Alan with his family Oral Roberts University and took on a multimillion-dollar debt.

What really spoke to my heart was your discovery that the ministry had inadvertently stopped its corporate tithing. But when you started the ministry's corporate tithing again, God miraculously removed half the debt.

I had never thought about my company tithing, but I sensed that God wanted to take my business into a new dimension of faith. Shortly after planting my firstfruit check toward ORU's debt, I received a contract with a profit margin greater than anything I had ever seen in my company's history! I believe this is just the beginning of the fulfillment of the vision God has given me for my business!

Alan from California



PART II

SOWING SEEDS OF FAITH

When I plant my seed to God, it becomes a driving force for me to carry out my calling, realize my destiny, and reach the God-inspired goals that I've set before me. Seed sown to God can bring miraculous results. I'm a living testimony to the miracle of seedtime and harvest, of sowing and reaping, of giving and receiving.

—Oral Roberts

CHAPTER 1

SOW A SEED TO GOD

When God created Adam and Eve and placed them in the Garden of Eden, He blessed them and commanded them, *Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth* (Genesis 1:28). The same blessing was repeated when Noah came forth from the ark. God told him, *Bring forth abundantly in the earth, and multiply therein* (Genesis 9:7).

Then God gave Noah the key to His abundance and multiplication when He tied man's life to the seed principle. He said, "While the earth remains there will be seedtime and harvest" (see Genesis 8:22).

The seed principle touches every area of your life.

◆ It is the core of God's system.

◆ It ties you to the Lord.

◆ It links you with the Source of life—God Himself!

In the parable of the sower, Jesus gives us five ways that people can plant their seed to God (see Mark 4:2-8). See if any category sounds familiar. As a general rule, Evelyn and I always check to see if our seed is current. We continuously check ourselves to make sure God's plan is always fully in effect in living our lives for the Lord.

THE FIVE WAYS

1. ***You don't plant your seed at all. You keep your seed.*** When Noah came forth from the ark after the Flood, the earth was completely stripped. Yet God told him that there would always be seedtime and harvest in the earth. It looked hopeless. ***But God said,***

"Noah, you can plant a seed."

Friend, however hopeless things may look for you right now, God gave us a formula of how to plant our seed for a harvest. **One thing is certain—if you keep your seed and don't plant it, there will be no harvest!** God has taught me that a neglected or rejected opportunity to sow my seed is a lost opportunity to receive.

2. ***You can plant by the "wayside."*** The Lord said that the birds come and eat this kind of seed, meaning the devil comes and steals it away.

God is saying that you must have purpose in your seed-planting. You must choose your soil wisely. You must sow your seed where God's work is really being done. That's where the good soil is.

3. ***You can plant on "stony ground."*** In other words, you can plant your seed where the soil is shallow. It will come up, but it won't last. The Lord said that when the sun gets hot, it burns up this kind of seed. If you plant where it's too easy, you won't have much of a harvest.

4. ***You can plant your seed "among the thorns"*** or weeds. As the seed begins to grow, thorns will grow up and choke the life out of it.

That means if you're planting for the wrong reasons—to be well thought of or to be rich and powerful for yourself only—it will destroy your seed.

5. ***You can plant in "GOOD SOIL."*** Know where your seed is going. When you plant into the work of the Lord, believe God that it will be used for the salvation of souls and the healing of broken lives so the kingdom of God will increase. **Then it can produce a plentiful harvest—30-, 60-, or 100-fold** (see Matthew 13:8)!

'I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO GIVE!'

Some people think they don't have anything to give to the Lord. **But everybody**

has something they can give.

I once told a man who was facing bankruptcy that if he would give out of his need and aim his seed toward his need. I felt God would deliver him from his financial strain.

"But, Mr. Roberts, I don't have anything to give!" he exclaimed.

"Everybody has something to give," I said.

"Think about it. Seed must be sown. If all you sow are your good intentions, how can God multiply them into a harvest that you can reap?"

As he thought about it, he discovered there was something of value that he could give to God. ***And when he gave it, a miraculous change took place in his business and in his spiritual life as well!***

If you're wondering what kind of seed you should give, let me ask you a question: What is your need?

Give what you need to receive.

Remember, Luke 6:38 says, "Give, and IT shall be given." That means what you give—good or bad, unfortunately—will be measured back to you. Whatever you give, make it something you feel in the depths of your being, something that represents the real you.

A seed of faith is anything that you give out of your heart.

Each of us has his or her own God-given gifts that we can give (see Romans 12:6). We have:

◆ Ideas.

◆ Imagination, which leads to concepts.

◆ The insight to recognize worth in others.

◆ Appreciation, kindness, and interest.

◆ Understanding and encouragement.

Remember, Jesus emphasized the value of giving the little things:

◆ A grain of corn

◆ A cup of cold water

◆ One talent

◆ The lost coin

◆ A kindness done "to the least of these"

◆ Five loaves and two fishes

If you emphasize the size of the seed, you're forgetting God's ways. How tiny are some of the seeds that He planted—like a little Babe in a manger— *but how powerful and dynamic the results!* **Giving includes money, but it is far more than money.**

Every time you love, you plant a seed. Every time you give a word of encouragement, you plant a seed. Every time you pray for someone, you plant a seed. Every time you have a good thought toward someone, you plant a seed.

Have you heard this poem? I believe it sums up the Seed-Faith way of life.

A bell is not a bell till you ring it, A song is not a song till you sing it, Love in your heart is not put there to stay, Love is not love till you give it away.

Seed-Faith living means that you do what Jesus did:

✔ You love first.

✔ You give first.

✔ You forgive first.

✔ You apologize first.

✔ You pray for others first.

✔ . You smile first.

✔ You go the second mile first.

✔ You take the first step.

When you do these things, you initiate a new direction in your life. YOU SEED TO GOD, YOUR SOURCE, FOR A MIRACLE!

But there's more about SOWING YOUR SEEDS in chapter two, so let's read what the Bible has to say about good seeds and bad seeds.

CHAPTER 2

GOOD SEEDS VERSUS BAD SEEDS

Whatever you do in life is a seed—either a good seed or a bad seed. **Remember, Galatians 6:7 declares that whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap.**

In the book of Genesis there is the story of two men who planted their seeds to God. One planted a good seed and the other planted a bad seed. I'm talking about the story of Cain and Abel, the sons of Adam and Eve (see Genesis 4).

Cain was a farmer, while Abel raised livestock. The Bible says that Abel took his firstfruits, a firstling of his flock, and presented it to God as his best seed. The Lord accepted Abel's seed. It was his firstfruits, his best. It was "off the top." Before he touched anything for himself, he gave to God first so the remainder would be filled with the blessings of God. In other words, Abel gave God his best, then expected to receive God's best—which is the heart of Seed-Faith.

Cain also made a sacrifice to the Lord, but God rejected it. Why?

◆ He didn't give his firstfruits.

◆ He didn't give out of a thankful heart.

◆ He gave grudgingly.

◆ He gave "in the course of time"—when he got around to it—because it was not an important priority. ***In other words, He didn't do it God's way.***

As a result, God refused his sacrifice.

Cain had a bad attitude when he gave his sacrifice, and he had a bad attitude when God didn't accept his sacrifice. His bad seed reaped a bad harvest.

The Bible says that Cain became so jealous of Abel that he committed the first murder. He killed his own brother and wiped out half the human race at that time! God put a mark on him and said, "Wherever you go, you will be a fugitive and a vagabond, and you will dwell in the land of Nod," which means wandering. ***As a result of his bad seed, Cain became a wanderer for the rest of his life!***

A bad attitude is a seed that is sown, and it will come back in the form of a bad harvest. But every time you sow good thoughts toward others, it's a good seed, and it will come back to you in a good harvest.

EVEN PLANTING SEEDS OF FORGIVENESS CAN REAP A HARVEST!

When we have experienced horrible situations, is there anything we can do to release our feelings of bitterness? I believe the answer is yes. I've discovered we can begin to "let it go" by first planting a seed of forgiveness to release us from a "root of bitterness" (see Hebrews 12:15).

In the book of II Kings, chapter 5, there's the story of a young girl who planted a seed of forgiveness toward those who had hurt her.

The Bible says that Naaman, the commander in chief of the Syrian armies, had taken his forces and conquered Israel. He had captured a teenage girl and made her a servant for his wife.

Here is a human being who is forced into a position as a slave. She has no legal rights, nothing of her own. In the midst of all the bad things that have been done to her, she plants a seed of forgiveness by **sharing her knowledge of God with the man who has captured her.**

You see, Naaman had leprosy, and the young girl told her mistress, "I wish my master would go see the prophet who is in Samaria for he would heal him of his leprosy" (see v. 3).

That girl had a secret she was willing to share. ***By planting a seed of forgiveness, she overcame the wrong that had been done to her!***

To be constantly in line with God's Word, we must constantly plant seeds of forgiveness. When we walk in forgiveness, God is able to bless our lives. (See Mark 11:25,26.)

An unforgiving attitude is in resistance to God's presence. It can bring sickness or block us from receiving God's healing touch. Jesus tells us to pray for the person who has wronged us (see Matthew 5:44). ***Our prayer is a seed of love and obedience that God can multiply back to us over and over again!***

When you forgive someone, you're doing what Jesus did as He hung on the Cross (see Luke 23:34). **When you forgive someone, you release the negative and can begin a move toward the positive flow of God's power!**

Being obedient to God's Word is:

◆ Trusting God as your Source.

◆ Planting seeds of faith in good soil with a cheerful heart.

◆ Expecting miracles and reaching out with your faith to receive them—not letting them pass you by.

Being disobedient to God's Word is:

◆ Doubting, having a heart of unbelief.

◆ Planting seeds with a bad attitude, which robs you of a harvest.

◆ Expecting bad things to happen and then seeing them happen.

When you do these things in disobedience, you're actually planting bad seed, ***and you're robbing yourself of the miracle harvest you need and which you must constantly be receiving to have a full life in God!***

GOD SAID WE CAN BE A CHEERFUL GIVER!

People often say to me, "Oral, I don't feel joyful when I give," and I tell them,

"Then don't give, because God wants you to do it cheerfully!"

Second Corinthians 9:7 declares: "God loves a cheerful giver!" ***It's so important for you to give in joy, because you want to experience God's love. You want to obey His Word.*** And when you know that what you sow is a seed God can multiply into a great harvest as His Word promises, being a cheerful giver will grow on you.

Seed does not have personality—the sower does. When you understand God's Word and really see that God is asking you to sow in order that He can multiply it back into a harvest of even greater magnitude than the seed itself, then it's easy to become cheerful.

The work or labor it takes to plant seed—and cultivate it—keeps you looking up, being in expectancy for the harvest in God's "due season" (see Galatians 6:9).

When you know why God asks for the seed, it makes sense both spiritually and materially.

God does not want your seed to diminish you; He wants your seed so He can multiply it back to you into a bountiful overflowing harvest.

Then you can see how easy and natural it is to be cheerful. When we see the love and concern God has for His people and how He wants to greatly bless them, the cheerful part naturally follows.

There have been times in my life when I've given, and I know God didn't bless me for it because I wasn't a cheerful giver. I was doing it because I felt guilty. That's not scriptural.

But when you give as worship unto the Lord, your heart can easily be filled with joy. A pure heart and a pure motive with your seed is fertile ground for God to grow into a miracle harvest.

Our giving has to be motivated by love, for God is love and God is pure. When we do it His way, it becomes obedience, and obedience is the key to God's harvest.

The spirit in which you give is a vital part of your giving! ***The right attitude of your giving can cause something miraculous to happen to you in your***

receiving!

Why do I say, "Something GOOD is going to happen to you!" even when things may look bleak and dark?

◆ Because God loves you!

◆ Because there are so many good things that He wants to give you!

◆ Because if you look to Him as your Source and plant good seeds out of a cheerful heart, you can expect Him to bring miracle harvests into your life! Again and again and again!

◆ Because the "good stuff"of God will overcome the "bad stuff' of the devil!

Now I'm about to show you one of the most profound things God has ever shown me about Seed-Faith! So let's read on.

CHAPTER 3

AIM YOUR SEED AGAINST THE NEED

I feel it is very important to share with you that every time Evelyn and I have a need, we not only plant our seed, but we hold it in our hands, then we aim that seed against the need facing us. Now what do we do when we aim our seed against the need? Evelyn and I begin to:

1. **Identify the purpose of the seed-sowing. Why are we sowing our seed?**

2. **Ask God about the thing we're believing for. Is it according to His Word?**

3. **Say it out loud. Speaking our word of faith is so important!**

4. **Aim our faith, applying the Word of God directly to our situation—identifying the need and aiming our faith directly toward it.**

5. **Aim our seed so that our faith will cover what we're believing for—envisioning our faith fulfilling this need.**

6. **Look to God as our Source and not to men.**

When Evelyn and I sow our seed to the Lord, we declare, "God, we're aiming this seed at this mountain of need and telling it to BE REMOVED!" We're specific about this. (See Mark 11:23,24 and Matthew 17:20.) Then we begin to thank God for His provision according to His Word and start to expect our

"due season" so we'll be ready to receive our miracle harvest when it comes. We want to be ready to recognize it so we'll not let it pass us by, but we'll reach out and receive it!

We look to God for our desired result. We focus on the Lord because He is the Source of the harvest.

Aiming your seed at a specific need can help you release your faith for that need to be met by God, your Source. I *truly believe that when sowing your seed and aiming it against the need becomes a way of life for you, IT CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE! IT HAS CHANGED OURS!*

When you aim your seed toward God for a desired result, your "EXPECTOR" goes into action! It causes you to start believing that:

◆ The result is in sight!

◆ The miracle has fertile soil to grow in!

◆ The harvest is on the way!

But what do you do in the growing time?

So many times we pray and pray, and it seems as if nothing is happening. After a while it's easy to get weary and perhaps feel frustrated. **But I believe God has a way for us to deal with those frustrations. *By aiming our seeds against the needs!***

Let me explain what I mean here. Suppose a farmer plants his seed without aiming it for a desired result. He just tosses it out into the field and then goes about his business without any further thought that his planting will lead to a harvest. No watering, no weeding, no care in the wind, and never going out to gather the harvest!

If he thinks no more about it, what will happen?

◆ Harvesttime will still come.

◆ The crop will still be in the fields.

◆ **But it will be wasted—both seed and harvest wasted.**

◆ He still has his needs, not his harvest.

How many wasted harvests do you and I have when we don't sow our seeds and aim our seeds for a desired result from our heavenly Father?

WHERE IS OUR SCRIPTURE FOR AIMING OUR SEED? GOD AIMED HIS SEED FOR A DESIRED RESULT

John 3:16 is probably the most important Seed-Faith Scripture in the entire Bible, **and it is the basis for aiming your seed for a desired result.** It says, *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

Here we see a beautiful picture of Seed-Faith as God designed it to operate. You see, the Lord Himself gave for a purpose, a desired result. **God aimed His Seed at His need.**

Yes, God had a need. He needed to regain His lost creation. When Adam and Eve rebelled against Him, He lost His precious creation—His family of man—and He felt a deep need to get them back (see Genesis 3).

There are three things I want you to remember about John 3:16:

1. God SO loved the world that He gave.

He loved so much that His love became a gift.

God's love was so strong that it caused Him to act. **We** can sit around and do nothing for a long time, until we become so serious about something that it inspires us to take definite action. God's love was so strong that it caused Him to take the action of giving!

2. God gave His best seed. *He gave off the top of all He had.* He didn't send one million of His angels or something that He could easily spare or replace. He

gave His very best Seed. His only begotten Son, Jesus. ***And youand I should always give our very best seed to the Lord!***

What on earth could be more important to use your tithe for and to keep from God what He already declared was His? The tithe is the Lord's and it is holy (see Leviticus 27:30).

Malachi 3:8 talks about man robbing God.

"How can a man rob God?" it asks. In tithes and offerings. God said, "You have robbed Me, even this whole nation." What could be so important that man uses God's tithe for himself and in doing so robs God? But people do it all day long and wonder why God does not bless their finances and prosper them. Very simple.

They don't give God what He specifically says is His.

3. When God gave, He aimed that best Seed in all creation for a desired result. And giving His only begotten Son was for a reason:

that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish hut have everlasting life. He aimed the seed of His Son's death at His great need that human beings would have everlasting life and that He would have a family. **And it worked!**

The harvest began immediately after man's Fall, and it was through seedtime and harvest. Then God sent His most precious seed: Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus' death and resurrection sealed it forever. Thank God, it still continues today!

AIMING YOUR SEED MAKES YOUR GIVING MORE SPECIFIC, MORE DIRECT

When I first began to aim my seed for a desired result, it changed my entire outlook on life.

◆ It gave me a powerful reason for giving of my best to the Lord.

◆ It gave me an expectancy to receive God's best back.

◆ It caused me to become so totally involved in Seed-Faith that I can hardly wait to give as God directs. I am excited about being obedient to God's Word and

God's ways!

Evelyn and I first hold our seed-gift in our hands, pray over it, say out loud the need we're aiming it at, and then sow it.

When I give and aim my seed at mv need, my giving becomes more directed. ***AND AS GOD'S WORD PROMISES, IT*** **ALWAYS** ***HAS A HARVEST ON THE OTHER END OF IT TO RECEIVE BACK IN GOD'S DUE SEASON!***

Now I want you to read an exciting testimony from a Seed-Faith Partner who received a great miracle when he aimed his seed at his need and believed for a miracle harvest!



Couple Comes out of Dire Circumstances!

Oral, my faith was built through partnership with you. When I began seeding into your ministry, I was taping coins to the letters I wrote you. Those coins Virginia with husband, were all the seed I had.

Simply put, my husband Henry and I were in dire straits.

Henry is a Vietnam War veteran who was exposed to Agent Orange. Due to his benefit claims being denied and his being unemployed for three years, we lost nearly everything. We had to put our home up for sale, but nothing was happening.

During this time I planted every penny I could get my hands on, and I always asked you for a prayer of agreement.

Soon one miracle after another began to take place! First, we were able to move into my husband's deceased mother's home where we had fewer expenses. Then we signed papers for the sale of our former home. Next, my husband's claim for benefits was approved, and the award was backdated three years! Then he found a job.

Our income has tripled, and God continues to do miraculous things for us!

We live with great expectancy every day, wondering what God is going to do next!

Virginia from Louisiana

CHAPTER 4

HOW YOUR FAITH BECOMES A SEED YOU SOW

I'm going to say something here that may come as a surprise to you, but I believe it's important for you to realize that giving by itself is not enough. ***YOU'VE GOT TO ATTACH YOUR FAITH TO IT.*** **Your faith gives God something to work with.**

Every time Evelyn and I give something to the Lord, we give it as a seed in order to get our faith to work. ***If your faith is working, then God can make that miracle come to pass in your life!***

When we plant a seed of our faith, somehow we get moved on the inside. And when we get moved on the inside, I believe IT MOVES GOD.

If you want to receive a harvest on the seeds you sow, I believe you're going to have to step across the dividing line from unbelief into belief. The Bible gives the account of a father in Mark, chapter 9, who stepped over that dividing line, *and his little boy was healed!*

This story begins as Jesus is on the Mount of Transfiguration with three of His disciples—Peter, James, and John. Suddenly the Lord was transfigured before them, and Elijah and Moses appeared and talked to Him about His coming Crucifixion.

While that great scene was taking place, a desperate father brought his son to the other nine disciples and asked them to heal him. The boy's condition was devastating and far beyond what any natural man could handle.

His condition was obviously caused by an evil spirit.

Sometimes the demon spirit would throw him into the fire or into the water. His father's last hope was to have the Lord's disciples pray for him. **But when they prayed, nothing happened.**

Suddenly the father looked up and saw Jesus coming toward him. He cried out, ***"Lord, if You can do anything for us, have compassion on us, and help us!"***

Jesus answered, "Sir, it's not a question of whether or not I can do anything. The question is, CAN YOU BELIEVE?"

"Lord, I believe!" the father exclaimed.

"Help my unbelief!" The Lord then rebuked the demon and cast it out of the man's son!

How defeated the disciples must have felt when they couldn't help the boy. Later they pulled the Lord aside and asked Him, "Why couldn't we cast out that demon?"

Jesus told them, *Because of your unbelief.*

Then He explained, *For verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed* [which was the smallest seed known in Israel at that time], *ye shall*

say unto this mountain, Remove hence unto yonder place [or, "Get out of my life!"]; *and nothing shall be impossible unto you* (Matthew 17:20).

In that day, one of the biggest trees in the Holy Land was the mustard tree. But the seed from which they came was the smallest seed known to man at the time.

Jesus was saying that even if your faith seems to he as small as a mustard seed, you can plant it as a seed sown by your faith that speaks to your mountain (referring to a mountain of need) and say, "BE REMOVED!" and it will obey you.

Friend, I want you to get this down into your spirit. **Jesus was talking about a wav for your believing to become Seed-Faith.**

No matter how small your faith seems to be, it can be planted to God as a seed for Him to multiply back to you and meet needs and problems that appear to be as impossible to overcome as mountains!

YOU CAN ENTER INTO THE REALM OF "ALL THINGS POSSIBLE" WHEN YOU PLANT YOUR SEEDS OF FAITH!

In Matthew 17:20 the Lord was referring to the need of the little boy He had just healed as being like a mountain, but a mountain can be any type of need. It can be anything bad in your life. **The mountain can represent any impossibility.**

Jesus was saying that if we make our faith a seed—

◆ Something that we do,

◆ Something that we plant. . . beyond just planting . . .

◆ Something that we sow in faith, on purpose, aimed for a desired result—***it can grow and become a mighty force against our needs!***

Now some people believe that all you have to do is speak to the mountain and it will remove. But let's look at Mark 11:22-26

regarding speaking to the mountain: *And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in*

his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

First, it says to have faith in God. Then it says to speak to the mountain, and it also says to forgive. I personally believe it all begins with a seed. As the Word teaches, no harvest can begin without a seed being planted.

Whether it's a seed of our faith, our attitude, our compassion, or our finances, we must start somewhere and give God something to work with.

I believe I have to plant my seed first. Then I have a right to speak to my mountain and tell it to leave me.

But what if it doesn't leave at that precise moment? "Be not weary in your well doing: for you shall reap in due season, if you faint not" (see Galatians 6:9). Growing seeds is not instantaneous. There is a process. *But eventually— or in God's due season— the Word of God can prevail!*

Notice the order in which you use your Seed-Faith:

1. You plant your seed out of a believing heart.

2. You speak to your mountain of need and tell it to BE REMOVED. You "say the word" for it to move.

3. You fully believe for the mountain to obey your word of faith, **and according to God's Word, it is required to obey!**

And what are the results? When you do exactly what God's Word says and believe, in faith, Jesus concludes, *Nothing shall be impossible unto you.* ***When you plant your seeds of faith, you can enter into the realm of "all things possible"!***

GIVING TO GOD IN FAITH CAN PUT YOU ON THE RIGHT ROAD

TO MIRACLES!

Two of my dearest friends and Partners found the Lord through my ministry. But before that they were having a very rough time of it.

◆ To them a dollar was a big seed.

◆ Ten dollars was an awful big seed.

◆ A hundred dollars was a huge seed.

◆ Anything beyond that was unimaginable.

They couldn't imagine that they would ever have a hundred dollars to give to God!

When they learned the Seed-Faith principles through my teachings, they began to plant their seeds **and it became faith to them.** They built a tool and dye business that became very prosperous, but then something unexpected happened.

In 1993 the Mississippi River flooded, and it was one of the worst floods in the history of the United States.

◆ The flood washed away their business.

◆ It washed away their home.

◆ It washed away their furniture.

◆ It washed away their car.

◆ It washed away everything they had.

This couple had been living in God's abundance according to John 10:10, and suddenly they were facing the biggest need they had ever faced in their lives. They had lost everything. **Over a period of time, they stopped writing to me because they were so down in their spirits.**

Several months passed and one day the Lord brought their names to my mind. The next day He brought them to my mind again.

For a month all I could think about was that couple. Finally I picked up the telephone and called them.

"I haven't heard from you, and I'm concerned for you," I said to them.

"Brother Oral, your feeling is right on target," the husband replied. Then he told me about what had happened to them. He said,

"We have nothing left, and we were embarrassed to write to you. We had no way to support your ministry."

"But you didn't even write me to pray!" I exclaimed.

"We're just so down!" he confided. "It seems like we've forgotten everything we ever knew about God and Seed-Faith, and we're hurting."

"Could you get a seed together?" I asked.

"How about one dollar? No matter what that seems like to you, it's a start. You must start somewhere."

"Well, I don't know," he answered hesitantly.

"Remember how I taught you?" I questioned him. "When you sow your seed, **sow your faith.** You must give God something to work with. Zero multiplied by anything is still zero." Then I told them—**"It's no longer a matter of money; it's a matter of Seed-Faith. It's obedience to God's Word no matter what the circumstances say."**

A few days later I received a letter from that couple, and a $100 check was enclosed. *I tell you, that check felt sacred!* It wasn't the money. It was going beyond money, going beyond circumstances, and going straight into obedience with God's Word. They were "proving" God according to Malachi 3:10,11, and I knew it. This was their Seed-Faith on the line. I knew it, and they knew it too.

I immediately wrote them back an encouraging letter and reminded them of what their seed would do if they would keep focusing on God, their Source—not according to my words but according to God's Word and according to their faith.

Up until that moment they had been focusing on the flood.

◆ All they could talk about was the flood.

◆ It was the biggest thing that had ever happened to them.

◆ It seemed bigger to them than God.

Then our conversation brought them back to the truth that nothing is as big as God.

Soon I heard from them again, and they sent a second $100. They said, "Things haven't changed, but we feel a little faith coming back."

Can you imagine their doing this not once but twice when it appeared as though nothing had changed?

Then I received a third $100 and a letter from the wife, saying, "Oral, my husband has just said to me that he'd rather have you pray for him than anyone. But I want to tell you what the REAL problem is. We were into Seed-Faith until we started REALLY prospering and the money began coming abundantly.

"Then we began to give out of our abundance—instead of out of our need—and we forgot about money, our seed, being Seed-Faith.

"Now we're back into thinking about our faith when we give something to God." ***When I read those words I wanted to shout!***

"We're on the right road again," she continued. "You won't have to worry about us because we got a phone call today from the bank that was going to call in our loan. If they had, it would have been ten years before we could ever have paid it back! But the banker said, 'We're not going to call in the loan.'

"Since then things have started to change.

We're coming back, ***and through Seed-Faith, God, our Source, is going to put us back on top!"***

The good news is that they are back on top and are blessed . . . blessed . . . blessed!

Friend, Seed-Faith causes me to be miracle-conscious day and night. It's a

reminder that God sees my need and my seed sown in faith! And He is the one who brings in the harvest. God is the one responsible for the harvest. We are responsible for the seed, and God is responsible for the harvest. If we do our part, God will do His. But one will not happen without the other.

But what else does the Bible have to say about how God feels about our needs? Let's find out as we read the next chapter.

CHAPTER 5

HOW GOD FEELS ABOUT YOUR NEEDS

Once we get to heaven, all of our needs will be met eternally. But God wants to fully meet all of our needs during our journey to heaven **in the NOW of our lives!** Philippians 4:19

declares, *My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.* This Scripture indicates that God thinks about ALL of our needs.

God knows that sometimes the supplying of our needs can mean the difference between life and death. Or it can mean the difference between survival and disaster, between breakdown and breakthrough.

It can mean the difference between overcoming and failure, and the answer has to come from God.

Oh, we can believe for some of our needs to be met, but so often when one need is met, **we turn around and another one arises in its place.** That's why God said that He would meet ALL of our needs— *because He knew there would be so many of them!*

Of course, we may not be able to keep away all the bad things, but we can do something about them. I ***believe if we'll get into giving and receiving, something remarkable can happen concerning our needs being met!***

This is what I told a woman about forty years old who mentioned to my family and me several serious needs she had. She ended by raising her head, looking at me, and saying, "And I need to know God loves me. I'm spiritually dead."

I prayed with her with all of my faith. Then I said, "Have you thought about sowing a seed of faith, aimed at all these needs, even if it's a small seed to start with?"

A tiny smile came on her face. "I've heard you say that before," she said. "I guess I hadn't really understood it until this very moment." I shook her hand and wished her God's best.

NEEDS ARE NOTHING NEW IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

It seems needs have not always been this big a problem with God's people. But there is no one who doesn't have needs, some which are very serious. In Matthew 17:24-27, the Bible describes how Jesus' disciples ran out of money at one point during their ministry.

It was tax time and they needed to pay their taxes, but they didn't have the funds. Anyone in this position knows how serious that can be.

So Jesus told Peter to do something about the problem, which sounded ridiculous in the natural. He said:

◆ "Go to the sea.

◆ "Take a fish hook.

◆ "Tie it to a line.

◆ "Throw it into the sea.

◆ "Reel in the first fish you catch.

◆ "You'll find a piece of money in its mouth.

◆ "Take it and pay our taxes."

Yeah! Sure! There was no way Peter could fathom how that could possibly happen, **but he acted on the words of Jesus.** He threw the hook into the water, and the first fish he caught had quite a large coin in its mouth!

Peter delivered the money to the tax collectors and paid their taxes! In my

opinion, this could only be described as a miracle.

This story thrills my heart because it says to me:

◆ God has not fallen off the throne.

◆ We don't have to prop Him up or work some deal or gimmick.

◆ We simply have to honor His Word and obey what it says.

◆ God is in charge!

◆ He controls everything we need in heaven and earth.

◆ And He wants us to get into Seed-Faith!

God promised to supply ALL of our needs according to His supernatural power of supply to God's people in Philippi who had gotten into "giving and receiving" (see Philippians 4:15-19).

Actually, He said "according to His riches in glory." Notice it was not according to our standards, our circumstances, or our way of thinking. God said it was according to His standards, His way of thinking: sowing and reaping, which is giving and RECEIVING—and receiving according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

ONLY GOD MUST BE GOD TO US WHEN WE HAVE A NEED!

The Bible offers hope of seed-sowing and reaping to hurting people—to people who are in need. It says that God can *multiply your seed sown* (II Corinthians 9:10). **And He doesn't have to take your whole lifetime to multiply the seed you sow to Him out of your need, looking to Him as your Source, and expecting your miracle harvest!**

And speaking of giving out of our need, I'm sure the widow in Mark 12:41-44 believed that God could meet her need, because she gave a pitiful little amount of money—really her last two pennies—out of the terrible need she faced.

The Bible says that Jesus stood at the temple treasury watching the people give their offerings. Many rich people gave out of their abundance, perhaps with no

thought of it as seed or as worship. It was simply money to them—something they had a lot of and perhaps wouldn't miss or even think twice about. It was just something in excess that they could spare. Then a poor widow gave a widow's mite out of her need. *Jesus declared,*

"She's given more than all of these rich people put together!"

OBVIOUSLY THAT WAS A MATHEMATICAL IMPOSSIBILITY. The rich people had given what was equal to large amounts of money, but this woman had given only a few pennies. How could Jesus say that she had outgiven them all?

Because God computes by the Seed-Faith scale!

Jesus explained to His disciples that the well-to-do had cast into the treasury out of their abundance, **but the widow had cast in out of her need.**

What does a widow need? One time I asked a widow about her needs, and she told me, "To be absolutely honest with you, I want a good husband. I want enough money to take care of my children—to clothe them, feed them, and educate them. And I want a better place to live. I don't want to feel so alone anymore!"

Then I understood the want, the need, of the widow in Mark 12. I'm sure she, too, dreamed of having a good husband, and of having a home, money, and security for her family.

Now I want to make it clear that Jesus did not condemn the rich for giving of their surplus because this, too, can be a blessing, especially if they know to sow it as a seed out of needs they have. Yes, even people with money have needs that only God can meet through seedtime and harvest. But He praised this widow, who shows us that even when we don't have much to give, we should still give our very best seed to God **and give it with sacrificial faith!**

God wants us to give out of our want, our need!

GIVING OUT OF YOUR NEED BRINGS MIRACULOUS RESULTS

One time a young student of Oral Roberts University asked me to pray for her mother who was very ill. As soon as we began to pray, I told her, "God has revealed to me that just praying this prayer isn't going to get your mother healed.

You see, prayer doesn't heal.

Only God can heal. Prayer can't heal any more than a farmer can grow a crop. He can plant it, but he can't grow it. ***Only God can grow it."***

Now that was pretty heavy for an eighteen-year-old to hear right in the middle of praying for her mother's healing. But I continued, "I sense in my spirit that you don't know what this is all about."

"My mother is sick," she insisted. "Please pray!"

"I know how you feel," I sympathized. "My mother was sick when she was alive. It hurt me to see her sick, and I prayed for her. I'm telling you this because I want your mother to be healed. **You've got to plant some seed for your need."**

She looked at me with a blank stare and asked, "Plant what?"

"You mean that you've been at ORU all this time and you don't know what Seed-Faith is?"

I asked incredulously.

"Oh, I've heard you talk about it," she replied.

"Well, if we're going to get this need met, you've got to plant your seed. ***Then we can speak to this disease and command it to leave your mother's body according to Matthew 17:20."***

"But I don't have any money to plant a seed," she stammered.

I told her, **"James 5:16 says to pray one for another that you may be healed.** Notice that it doesn't say to pray one for another that only they may be healed but that you may be healed also. Your mother needs healing, so pray a Seed-Faith prayer for me."

"Are you sick?" she asked in surprise.

"I'm not sick in the sense that you're talking about, but I've never met anybody who wasn't sick in some way, *because sickness is any type of disharmony.* From that standpoint, yes; I have sickness in my life. So please pray for me."

"But what good will that do for my mother?" she inquired.

"If you'll pray a Seed-Faith prayer for me, the healing can be multiplied back to your mother. Then the next time you have a little money and you have a chance to give, **do it and expect a miracle harvest!** *Now let's get into a spirit of Seed-Faith, and we'll pray together for your mother's healing!"*

When she grasped the concept of what I was telling her, she prayed a prayer for me.

Then we prayed together for her mother, and she agreed that from that moment on, every time she gave, no matter what it was, she was going to expect a harvest from God. ***Praise God, it wasn't long until we got a good report that her mother was healed!***

WHAT IS YOUR NEED?

Friend, what is the want in your life? What is the need that reaches deep into your spirit?

You have a God who is the Supplier of all of your needs! The Lord Jesus Christ has shown us that we can get our needs met, but there is something we must do. He taught us:

◆ To give because we have a need.

◆ To get our needs met, and then we will reap a harvest.

We've got to give God something to work with!

When you give, God opens up His miracle supply and gives back to you. **And if you will learn how to make whatever you do a seed of your faith, then you can focus, or aim, that act of giving for a desired result—TO**

MEET A NEED IN YOUR LIFE!

Now I want you to read a powerful testimony from a woman who gave her "widow's mite" in faith, and she received an ABUNDANT OVERFLOW from the Lord!



"Widow's Mite" Opens Door To Abundant Harvest!

Oral, you have helped me begin a lifestyle of sowing and reaping that has proven to be unbelievable! Whenever I receive anything from you—letters of encouragement, books, magazines, or tapes—it brings such a blessing to my family and me! I wanted to help you spread the Good News to the whole world, but in the natural, I could do nothing.

One day after you sent a blessing into my home, I thought, I can't take from this ministry and give back nothing. Lord, help me!

Suddenly I saw a penny. The Lord spoke to my heart, "Remember when I fed a multitude with five loaves of bread and two fish? Send the penny, and it will be blessed abundantly."

Then I dug down into the bottom of my purse and found another penny to add to it. I prayed over my two cents and mailed them to you, asking God to multiply my seed.

God honored my faith and has begun blessing my family and me in ways that I know are from His hand alone. We continue to sow seeds and are receiving the harvest—good measure, pressed down, shaken together, AND RUNNING OVER!

Lenore from Moorpark, California



PART III

GROWING SEEDS OF FAITH

In looking back over my life, now more than ever, I value every seed I've sown and every expectation I've had for a miracle harvest.

—Oral Roberts

CHAPTER 1

WHAT TO DO IN THE GROWING TIME OF YOUR SEED

Following one of my healing crusades in Portland, Oregon, I was driving along the beautiful Columbia River on my way to my next one in Spokane, Washington, and it was harvesttime. The trucks were rolling in from the farms and unloading their produce. The farmers were selling their crops, paying their bills, loading up with groceries and supplies, and going to the bank to pay off their loans.

You could tell they were in good spirits.

As I drove from town to town I saw this same scene repeated over and over again.

Then I heard the Lord say in my spirit, "Do you see what's happening here?"

"Yes, Lord, I see the harvest."

Then He explained to me that the farmer's harvest begins with the seed he planted several months ago, ***but his work doesn't stop when he gets the seed into the ground.*** He has to:

◆ Cultivate it.

◆ Work over it.

◆ Water it.

◆ Dig around it.

◆ Give it all-around attention to make it produce so he can go out and gather in the harvest HE IS EXPECTING.

When we've planted our seeds to God, we've ordered our harvest in advance, but we still have work to do!

Once you've planted your seed and ordered your miracle harvest, then it's time to cultivate it and turn your attention to "soil-tending."

How can you do that?

◆ By cultivating your relationship with Jesus Christ

◆ By looking to Him continually as your Source

◆ By putting Him first in everything you do

◆ By knowing His Word and confessing by faith that your needs are being met

◆ By living in a state of expectancy to receive because you are continually planting your seed to God, your Source That word *source* took on a whole new meaning to me there in the beautiful Pacific Northwest. I saw how those farmers had planted their seeds in advance and how they had cultivated the seeds and gathered in the harvest. ***But in between the seed-planting and the harvesting a divine process had been going on.*** **GOD HAD BEEN GROWING THE SEED!**

The important thing was that they had been willing to wait on the seed to come to full growth. They knew how to let the seed do what it was supposed to do. It had a natural growing time, and the farmers never lost faith.

Just because the harvest didn't come in an instant, they didn't lose faith in the seed they had sown.

FOUR THINGS YOU CAN DO IN THE GROWING TIME

#1. Have a regular time of serious Bible study, studying it with faith in God's Word.

The Bible is our handbook for living abundantly. It's our road map, not only to heaven, **but to Seed-Faith living as well!**

◆ Study and meditate on God's Word.

◆ Begin to memorize portions of the Bible.

◆ Put the Word of God to work in your everyday life.

◆ Believe absolutely that God's Word is true.

#2. Remember that the victory in your harvest comes through your faith.

Confess with your mouth: "God, I have given You my tithes and offerings as seeds of faith. You are growing my seed. You are changing my seedtime into harvesttime. You are rebuking the devourer for my sake."

With your mouth say words like these out loud. Let your own ears hear your faith confessions. I assure you this is a very important part of my seed-sowing and my expecting miracle harvests. I urge you to make it your practice too.

#3. Pray and keep on praying!

Jesus said, *"Men ought always to pray, and not to faint"* (Luke 18:1).

God is a talking God. Have a talking relationship with Him. Talk to Him out of your heart every day. Don't hold God in such awe that you don't talk to Him. It's through a talking fellowship with Him that you can gain the strength to stand and not faint—not give up—until the harvest comes!

The Bible says that in putting on the whole armor of God we're to pray *always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit* (Ephesians 6:18). If you've never released your "prayer language" in the Holy Spirit (praying in tongues), why don't you call the Abundant Life Prayer Group at 918-495-7777 and let one of our anointed prayer partners pray with you to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit which gives you your prayer language.

#4. Keep your life moving toward God.

I remember reading the story of a man who kept his life moving toward the Lord, and he reaped one miracle harvest after another. His name was George Mueller, an Englishman who lived in the last century. Mr. Mueller founded a great orphanage and school in Bristol, England, which he operated largely by faith.

The orphanage grew until it housed some two thousand children, and there were many times when they sat down to eat a meal and there was little or nothing to eat. However,

◆ ***Mr. Mueller kept his life moving toward God.***

◆ ***He kept doing what he knew to do.***

◆ ***He expected God to do the rest.***

Many times as they sat down before an empty table, all of a sudden trucks filled with food would unexpectedly drive up to the orphanage. Time and again God provided in a miraculous way for Mr. Mueller and the children.

One day Mr. Mueller received an invitation from some churches in the United States who wanted him to come and tell them about his orphanage so they could support his work. He felt God leading him to go, so he booked passage on a ship bound for America.

As they crossed the Atlantic Ocean, a terrible storm struck. All at once Mr. Mueller heard a loud knock on his door. It was the captain of the ship, who told him, "Brother Mueller, this ship is going down within twenty minutes! I want you to know that I'm so sorry your American friends won't get to meet you.

I'm so sorry about your school and your orphanage." Mr. Mueller firmly replied, "Captain, this ship is not going to sink! I'm going to America on God's orders. I'm going to receive their help. Then I'll return to England and take care of my school and my orphanage."

The captain asked, "Do you want me to pray with you?"

Mr. Mueller answered, "No! You believe this ship is going to sink in twenty minutes. I don't want your unbelief to hinder my faith!"

George Mueller decided not to allow the captain to hinder his faith. He had already called upon the Lord for a miracle. He refused to give up on his harvest. **And, praise God, the ship did not sink! The voyage was made! The great orphanage and school lived on!**

Why? Because George Mueller kept his life moving toward God. He kept doing

what he knew to do, and he expected God to do the rest! That meant he was staying the course.

And, friend, that's the way Seed-Faith works!

◆ ***You keep your life moving toward God!***

◆ ***You keep paying the price!***

◆ ***You keep expecting your miracle!***

◆ ***You refuse to allow anyone to hinder your faith!***

◆ ***You keep staying the course!***

◆ ***AND YOU REFUSE TO GIVE UP UNTIL YOU RECEIVE THE HARVEST!***

Now let me further share with you how God has taught me to **EXPECT A MIRACLE with wholehearted expectancy!**

CHAPTER 2

EXPECT A MIRACLE...WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?

Many years ago while I was conducting one of my tent crusades in Miami, Florida, someone made a serious threat upon my life.

The men who worked with me came to my room and warned me that perhaps I shouldn't go to the crusade that night because I might be killed.

All of a sudden I found myself lying on the bed, tossing and turning in apprehension. ***I let fear come in and grip my heart.***

While I was trying to pray and build up my courage to go to the crusade, the Lord audibly spoke these words to me: **"EXPECT A MIRACLE!"** I had never heard that phrase before. As I pondered the meaning of it, God said to me: **"EXPECT A NEW MIRACLE EVERY DAY!"**

Suddenly it hit me that God is in the NOW!

◆ He was with me that day.

◆ He would be with me that night.

◆ He would never leave me nor forsake me (see Hebrews 13:5).

I was to go before the audience, expecting a new miracle, ***and I did!*** I walked into the crusade that night with my head up high. I stepped up onto the platform, opened my Bible, and began to preach. **Soon I forgot all about the threat!**

Nobody shot at me, and many people were saved and healed. Out of that experience came one of the great slogans I've carried across America and seventy other nations: **EXPECT A MIRACLE, *and* EXPECT A NEW MIRACLE EVERY DAY!**

I believe the secret of life is in expecting miracles. If you want to live a lifestyle of sowing and reaping, it's important to begin expecting miracles!

EVERY SEED YOU SOW IS DESIGNED TO PRODUCE A HARVEST

I want you to think of a particular need you have right now. Do you need a miracle? If so, are you expecting one? **Remember, expecting is one of the three key principles of Seed-Faith:**

#1. God is your Source.

#2. Give that it may be given unto you.

#3. Expect a miracle.

I believe expectancy is the key to receiving a miracle harvest!

Some believers think that you're not supposed to expect anything back when you give. How foolish would a farmer be to plant a field of corn and then leave the ripe ears ungathered in the field?

It's just as foolish for us to sow a seed to God without expecting the Lord of the harvest to multiply our seed back to us (see II Corinthians 9:10)!

When Christians don't expect to receive anything back from the seeds they

sow, they're actually missing a portion of God's law. Read again where He declared in Genesis 8:22, *While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest . . . shall not cease.* Think about those three words from God's mouth: SHALL NOT CEASE!

In the New Testament He put it this way: *Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap* (Galatians 6:7). THAT SHALL HE ALSO REAP!

What do these Scriptures mean? **They mean that every seed you sow will produce a harvest.** God says that harvest follows seedtime.

◆ You may not be expecting it.

◆ You may not reach out and receive it with your faith.

But there will be a harvest. It's the eternal law of God. It's your opportunity—and responsibility—to receive a harvest as much as it is to sow a seed.

DON'T LET YOUR MIRACLE PASS YOU BY!

Consider this: If God multiplies your seed into a glorious harvest and the harvest is right in front of you, but you didn't expect God to send it because you were taught not to expect back from God, WHO ARE YOU GOING TO

GIVE CREDIT TO? Who will you thank for the harvest? Will you overlook the One who sent the harvest because people taught you not to expect from God? Or will bad information or bad teaching cause you to miss your miracle altogether?

I believe miracles are coming toward you or past you every moment! If you recognize your miracle, you'll reach out and take hold of it. But if you're not expecting a miracle, then you won't recognize it when it comes! *Your miracle could pass you by!*

When you plant your seeds and expect a harvest, it's time to:

◆ Rejoice!

◆ Believe that God is healing you—supplying you—prospering you!

◆ Believe that He is meeting all of your needs according to His riches in glory by

Christ Jesus!

◆ Believe that He is beginning to do it NOW—today!

Begin to look for miracles to happen and thank God for each one, large or small. ***When your heart is expectant, you can recognize***

and receive God's miracles every day! When God said to me, "Expect a new miracle every day," it meant daily miracles.

I remember hearing a lady say, "Life is so daily!"

I replied, "Miracles are daily too."

YOUR TITHING IS NOT A DEBT YOU OWE, BUT A SEED YOU SOW

Many Christians give only out of a sense of duty, as if they "owe" God something. **As a result, they never expect a miracle.** But, really, there's NO WAY you and I could ever pay the debt we owe for having our sins forgiven. God sent the only One who could pay our sin debt—His Son, Jesus Christ! It reminds me of the old hymn which I love, "Jesus Paid It All."

God gave Jesus as the Seed (of the family) of David, and He paid the debt for our sins once and for all. ***Nobody ever has to pay it again!*** In the New Testament Jesus opened up a whole new way of giving for us! **HE CHANGED OUR GIVING FROM A DEBT WE OWE TO A SEED OF LOVE THAT WE SOW.**

HALFHEARTED EXPECTANCY WILL NEVER LEAD TO TOTAL VICTORY!

In II Kings, chapter 13, King Joash of Israel consulted the prophet Elisha when he was facing the mighty armies of Syria. Elisha knew that Israel could win the battle if the king *fully* obeyed his instructions. So he told King Joash to strike his arrow on the ground, representing the number of victories he would win over the Syrian army.

Unfortunately, Joash struck the ground only three times. He obeyed the prophet, *but only in part.* **His halfhearted expectancy caused him to receive only a partial victory.**

Elisha told him that if he had continued to strike the ground five or six times, he would have completely wiped out the Syrians. But because he obeyed the prophet only in part, ***the Syrians would defeat him again and again.***

Partial obedience and halfhearted expectancy will never lead to total victory. We must obey God completely and at all cost!

EXPECT A MIRACLE HARVEST!

I believe that every Christian can rise to new heights of sowing and reaping if they apply this third key principle of Seed-Faith in their lives—**EXPECT A MIRACLE.** God promises in His Word that as long as the earth remains there will be seedtime and harvest, and He watches over His Word to perform it.

(See Jeremiah 1:12 AMPLIFIED.)

We are to sow our best seed to God; and once it is given, we are to move over into the realm of EXPLOSIVE EXPECTANCY! **WE ARE TO RELEASE OUR FAITH AND EXPECT A MIRACLE HARVEST! We must not let our miracle harvest pass us by!**

Now I want you to read an exciting testimony from one of our Partners who got into explosive expectancy for a miracle, and she reaped an ABUNDANT harvest!



Husband Receives Raise After Wife Sows Seed!

My husband was due for an evaluation on his job and was expecting to receive a 20-cent hourly pay raise. But his supervisor told him the Mary Lou company could not afford to give anyone a raise at that time.

Needless to say, the denial for a raise disappointed us. I called the Prayer Tower for prayer, and the prayer partner told me to leave it in God's hands. I planted a seed, ***backing it with all of my faith for a miracle.***

When my husband went in for his review, he didn't get just a 20-cent per hour raise, but a 60-cent hourly raise, plus a better position!

Praise the Lord for our miracle harvest!

Mary Lou from California

CHAPTER 3

RUN TO THE BLESSING!

In Deuteronomy 28:8 Moses told the children of Israel, *The Lord shall command THE BLESSING upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all thou settest thine hand unto.* The revelation I received from the Lord concerning THE BLESSING came to me in three parts: **1. The Abundance of the Father 2. The Promise of the Father**

3. The Blessing of the Father

1 THE ABUNDANCE OF THE FATHER

I am come that they might have life, and ... have it more abundantly (John 10:10).

In Luke, chapter 15, Jesus gives us a powerful picture of the God of abundance.

This is the story of the prodigal son who left his father's house and ran away to a far country where he wasted his inheritance on riotous living. Finally hitting the bottom, he wound up in a pigpen, so desperate for food that he was willing to eat the husks he was feeding to the pigs.

Verses 17 and 18 say, *And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread* ***enough and to spare,*** *and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father.*

This was the God of abundance dealing with him to go back home. He was saying, "I did not create you to live in a pigpen!"

The Bible says that the father saw his son *when he was yet a great way off* (v. 20).

Immediately he ordered his servants to kill the fatted calf, and he prepared a great feast ***because his son was alive and had come home!***

When the elder son returned home and saw all the fuss his father was making over his brother, he was furious.

"Father," he complained bitterly, "I've served you all these years and you've never given me a party. Now my brother has wasted all of his money on

prostitutes and wild living, and you've killed the fatted calf for him!"

I want you to read the father's reply very carefully. He said, **"Son, all that I have is yours."**

When the father poured out his abundance on the prodigal son, how much more did he have left? PLENTY, AND SOME TO SPARE!

When God, our heavenly Father, pours out His goodness on one of His children, how much does He have left? PLENTY, AND SOME TO SPARE!

◆ If He has saved millions, can He save one more?

◆ If He has healed millions, can He heal one more?

◆ If He has blessed millions, can He bless one more?

I believe we've just begun to grasp the abundance of the Father. But can the Father bless us if we are jealous of another person's harvest?

2 THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER

"Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you" (Hebrews 6:14 NKJV).

The promise of the Father is to bless you and make you a blessing and to multiply, not divide, you. In Philippians 4:19 we see the promise of the Father as it operated in New Testament times: *My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory* [HIS ABUNDANCE] *by Christ Jesus.*

You see, God recognized that we are need-oriented. ***But this verse contains the promise that He wants to meet our needs by the promise of His blessing.***

In Philippians 4:14-19 God reveals how the promise operates. **It operates according to our giving and receiving.** In these verses, the apostle Paul told the Philippian church,

"You've caught on to God's principles of giving and receiving. You have sent again and again to meet my needs." Then he gave them six powerful blessings that we can receive when we give according to God's plan: 1. Our giving

becomes fruit that abounds to our account with the Lord. It becomes our receipt to bring before God.

2. The seed smells sweet to Him—a sweet-smelling sacrifice.

3. The seed is out of a sacrifice, out of our need, and deep want.

4. The seed is acceptable in God's sight.

5. The seed is well pleasing to God.

6. He will supply all of our needs according to HIS RICHES ... HIS ABUNDANCE.

Once you get into giving AND receiving, you get into the promise of God **that He shall supply ALL OF YOUR NEED.** That means:

✔ Your bills can be paid.

✔ You'll have greater faith for sicknesses to be healed.

✔ The power of God you need is more available to take you through today and tomorrow and next week and next year!

Instead of focusing on the existing need, we need to focus our seed to defeat the need!

3 THE BLESSING OF THE FATHER

And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God (Deuteronomy 28:2).

What is THE BLESSING?

In the twenty-eighth chapter of Deuteronomy God promised many blessings to His people. It was His TOTAL blessing for every area of their lives. The conditions for receiving THE BLESSING are:

1. Listening to what the Lord is saying to us.

2. Doing what He is telling us to do.

THE BLESSING of God can result in a continual state of having your needs met.

God wants to raise the level of your faith ABOVE the meeting of all of your needs. ***Yes, He is deeply concerned about your need.*** **But I believe He is concerned that you have a reserve supply so the need doesn't overwhelm you when it strikes! Instead, you rise to the occasion and declare that there is seed in your heavenly account and you have a right—a receipt—to rely on the Father to meet your need and rebuke the devourer for your sake.**

GOD COMMANDS THE BLESSING UPON US IN OUR STOREHOUSES!

Notice that God does not command the blessing upon you in HIS storehouses. He said YOUR storehouses. *The Lord shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto* (Deuteronomy 28:8).

You may be thinking, *But, Oral, I don't have any storehouses!* The Bible says that you are to build not just one storehouse, **but several!**

I asked the Lord, "What's the best way for us to build our storehouses?" and He brought two Scriptures to my mind:

1. Malachi 3:10,11:

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse [God's 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. And I will rebuke the devourer [the devil] for your sakes.

2. Luke 6:38:

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

BRING YOUR TITHES INTO GOD'S STOREHOUSE (INTO THE GOSPEL)

The Lord said to me, "Oral, take care of your tithes and offerings to Me FIRST, and then take care of yourself SECOND. That's how you establish your

storehouses."

When you give to God's work—His storehouse—then He has an opportunity to multiply it back into your storehouse in the way you need it most. That's why God said, *Give, and IT shall be given unto you.*

Whatever IT is you sow, that's what will be multiplied back to you with good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over. MULTIPLIED back to you!

GIVE, AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN UNTO YOU!

Now let me bring this right down to where you live. If your paycheck is $1,000, the tithe (one-tenth) would be $100 that you are to give to God's work. If you give an offering of $50 above the tithe, that leaves you $850 to live on.

It may seem impossible to you to build your own storehouses and pay all of your bills from what you have left. But consider the Bible fact that $850 with the blessing of God will go further than $1,000 without the open windows of heaven through which God will pour out the blessing of ICI: ideas, concepts, and insights.

By obeying God's Word you open yourself up to this full blessing of the Lord. By disregarding God's Word you can close yourself off from these blessings. The choice is yours, just as it is mine.

God's Word is designed to work in our behalf, but we must first get into obedience with God's Word. Then what we give will be blessed, multiplied, and returned to us in the form of miracle harvests. It's through these and other Scriptures that God has shown me seven ways He multiplies our seeds:

#1. Give, and IT shall be given unto you.

What is IT? IT is whatever you give to the Lord. In the example I just gave you, it's the $150 given in tithes and offerings. **By releasing your seed to God, He is faithful to increase and multiply IT back to you.**

Galatians 6:7 says that whatever you sow, THAT shall you reap.

#2. GOOD MEASURE. Have you ever been cheated? Have you ever bought

something and found out later that you hadn't received full value for your money? In this Scripture, God says, "I won't cheat you. I'll give you good measure for what you give!"

#3. PRESSED DOWN. When you fill a container, you press down the contents and pour more in until it's packed full. That's how God gives back to you—packed full of miracles in every crack and corner! Never forget that God wants you to have miracles because you can't live the more abundant life without His miracles!

#4. SHAKEN TOGETHER. Your return is pressed down and then shaken together as it is pressed down even more. God is saying, "I'll shake it together so there will be no empty spots in the basket or container!" God wants to be doubly sure that every possible spot is ready for the miracle.

#5. RUNNING OVER. Running over means that you can't contain it all, just like Malachi 3 says. **You can't outgive God!** ***He gives you so much that it runs over from your life into the lives of others!*** **#6. SHALL MEN GIVE INTO YOUR BOSOM.**

I've not seen God rain money down on us from heaven. Instead, He depends upon people who are listening to His voice to bless others. Perhaps it's with finances, perhaps with a job that expands, perhaps with an act of kindness, or even with the right word of wisdom or encouragement said at just the right time.

I remember when one of our Partners, an inventor, had designed a device for four-wheel drive vehicles. Although the idea was great, unfortunately the manufacturers had rejected it. So he folded up the plans and put them in his attic. He had given up, although he knew as a seasoned inventor that his plans for the wheel hub would work. He had let man's "no" defeat him.

One night he was sitting in the crowd at one of my crusades, and in the middle of my sermon, I said, "Maybe you ought to go look in the attic for your blessing!"

Now I had no idea what those words would mean to this Partner, ***but he knew exactly what they meant, and he heard the voice of God speaking through me that day!*** It was an insight from heaven to him as promised in Malachi 3:10,11.

In the offering, the man sowed the best seed he could and aimed IT at the change he now believed God, his Source, could bring about.

After the service he rushed back home, went up into his attic, gathered up the plans, and went back to the very same company that had rejected them earlier. ***Praise God, they bought those plans, giving him an override on each vehicle sold, which amounted to several million dollars over the course of several years!***

This brother and I met later, and what a testimony he had to share! He had built a new sanctuary for his local church and was giving to other ministries. He put Oral Roberts University on his priority list to sow into, and several of the buildings of ORU—including the Prayer Tower—reflect his giving through the years. From a man with a broken dream and who was virtually a pauper as a result, the "running over" blessing had overtaken him.

Friend, maybe it's time for you to make a trip to the attic too! Or maybe you ought to dial that telephone number or write that letter one more time. The important thing was that this man heard when God spoke in his spirit. God may be speaking, but are we listening? He listened, acted, obeyed, and was blessed.

But don't act only because it worked for someone else. Ask the Lord what's right for you. What is God saying to you for your miracle? Remember, Jesus said that your harvest would come THROUGH THE HANDS OF MEN! HE SAID, "MEN SHALL GIVE TO YOUR BOSOM."

7. FOR WITH WHAT MEASURE YOU GIVE. IT SHALL BE GIVEN TO YOUAGAIN.

If you are able to give substantially to God but you give to Him with only a tiny little measure percentage-wise, you will receive only a trickle of blessings back from Him.

Second Corinthians 9:6 declares, *He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.* **The way you give to God determines the way you receive from Him!**

It is in direct proportion. One affects the other.

Have you begun to see from the Word of God how important it is for us to give our tithes and offerings to the Lord as seeds of faith we sow to Him?

Why is this important? Because instances are going to come when the devil will try to knock us down and steal what we have, as it is his design to steal, to kill, and to destroy us.

We must understand that this is satan's strategy.

Instead of our screaming, "Why, God?

Why?" the Lord is telling us, "When that begins to happen, **RUN TO THE BLESSING!"** ***AND THEN GOD COMMANDS THE BLESSING UPON US IN OUR LIVES!***

It's His way.

It's His Word.

It's His will.

It's His Blessing-Pact

Covenant for our lives.

But now I have something powerful to share with you about how, starting this moment, you can begin to reap your **MIRACLE HARVESTS!**



PART IV

REAPING THE HARVEST

When I sow my seed and live my life expecting miracles, I know I will continue to reap miracle harvests to meet my need according to Philippians 4:19. I am determined never to give up this biblical way of life!

—Oral Roberts

CHAPTER 1

YOU CAN GET A RECEIPT FROM GOD FOR YOUR GIVING

The apostle Paul taught the principles of giving and receiving to all the churches he established. In II Corinthians 9:10 he taught the Corinthian church:

◆ God gives seed to the sower (to the ones who will actually "sow it").

◆ He multiplies the seed sown (after it is sown to God).

◆ He increases the fruit of our righteousness. (By this, God makes our righteousness before Him fruitful.) In Galatians 6:7,9 Paul taught the Galatian church:

◆ Whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap (and God doesn't lie).

◆ Don't be weary in your well doing—in your seed-sowing—for you shall reap in due season if you don't give up. (This means sowing and reaping becomes your lifestyle.)

Paul preached the message of sowing and reaping everywhere he went, but the Philippian church was the only group that seemed to grasp the full meaning of it. ***And they were the only ones who faithfully supported Paul's ministry, even when he was thrown into prison for the sake of the Gospel!*** He called them his "partners."

Imagine partnering with Paul in the Gospel!

Well, it's the same today when we become Partners in giving and receiving—in Seed-Faith—with the ministries of God-called and anointed servants of God, including the local church.

Paul traveled, establishing churches, extending Christianity to "the regions beyond," and was often persecuted and put in jail. In those dark and rough prison cells, he knew what need was. It was from a filthy Roman jail cell that he wrote these words in Philippians 4:11,12:

Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

There were three specific things Paul shared in this Scripture that he had learned

regarding want or need:

1. He had learned how to believe God when he was at the bottom of the barrel.

2. He had also learned how to abound, how to have plenty to live on. In other words, he had learned to receive as well as give.

3. He had learned how to serve God with inner contentment in either condition because He was looking to God as his Source. Those three things that Paul learned are very important for you and me to learn today.

How was Paul able to learn these priceless concepts? He gave us the answer in verse 13.

He said, *"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."* Why? For two 146

You Can Get A Receipt From God For Your Giving reasons: Because God was his Source and he was into sowing and reaping.

Paul had received the revelation that he was to sow his seed when he was abased —had terrible need—and also when he was getting all of his needs met. He had this lifestyle in Jesus as His Lord and as his Source. This Seed-Faith way of life enabled him to endure, whether things were going good or bad, anywhere he was.

Paul literally lived in constant expectancy for God's miracle, delivering power to work in his life, his witness, his sufferings for the Gospel, and his ministry. I think about Paul a lot—of how he didn't try to do things from within himself but from the power of Christ within him. I think of him as a magnificent seed-faither!

What does that mean to us today?

It means that we should not try to determine our behavior from within ourselves either, but from the power of Christ within us. ***And we shouldn't settle for anything less than His strengthening power in our total man— spirit, soul, and body! Living the Seed-Faith life will enable us to do this.***

While Paul was in prison in Thessalonica, the people of the church at Philippi sent one of their members with a special Seed-Faith offering—a love offering—for him. ***Suddenly all of Paul's needs were met!*** The Bible says that as he wrote a letter back to the Philippian believers, **he told them how they could overcome their own needs VICTORIOUSLY.** And that was to understand the miracle power of what I call Seed-Faith.

He said, *"Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only"* (Philippians 4:15).

In the Greek language, in which the New Testament was originally written, the word "receiving" here can also be translated *receipting.*

Paul was talking about getting a heavenly receipt for your giving—a receipt that you can cash in with the Lord when you have a need!

As I mentioned in the last chapter, Paul also states that your giving produces an "account with God in heaven" (see v. 17). That means if you're giving to the Lord as a seed of your faith:

◆ You can get a receipt, which is held by the heavenly Father on your heavenly account.

◆ You can cash in that receipt during times of need.

When I began to grasp this principle of giving and receipting, it suddenly occurred to me, "Oral Roberts, you've got countless receipts with God that you haven't cashed in! **I may be behind on some things, but not in my giving! However, based on what I just learned about the principle of giving and receipting,**

I'M BEHIND IN MY RECEIVING!"

I've sown countless seeds for which I've never cashed in my receipts for the harvest.

There have been times I've sown seeds in many places, but through bad teaching I never once considered a harvest in return. It hadn't crossed my mind. But never once has God lost track of my giving. So He powerfully reminded me that I'd

lost track of my expecting from those seeds I had sown.

I thanked God for reminding me, asked Him to forgive me, and began to expect my new miracle on old seeds never harvested! I began to cash in my receipts from my seed sown in the Gospel. I pray God is speaking to you concerning this in your own life in Christ.

WHAT IS A RECEIPT?

If you go to a bank and make a deposit, they give you a receipt, don't they? Suppose you go back to the bank later to write a check, and the teller says, "You don't have any money in this bank." You just show him your receipt; and when he verifies that you do have money in that bank, he cashes your check for you.

Now suppose you have a check you want to cash, but you don't have a receipt showing you have a bank account? Do you think they will cash your check for you? Some people wind up in prison because they write checks on an account when they have no money in the bank.

If you think this is serious business with men, just think about how serious it is with God when we try to make a withdrawal on our account in heaven *but we haven't put anything into it!* **We have no receipts to cash in!** And we have no Bible right to wonder why we're not getting blessed. One thing is for sure . . . it's not God's fault!

Statistics tell us that only a small percentage of Christians tithe, yet all of us would like God to meet all of our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. We quote that Scripture in Philippians 4:19 all the time, ***but if it isn't happening to us, we need to check our giving and our receiving . . . both! It's a package deal...* a *twofold process!***

Every giving believer has receipts with God, and I believe God is waiting for you to cash in your receipts on your account in heaven. In fact, I believe He is expecting it!

HEZEKIAH CASHED IN A RECEIPT WITH THE LORD

There is a powerful story in Isaiah 38 about a king named Hezekiah who cashed in a receipt with God. Hezekiah was a good king, one of the most righteous kings in Judah. One day the prophet Isaiah brought him a message from the

Lord: "Put your house in order. God says that it's time for you to die."

But Hezekiah had a receipt on his account in heaven, and he began to pray to the Lord: *Remember now, O Lord . . . how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight* (v. 3). **He was really saying, "Lord, I don't want to die. Look at all I've done and how I've served You. And here is my receipt for what I've given to You!"**

You Can Get A Receipt From God For Your Giving How did the Lord respond? He sent word to Isaiah to go tell Hezekiah that He was going to heal him and add fifteen years to his life!

Is this some sort of magic that works for everyone? No, it's not magic. It's the result of a relationship with the Father in heaven for those who fellowship with Him and release their faith according to the Word.

Praise God, when Hezekiah cashed in his receipt, God supplied his need! **Friend, you may have a big receipt with God, but it's hard for you to get your needs met if you don't CASH IT IN!**

Remember, I believe miracles are coming toward you or going past you every day.

Have you checked the direction of your miracle today?

'DOCTOR, YOU WON'T GET TO USE YOUR KNIFE ON HIM TONIGHT!'

In 1997 I had an experience in which I needed to cash in a receipt with the Lord; ***and when I did, He performed a mighty healing in my life.***

One night a pain struck on the right side of my body, and it felt as if it were ripping me apart! After Evelyn and I prayed about it, she told me, "Oral, if you're not better in the morning, we're going to call the doctor."

I lay in bed that night, tossing and turning, but I wasn't able to sleep. I was trying to pray when I suddenly heard a voice say to me,

"You're in big trouble now!" I *knew it wasn't God speaking!*

I tossed and turned some more, and then I heard another voice speaking in my

spirit. It said, **"I've given you a receipt. Cash it in!"** I knew it was the Lord's voice, but I didn't know how to cash in my receipt.

Finally, I fell asleep. But the next morning I woke up and the pain was still there. So I tried to reach the doctor, but he didn't call me back until around noon.

When I described my condition to him, he told me, "Oral, that's appendicitis! Get to the hospital immediately, and I'll meet you there with the surgeon!"

As we were driving to the hospital, I said to Evelyn, "I'm going to cash in one of my heavenly receipts today. WILL YOU COME INTO AGREEMENT WITH ME that I won't have to have surgery?"

She agreed with me and stated emphatically, "I WON'T COME OUT OF THE AGREEMENT, NO MATTER WHAT!"

As we walked into the hospital I was doubled over with pain. The doctor came in and stuck his thumb into my side. The pain was excruciating! Then the surgeon walked in and jabbed his thumb into my side in the same spot, and he said, "Yes, you've got appendicitis."

Next they asked me to put on that famous hospital gown, and they rolled me down the hall on a gurney to have an ultrasound. While the radiologist looked at the ultrasound, he said, "There it is! He's got appendicitis."

The surgeon added, "Oral, I've got to operate on you, and I've got to do it right away!"

As the radiologist and surgeon talked to each other, I closed my eyes and prayed. ***I reminded God—I didn't remind myself of this—"You said You have given me a receipt, and You told me to cash it in. Evelyn and I prayed about this problem, and we promised not to come out of the agreement."***

Suddenly I felt God's presence surge all through me, and I heard God whisper in my spirit, *"CASH IT IN! DO IT NOW!"*

I never said a word, but a warmth started in my head and went through my body and down my right side to my feet. **I knew it was the healing power of God!**

While I had my eyes closed, praising the Lord under my breath, I heard the

radiologist say to the surgeon, "Doctor, look at the screen.

Do you see that cloud passing over it?" Then he said, ***"It's gone!"***

The surgeon jumped up and also exclaimed,

"It's gone!"

I raised my head and asked, "What's gone?"

The surgeon had a puzzled look on his face as he told me, **"Oral, you don't have appendicitis anymore!"** Then he pointed to the ultrasound screen and said, "Look at it!"

"I can't see anything but a cloud," I told him.

He explained, "That shows that you don't have it anymore. That little thing I showed you before is now clouded over. ***It's gone!"***

Suddenly I realized that my pain was gone too. The surgeon declared, "I'm going to roll you back out to Evelyn myself!"

As we left, the radiologist exclaimed,

"Doctor, you won't get to use your knife on him tonight!" *And oh, what sweet words those were!*

Evelyn and I had been giving to the Lord, and we had an account with God in heaven.

We cashed in one of our receipts, *and God turned that whole situation around!*

When we get into this kind of giving and receiving, then:

◆ God can become the God of our total supply.

◆ We can cash in our receipts with Him.

◆ We can expect Him to meet all of our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus!

In the next chapter, I'm going to share the revelation that God has given me about His reward system. I want you to read it very carefully.

But before we go any further, I have a powerful testimony to share with you from a Seed-Faith Partner who believes that his seed-planting literally saved his life!



Vietnam Veteran Experiences Years of Blessings as Seed-Faith Partner!

I started sending you my prayer requests and planting seed into Oral Roberts Ministries in 1957, a year before I joined the Marine Corps. While reading one of your letters, God told me to make my giving to your ministry a lifetime commitment, and I have done just that.

I believe my obedience to God is what saved my life during the Vietnam War and many times since then. I was in a combat unit the whole time and saw a lot of action, but I never got wounded!

I must have gotten hundreds of letters of encouragement from you over the years,

and thanks to your prayers, I experience miracles every day. I will never regret seeding one penny into your ministry!

Gary from Pennsylvania

CHAPTER 2

GOD'S REWARD SYSTEM

I remember once when I was attempting to obey God in carrying out a particular assignment, the Lord spoke in my heart,

"Believe that you can do it." When I asked Him how, He said, "I will put you into My reward system."

Although I'd read the Bible through over a hundred times—including Hebrews 11:6—I had NEVER heard the term "God's reward system" before. I had read in the Bible about different rewards in heaven, ***but I had never grasped that God has a reward system IN THIS LIFE, on this earth!***

So I asked, "Lord, what is Your reward system?"

First, He directed me to Hebrews 11:6, which says, *But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him,* and then to Mark 10:29,30, which refers to the 100-fold return.

He said, "You're saved by grace. It's the gift of God. But My reward system is based upon your sowing your seeds into the Gospel and receiving the 100-fold return!"

Many times we think that our only reward is in heaven, but God has the 100-fold return for us RIGHT HERE ON EARTH!

All throughout my ministry I'd heard of the 100-fold return, but I had never experienced it completely. I'd never known anybody who actually *lived* in the 100-fold return. So I began to study Mark, chapter 10, as the Lord had directed me.

Verses 17-22 tell the story of the rich young ruler who asked the Lord, *Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?* (v. 17). First Jesus reminded him to obey the Ten Commandments, but the young man replied,

"I've done that since I was a child."

Then the Lord said, "Son, you lack only one thing. You're trusting in your riches.

Therefore, sell whatever you have and give the money to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, take up your cross, and follow Me."

That wasn't the answer the young man wanted to hear, and he turned away in sorrow. Even though he really wanted Christ, *his riches meant more to him than the Lord did. He did not believe God could take care of his financial needs and responsibilities.*

Now let me emphasize the fact that:

◆ Jesus did not want the rich young ruler to become a pauper.

◆ He was not putting down people who have money.

◆ He was merely saying, "You can have both God and riches, **but you can't serve both of them."**

◆ He was also saying, "I am a better Source than your wealth."

There's another very important truth here. In reality, Jesus wanted this young ruler to decide: "DO YOU HAVE POSSESSIONS, OR DO YOUR POSSESSIONS HAVE YOU?"

When Jesus dealt with the rich young ruler about his possessions, He was dealing with them as a stumbling block to following the Lord if the man decided his riches were more of a source than Jesus was.

Friend, God wants us to have the material resources we need in this life and an abundance to sow as seeds to Him (see III John 2).

When you get into that kind of mindset about your belongings, they will become "treasures" you can use to meet your needs and also advance the

kingdom of God! But if you make them the focus of your faith or the source of your existence, remember that God has said He'll have no other gods before Him. If they're possessions, that's one thing. If they're a god to you, that's quite another!

WHAT'S IN CHRISTIANITY FOR ME?

Peter and the other disciples had witnessed this whole scene with Jesus and the young man, and they were flabbergasted by it. They heard Jesus declare, *"Children, how hard is it for them that **trust in riches** to enter into the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God"* (Mark 10:24,25).

Then Peter, in essence, asked Jesus a question that every believer should ask: "Lord, I've left all and followed You. What's in Christianity for me?" (see v. 28).

Now some believers, including preachers, wouldn't think of asking the question Peter asked. Notice, however, that Jesus didn't rebuke Peter for asking that question. Instead, He answered him, saying,

"Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, but he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life" (vv. 29,30).

That means you shall receive a 100-fold blessing NOW IN THIS TIME!

Friend, since God created the 100-fold blessing in our behalf, then I want the 100-fold return, and I want you to have the 100-fold return too! If it's from God, I thank Him for it.

The world, including some church people, may try to talk you out of it by some bad tradition or bad teaching they've had, but the questions to ask are: What does God's Word say? What does the Word, say God established? What does God intend? The Word says He intended to bless us 100-fold.

That settles it for me!

On the other hand, what does satan intend?

His whole intention, His whole purpose, is to steal, kill, and destroy (see John 10:10).

Friend, it's time to thank God and use your faith to rebuke satan, the one the Bible calls the devourer, which means seed-eater!

Just make this declaration out loud: **"Satan, you loose my 100-fold blessing! Lord, I thank You that as I sow my seed, my harvest of blessing is being released right now. And by faith I will not let it pass me by, but I will receive it, in Jesus' mighty Name! Amen."**

My advice to you is don't let anyone or anything cause you to give up on this confession.

WHAT ABOUT THE PERSECUTIONS?

Remember, Jesus said that the 100-fold return ***comes with persecutions.*** **Persecution is inevitable for every believer** (see II Timothy 3:12). But I'd rather be like a live fish swimming upstream than a dead one floating downstream!

The very fact that we're experiencing persecution could be an indication that the 100-fold is either here or it's on the way!

Please pay special attention to Jesus'

promise in Mark 10:30, which says, "Peter, this is what you're going to get here in this life: one hundred times over everything you lost!"

When Jesus told Peter about the 100-fold return, He was telling all believers that for everything we've given up for the sake of the Gospel, if we will look at it as seed planted before God, we can receive a 100-fold return —a 100-fold of the blessings of God that we can take into our beings and through which we can be made a blessing to others!

WHEN YOU'RE IN GOD'S REWARD SYSTEM, THE 100-FOLD RETURN WILL BE FLOWING IN YOUR LIFE

God's reward system involves a threefold plan:

1. We can choose to receive the 100-fold return when we plant our seed where we know it will be doing the most effective work for the Gospel. That means your giving really counts.

It can be used for something like:

✔ Winning souls!

✔ Healing the sick!

✔ Setting the captives free!

✔ Reaching the world for Jesus Christ!

✔ Coming out of your own trials, tribulations, and needs.

2. The second part of God's reward system is found in Proverbs 6:31: *But if he* [the thief] *be found, he shall restore sevenfold.*

Who is the thief? Jesus says in John 10:10

that it's satan. I *don't know about you, but the devil has stolen from me all of my life!* So in addition to God's reward, we also can tell satan, "Put back what you stole from me, and put it back seven times!"

When I catch the devil stealing from me, God's reward system says that I can make him restore the equivalent of seven times what he has stolen!

3. The third part of God's reward system assures us that our giving can produce the 100-fold return of the things we need **now** ... **in this lifetime!** What are your basic needs?

God's Word says He wants you to have:

◆ Food,

◆ Clothing,

◆ Housing,

◆ The necessities of life, and

◆ An overflow so you can give to others and support the Gospel.

Friend, the 100-fold return says to me that God is bigger than the world's system! If the world's system is going up in flames, you can still experience God's abundant living!

WHEN YOU'RE IN GOD'S REWARD SYSTEM, NO MATTER WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE WORLD AROUND YOU, THE 100-FOLD RETURN CAN STILL BE FLOWING IN YOUR LIFE! As I so often say, "Get this into your spirit and watch it come to pass!"

Now I have a powerful testimony to share with you from a Partner who lost all of her possessions in a terrible fire, ***but God restored everything the devil had stolen from her!***



Gloria Miraculously

Escapes Apartment Fire!

Oral, planting seed into your ministry really works. One day I called the Prayer Tower to request prayer. I had just

read your book, A PRAYER COVER OVER YOUR LIFE, and I felt in my spirit that I needed prayer for protection. A few weeks later, my apartment caught on fire.

Somehow I couldn't sleep that night, so I decided to get up and get some work done. All of a sudden, strangers started knocking on my front door, shouting, "Get out! The building is on fire!" I looked outside, and there was smoke everywhere!

I had just enough time to grab my coat and purse and run out of the apartment. The fire had spread all over the place by then. Just think what could have happened had I gone to bed that night!

Everything in my apartment was a total loss.

In a state of shock, I called the Prayer Tower after the fire. A prayer partner agreed with me in prayer that God would restore everything that the devil had stolen from me. PRAISE GOD, HE DID!

Gloria from Oklahoma

CHAPTER 3

DON'T GIVE UP ON YOUR DUE SEASON TO RECEIVE!

Galatians 6:9 says, *And let us not be weary in well doing* [in sowing seeds of faith]: *for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not* [if we don't give up].

Sometimes that Scripture hits me hard because I'm a "now" kind of person. ***And the mail we receive indicates that some of my Seed-Faith Partners have this same nature!***

One Partner wrote to me and said, "Brother Roberts, all of my hopes and expectations have crumbled. I've planted seed and practiced the three key principles of Seed-Faith the best way I know how, but even though I've looked and looked for my miracle, it has never come."

"Don't give up," I encouraged him. "There is a due season for you. ***I believe you're going to reap from what you've sown if you keep on believing!"***

Sometimes Seed-Faith works quickly and sometimes it works in ways that appear to be slow. That's why it's necessary to be patient and, above all, to stay in faith. You see, faith is for the things that you haven't yet received or don't understand. And God's timing is a key to receiving.

The due season is *God's* due season, even if it's not necessarily on our time schedule.

Friend, God has His own timetable and many times we don't keep expecting our miracle LONG enough! If you pick a persimmon out of season and eat it while it is green, **you will have unhappy results. It may seem like the right time to your stomach, but the persimmon is what makes that decision!**

If the fruit has ripened to its full season, you can touch it, and it will almost fall off the tree into your hand. But if it's not, you may regret ever messing with it! ***The right fruit, the right harvest, is always worth waiting for!*** **Besides.**

God may just be doing something in us while we're waiting and trusting and anticipating our due season! And what God is growing WITHIN us while we're waiting may be as important as the harvest itself.

NEVER, NEVER, NEVER GIVE UP!

Before World War II began, Winston Churchill was called upon to give the commencement address at a British boys'

school graduation ceremony. When it was time for his speech, these were some of the words he spoke in his speech: "Never give in, never give in, never, never, never, never—in nothing, great or small, large or petty—never give in!"

Never was a more crucial word spoken for the believer!

Never faint, never give in, never give up when you've planted your seeds to God!

Planting seed may seem painstaking, and the harvesting of the seed may sometimes seem slow. **But we must remember that our heavenly Father is**

ALWAYS working behind the scenes to bring us the due season.

I have a dear Seed-Faith Partner who had been crippled in her legs and feet for a long time. I had prayed for her, and others had prayed for her. Doctors had tried to help her, but nothing seemed to work.

Then one day she was watching my television program, and I was teaching on Galatians 6:9. When she heard me give that word about the due season, it got down into her spirit. She began to lay her claim by faith:

◆ "I have a due season coming!

◆ "I have a due season coming!

◆ "I have a due season coming!

◆ "I won't give up!"

A short time later Evelyn and I received a personal letter from her, and when we read it, we cried like children. She wrote, "You taught me that when I plant my seed I should look for my due season. I should expect my miracle. I ***was looking for it, Brother Roberts!"***

Then she explained, "The other night I was watching you on television when the Lord spoke in my heart and said, 'It's time now for you to move your feet. It's time now for you to get up and walk. *Your due season has come!'"*

She told her husband what the Lord had said to her, and he asked, "What are you going to do?"

"I'm going to move my feet!" she exclaimed, and she began to move one foot and then the other. Then the Holy Spirit told her to stand on her feet. She grabbed the sides of the chair and rose to her feet. Next the Holy Spirit said to her, "Turn loose of the chair and stand." **And she did!** Then the Spirit said,

"Walk," and glory be to God, ***she began to walk!***

When you plant your seeds out of your need, the first thought you should have is, *I've got a due season coming!*

GOD IS IN CONTROL OF OUR DUE SEASON!

When I was a boy, my family picked cotton.

Up until I was about the age of ten or eleven, I missed the first six weeks of school every year to pick cotton with my brother Vaden and my mother and father.

I remember the first time we went to the cotton field. We tried to get there a little early, just before the cotton came in. I said to Papa,

"There's no cotton here. It's still in the boll."

Papa just nodded.

The next morning we took our cotton sacks and headed out to those same fields again.

"Where are we going, Papa?" I asked him.

"Today we're going to pick cotton," he answered me. *That really puzzled me because just the day before there had been no cotton to pick!*

When we rode out to the cotton fields, **I was amazed to see that overnight the bolls had popped opened.** Now there were over a hundred acres of cotton ready to pick, ***all because the seed had come to its due season!***

Sometimes your due season comes quickly, and sometimes it doesn't come for months or even years after you've planted your seeds of faith. **But remember, the due season is under God's control, not yours!**

God's due season is as certain as the sun coming up, because it's a divine principle!

Some of the seeds I've planted over the years haven't yet reached their due season. But I believe beyond a shadow of a doubt that each one of those seeds is going to have its due season, ***If I'm not looking for it, the due season will come and pass me by.*** If that happens:

◆ Doubt will creep into my heart.

◆ I'll get confused.

◆ I'll start looking to things in the natural instead of to God's supernatural.

◆ I'll wonder where God is.

I've gone through periods of confusion over seeds that I've planted when I haven't seen any harvest. Then I began to understand that the due season is not under my control. It's under God's control. I can control the planting of my seeds and the expectation of my harvest, **but God gives the increase. He not only chooses the delivery system but also HE chooses the due season!**

COULD YOU WAIT FORTY-TWO YEARS FOR YOUR DUE SEASON?

My brother Elmer is thirteen years older than I am, and we didn't get along when I was a boy, mainly because he didn't think I'd ever amount to much. His favorite expression was,

"Oral, you're not worth the salt that goes into your bread." *And many days I gave him cause to feel that way.*

One of the things I vividly remember doing is staking our milk cow where the grass was green and then running off and leaving her so I could join other boys in a ball game. Later, when we tried to milk the cow, she wouldn't give much milk because I hadn't moved her to other areas of good grass after she'd eaten where I had staked her. Elmer saw me do things like that, and it caused him to doubt whether I would ever make anything out of my life.

As a teenager, when I was struck down with tuberculosis and was on the verge of dying, it was Elmer (who wasn't a Christian then) who drove me seventeen miles to a tent crusade to receive prayer from a healing evangelist, George C. Moncey. ***That night when the man of God prayed for me and our faith hit heaven, I was instantly healed!***

But Elmer didn't realize what a seed he had planted for himself!

Forty-two years later he came to our house, and he was really in trouble. He confided to me, "Oral, I've got something wrong in my body. I had surgery, but it didn't work." Then he said, "I want you to pray for me."

Now Elmer had never asked me to pray for him in his whole life! I just wrapped my arms around him, and he wrapped his arms around me. We sobbed and shook, and my brother met God. That seed Elmer planted had a due season forty-two years later with a harvest that came to him and to me!

Elmer died at age 92. As I took part in his funeral, I remembered how he had planted the seed of taking me to be prayed for to receive my healing. I spoke of this with tears, and I believe the Lord touched a lot of people that day.

◆ What if the seed you've planted doesn't have a due season for six months?

◆ Suppose nothing happens for a whole year?

◆ What if the harvest doesn't come for two years?

◆ What if it doesn't come for forty-two years?

◆ Can you continue to look for your due season every day?

The eternal law of Seed-Faith is this: *Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.* God's Word and His due season CANNOT FAIL!

Friend, you may feel desperate for your miracle harvest NOW! If I'm describing you, then read on . . . ***because what I'm about to share with you may be the greatest lesson you'll ever learn about Seed-Faith living!***

CHAPTER 4

WHY YOUR SEEDS MAY SOMETIMES SEEM TO FAIL

Some time ago God spoke to me about all the unclaimed miracles He has for you and me and for millions of others around the world.

He audibly spoke these words to me: "There are many unclaimed healings and miracles on reserve for My people which they have not yet laid claim to!"

When I heard those words, I immediately recalled the Scripture in Matthew 8:17 where we are told that Jesus Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses. I have dealt with so many sick people over the years who have told

me, ***"I didn't know that I could be healed. I didn't know that God still heals today!"***

So many people don't realize what the Lord has done for them, which means that many healings remain largely UNCLAIMED!

As God spoke to me that day, I began to examine my own needs, and I said, "God, do You mean that healings and miracles for each one of these needs are on reserve for me, and I simply have not claimed them?"

He said, "Yes. And if you multiply that by the millions of My people, it means there are billions of healings and miracles on reserve, ready to be released, if only My people will lay claim to them and believe."

You can name any need you face, ***and there is a healing on reserve for you THIS VERY MOMENT!***

My son Richard really got hold of this revelation when he noticed a supplement from the Tulsa newspaper lying on his kitchen counter one day. In huge letters it read, "You could have CASH in the Unclaimed Property Fund!"

It went on to read, "The Oklahoma Tax Commission wants to reunite as many people as possible with money owed them and seeks by various means to locate all missing owners or their heirs." Then it suddenly hit Richard—**GOD WANTS TO DO THE SAME THING FOR US!**

God wants to reunite as many people as possible with their unclaimed property. By using apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers, He is seeking to help Christians claim what God has already willed to them!

If the world wants to reunite you with your rightful property, how much more does God want to reunite you with the blessings that are rightfully yours as His child!

IT'S TIME TO CLAIM YOUR UNCLAIMED MIRACLES!

When Richard's wife, Lindsay, saw him flipping through that newspaper supplement, she showed him the name of a young lady they know here in Tulsa whose name was listed there. She's an Oral Roberts University graduate and a roommate of one of the ladies in their office.

Someone had left the young lady some property, but because she had no idea it had been left to her, she had never claimed it. **It belonged to her all along, even though she didn't know about it.**

In other words, she was an heir to something, but she couldn't receive it until she went and claimed what belonged to her. But one day someone saw her name in the newspaper supplement and sent word to her that she had UNCLAIMED property waiting for her to claim.

That revelation sent chills down Richard's spine. ***Finally he had the explanation he had been seeking from the Lord regarding unclaimed miracles—unclaimed property!***

You see, similarly, you and I had a relative who died. His name is Jesus Christ of Nazareth, and He named us as heirs in His will. (In fact, the word testament means will.) When Jesus shed His blood on the Cross and rose from the dead, He paid the price for our salvation, healing, deliverance, prosperity, and our state of total well-being.

Now I want you to notice—to personally realize—that we were already healed two thousand years ago when Jesus went to the Cross, according to I Peter 2:24, which says, *Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*

Healing is a part of our inheritance. **But we have to lay claim to our healing before we can possess it.** We have to say, "This healing is mine, and I'm laying claim to it."

Just like that young lady whose name was already written in the unclaimed property newspaper supplement, our names were written in the Lamb's Book of Life when we received Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior (see Revelation 21:27).

The price has been paid for our sins, our sicknesses and diseases, including all of our needs, and this—our inheritance in the Lord—belongs to us. ***But we could lose every bit of it if no one ever gave us the message concerning what is rightfully ours!***

Friend, it's time to claim your unclaimed miracles from the Lord!

Begin to think of your greatest needs and compare them with your greatest unclaimed miracles. Then declare out loud that according to God's Word:

◆ "Healing is rightfully mine!

◆ "Prosperity is rightfully mine!

◆ "Restoration is rightfully mine!

◆ "I've planted my seeds of faith!

◆ "I claim my miracle harvests!

◆ "I look for my 'due season'!"



Shirley and her husband, Bill

Family Receives Unexpected Inheritance!

Oral,

I didn't understand anything about Seed-Faith until a few years ago. I had just remarried, and my new husband and I were having a difficult time uniting our two families. It was a mess! Plus, we had both come into the marriage with serious financial problems.

I had been a Partner with you in the past, but I didn't know about giving my firstfruits. I never gave anything to God until I had paid my bills first. Then one Sunday I really began to listen to what you were teaching on your TV program.

That's when my husband and I began to plant seeds in faith and AIM THEM at our family's need for healing.

Suddenly we began to receive a harvest on every wave! Unexpectedly, we received $27,000 from an inheritance I didn't know I had! Out of that, we gave tithes and a love gift and then planted more seed. Then we paid all of our bills and were still able to give like never before!

The harvest didn't stop there. God has done a work in our family's lives, and we are becoming a real family! Thank you for teaching us about Seed-Faith!

Shirley from Idaho

CHAPTER 5

HOW TO PLANT A NEW SEED FOR AN EQUIVALENT BENEFIT

Because I grew up as a farm boy, I've done a lot of planting and harvesting in my life. I remember one particular year when our crop was destroyed by hail. We had a term we used back then called "laying the crop by." We had planted everything, covered it up in the soil, and then we had watched the plants begin to grow and were waiting for the harvest.

This particular year the hail came after our crop had been laid by, and in Oklahoma when it hails, *it hails!* One night we heard a tremendous storm strike, and the hail began to beat upon our little house.

In those days we had storm cellars because we were very respectful of tornadoes

in this part of the country. So my parents, my sister, my brother, and I all jumped up and ran to the storm cellar. We stayed to wait out the storm and ended up sleeping there all night.

At daybreak Papa opened the cellar door and stepped out into brilliant sunshine. We followed him, and then suddenly we all stopped. The hail had been so large that it had pounded the side of the house until you could see the marks left by it.

I saw a look of terror pass over my father's face. He cried out, "Boys, let's get dressed and go out to the fields and check our crops!"

We had planted our seeds of corn and cotton, and they had just begun to grow. The little plants were coming out of the ground, maybe finger high. As we walked over those fields, we saw that it had hailed so hard our crops had been beaten into the ground. ***We were wiped out!***

In our extremity, this is where my little part-Indian mother took charge with her take-charge faith. She knew my father had a habit of carrying a $20 bill in what was called a pocketbook in those days. My mother told Papa to take that $20 bill and lay it on the table. Then she went into the kitchen and came back with a handkerchief which was tied by the corners. When she opened it, nickels and dimes and quarters and half dollars spilled out onto the table.

My sister Jewel brought out her savings and put it on the table with the rest. My brother Vaden and I gathered what money we had saved up, and by the time we had all pooled our money, it added up to about $100.

Mama told Papa, "Ellis, you go to town and buy some seed, and you and the boys go out there and get the seed planted as quickly as possible!" **That's just what we did!**

Papa was the only farmer in Pontotoc County that year who replanted. Everybody else had given up. In the natural, it was too late in the season to replant. ***We were the only ones who started over again by faith!***

That second batch of seed was very precious to us. It took hold, the rains came at the right time, and we were the only farm in the county that raised a crop that year!

What did we do?

We planted a seed of an equivalent benefit—a benefit just as big as the one we had lost!

YOU CAN REPLANT WITH THE LORD!

One of the most powerful revelations God has ever given me regarding Seed-Faith is the Bible teaching of the seed of equivalent benefit. The Bible teaches that in every loss you have you can plant a new seed for an equivalent benefit. For the benefit that you should have had that the devil stole away, you can plant a new seed, and an equal benefit will wipe out that loss.

I've lost so many things in my life, but when something goes bad, I don't give up! ***I plant another seed to God!*** I repeat: I plant another seed to God!

How many times have you been defeated, whipped, and ready to give up? How many times have you gotten up, replanted your seed, and said, *"Devil, I'm going to plant a seed of equivalent benefit for this loss"?*

When you plant a seed of equivalent benefit it means that by faith and new seed-sowing:

✔ You can wipe out the loss!

✔ You can overcome the failed seed!

✔ You can reproduce the lost crop!

✔ You can still get your miracle harvest!

Satan may come against you with a devilish hailstorm and try to ruin your seed, but you can still plant a seed of equivalent benefit, and God will give you the harvest. **I believe He'll do it!** ***That's why it's so important to replant with the Lord!***

◆ If satan has stolen your health, plant a seed to get well.

◆ If he has stolen your finances, plant a seed to activate ideas, concepts, and insights from God that will lead to restoration of the loss.

◆ If the devil has stolen your family, don't give up. Plant a seed of equivalent

benefit and expect your family to be restored to you!

When you plant a seed of equivalent benefit, God can rebuild loss and put you back on a new road with Him!

◆ Our heavenly Father is bigger than our mistakes!

◆ He's bigger than our past!

◆ He's bigger than our failures!

◆ He's bigger than anything the devil can do!

Even though we may miss His ideal, if we humble ourselves and repent and replant, *He can give us a second chance!*

THE WORD OF GOD SAYS GOD NEVER FAILS!

God, our Source, will never fail you when you practice Seed-Faith living. But it's very important for you to understand that the Lord may not send the harvest in the same way every time or in the way that *you* expect it!

He may send the harvest in the form of:

◆ A closer walk with Him.

◆ Better health.

◆ A raise.

◆ Financial help from an unexpected source.

◆ A better relationship with others.

◆ A loved one's salvation.

◆ A better understanding of the Bible.

◆ And other things important to you.

God sends the increase on the seeds you sow, but He does it in His timing

and in the way He chooses! ***HE IS BIGGER THAN YOUR NEEDS AND WISER THAN YOUR PROBLEMS . . . AND HE KNOWS BEST!***

CHAPTER 6

YOU CAN ORDER YOUR HARVEST IN ADVANCE

I have a very special friend and Partner, Don, who lives in Oklahoma City. Not long ago he was at a low point in his life, ***but he made a decision to order his harvest in advance, and he received a miracle!***

He and his wife were blessed of the Lord in one of my crusades in the big tent cathedral when they were nearly thirty years of age, and they became Partners with my ministry. They believed what I preached about giving and receiving, so they began to tithe, allotting $10 a month to my ministry.

Soon ICI—ideas, concepts, and insights—began to work in his life. God gave him the idea to start a little wholesale plumbing business. As the years went by, he continued with all of his heart in Seed-Faith, working hard, and he became the largest wholesale plumbing distributor in the state of Oklahoma.

After he became hugely successful, he kept right on living the Seed-Faith lifestyle.

He became one of the best Partners I had and helped build many areas of Oral Roberts University and other phases of my ministry.

He also helped build his church, as well as other ministries such as the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship, International. He also became a warm personal friend of mine.

In 1995 when my son Richard and I started to build Golden Eagle Broadcasting, I gave various Partners an opportunity to support this new mandate from God upon my life.

After the first ten friends I asked to seed into the new network had turned me down, I was praying about it and the Lord directed me to contact my friend, Don. I told him about how God had commissioned me to build Golden Eagle Broadcasting, and I asked him to pray about becoming a Golden Eagle Partner.

This was a huge project and required a large amount of money, as all television projects do.

He sounded very downcast as he replied, "Oral, at any other time I would have been tickled to do it, but I can't right now. This recession has hit us so hard that it's wiped out 198

You Can Order Your Harvest In Advance my cash flow. Some time ago I bought two large buildings to expand my business, and now I'm about to lose them. I've had them up for sale. But since the real estate market has dropped, *I can't even get a bid on them!"*

Friend, you should have heard him on the phone. From the sound of his voice I thought we were going to a funeral. But I knew what he felt like because I've been there myself. So I asked him, "Do you have anything in your possession that you could sow?"

He began to laugh as he replied, "You're telling me to get back into Seed-Faith, aren't you?"

"That's right," I answered. "You don't have to have a lot to get into Seed-Faith." Then I added, **"Do you have even $100 that you could sow?"**

You should know that compared to his other gifts, this was like pennies. Often, our first instinct in our need is not to bother at all.

Instead, we think we should wait until we have an abundance before we give. But I believe it's the spirit of giving out of our need that God can bless and bring to harvest and create abundance.

Don said, "Yes, I do have $100 to sow."

I told him, "Don't think of the $100 as money, but think of it as a seed. I'm going to come into *agreement* with you according to Matthew 18:19,20 that your two buildings will sell, and the bigger one will sell very quickly!

And, Don, I won't come out of the agreement."

He nearly shouted, "I'll have the $100 to you tomorrow, and if those two buildings sell, the $25,000 will be in your hands overnight!"

"God heard that!" I exclaimed. ***"Now you've ordered your harvest in advance!"***

That was "revelation knowledge" for me. I had to sit back and really think of what that meant.

Really, that's what Seed-Faith is. **Every time you give, you are ordering your harvest in advance!** YOU CAN AIM YOUR SEED TO DEFEAT YOUR NEED!

◆ If you have a need, plant a seed—eight words that can mean the difference for you.

◆ If you have a desire, plant a seed.

◆ If you plant a seed, aim your seed to defeat your need.

When you aim your seed against your mountain of need, *that's what it means to order your harvest in advance!*

Two weeks later I received a phone call from my friend, Don, and he told me excitedly, "A man walked into my office, put a check down on my desk, and bought the bigger of the two buildings! The $25,000 will be in your hands tomorrow! I want to be a Golden Eagle in this project for the Gospel!"

But that's not all! Not long after that his second building sold, **his cash flow started up again, and his whole business turned around! His cash flow began to flow again!**

There's no way that brother could have turned his business around if he hadn't decided to be obedient to God's Word and God's laws and order his harvest in advance. Then he had to be willing and joyful to pay the price of sowing his seed —out of his need—to receive his harvest. ***He had to endure all the way to the end with his seed-planting and then continue on, as he is still doing!***

THE HARVEST IS WORTH THE PRICE YOU PAY

Every time Jesus talked about laying down His life as a seed that He sowed, He talked about the Resurrection, or the harvest, on that seed sown. "He endured the cross for the joy that was set before Him" (see Hebrews 12:2).

Jesus knew what He was going to go through.

But He kept focused on where He was GOING! It's all a matter of how you look at where you are and then at where you are going!

When the Lord told His disciples that He must go to the Cross and give His life "as the seed of David," He also told them that He would rise from the dead as a result. When His critics pushed Him into a corner, He said to them, "You destroy this temple of My body, and I'll raise it up in three days" (see John 2:19-21).

Jesus sowed, knowing the harvest of the Resurrection was coming. When you sow in that spirit, you can't be defeated—ever!

Victory may not come quickly, but IT WILL COME!

You Can Order Your Harvest In Advance Hebrews 12:2 tells us to keep our eyes on Jesus as our example.

◆ He endured to the end, meaning He stayed the course.

◆ He paid the price, meaning He sowed His best seed.

◆ He endured the shame of the Cross for the joy that was set before him, meaning He received the greatest harvest of all—

for Himself and for all believers.

The joy set before Jesus is a direct reference to the harvest of souls that would result from the Cross and the Resurrection. **The Cross is the seed, and the Resurrection is the harvest.** ***When Jesus died on the Cross, He was really ordering His harvest in advance!***

The Lord must have struggled with the great price that He had to pay for His harvest, for the price was the giving of His life. But He was willing to pay—to sow—it because He had the hope and expectation of receiving the harvest!

And Jesus gave up His life so He could reap a mighty harvest of souls. I'm so glad I am one of those souls saved by His shed blood and His resurrection from the dead.

Jesus was the Seed that God sowed. But there was no way God could have reaped the harvest if Jesus hadn't been willing to pay the price by enduring the Cross!

In seed-sowing there's no way you and I can expect to reap a miracle harvest from our seed planted unless we're willing to pay the price by enduring all the way to the harvest!

The apostle Paul reminds us, *Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not* (Galatians 6:9).



You Can Order Your Harvest In Advance **Partner Orders Harvest in Advance!**

Oral, I've been healed of a chronic wheezing problem! Every time I would lie down, walk fast, or climb stairs, I would wheeze. Each time I sent you a Seed-Faith gift, I always prayed over it and reminded God of what He had said in His Word concerning my need.

Last year when I wrote for prayer and sowed a seed, you sent me some prayer

cloths. To release my faith for healing, I wrote healing Scriptures on them, pinned them inside my clothing, and wore them night and day.

After three months I had no more wheezing or shortness of breath! All I can say is, "Thank You, Jesus! I am delivered!"

Grace from New York

IN CLOSING . . . WHAT I HOPE FOR YOU

Many noted psychologists say that you must read something seven times before you get it. I believe there's something to that. For example, when I receive a new revelation from God's Word from which I preach a sermon, I don't preach it as well the first time as I do after I preach it several times.

The more often I deliver the truths from those Scriptures in which God has revealed His secrets to me, the clearer the message is to me and the better people get it into their spirits.

I say this to share with you that in writing *SEED FAITH 2000,* I've spent what seems to me to be countless hours in writing and rewriting to make every part clearer. Then, in proofreading it, I worked it over again very carefully. Constantly I asked myself, "Do you understand this? Is this clear to you? Is it making a further change in your life?"

Finally, I could work on it no more; it was ready for the printer—with my heart going with it. I couldn't see you, the reader, but I could feel in my spirit everyone who would read this book, which is anointed by the Holy Spirit. At times I would feel the anointing so strongly upon me that I would cry or shout praises out loud to the Lord. I believe you have felt the anointing as you have read it, especially if you've read it again and again.

Of the more than three million readers of the first edition of *MIRACLE OF SEED-FAITH*, many, many have personally told me they just "devoured" it on their first reading as it was so new and revolutionary to their thinking and believing. Then they said they would pick it up again every few weeks, and sometimes every few days, and read all or part of it again, each time having something new revealed to them to help them get their needs met. Some told me they have read the book more than twenty-five times!

The difference between that first edition—which we still reprint because of the continual demand—and this millennium edition is that this book absorbs the key issues of the first edition but adds what I have learned during the thirty years since the first one was issued.

SEED-FAITH 2000 goes deeper, covers larger and more demanding issues, and gives a clearer picture of the inner workings of seedtime and harvest, of sowing and reaping, and of giving and receiving.

As you've already realized, I am completely absorbed by the three key principles of Seed-Faith and all that I've experienced and applied in the most practical ways. I've listened to what so many have shared with me of the electrifying effect of these Bible principles on their lives, and even on their families.

Of the approximately 125 books and 31 booklets I've written during these exciting fifty-three years of my healing ministry, I know in my heart that this book more clearly sums up what I believe brings a better understanding of God, of who and what you are in Him, and that you can be the successful believer you want to be. I feel that.

One more word. Many years ago the power of Seed-Faith in my life caused me no longer to sell my books, except in rare instances. I was inspired to give the books, without obligation, to those who wrote and asked for a copy, or in places where I preached to make copies available free as a seed of my faith.

Almost three and a half million copies have been "seeded."

Have I lost by this? No way! What God has brought forth for me to receive is beyond description. There is just something about giving that produces receiving, something about sowing that creates reaping.

The last thing I want to do when I've finished my course and I keep my appointment to go and be with God forever is to make sure that the miracle of Seed-Faith is flowing in me. I have no greater wish.

I pray God to richly bless you.

SOME OTHER BOOKS WRITTEN BY ORAL ROBERTS

Keys to Success

Seeing Through God's Eyes

Oral Roberts' Favorite Healing Scriptures Is God Your Source?

Miracle of Seed-Faith

Second Coming of Jesus—Sooner Than You Think!

How To Resist the Devil

Expect a Miracle—an Autobiography Are Miracles Real?

Don't Park Here!

For a free copy, postpaid and without obligation, write to: Oral Roberts, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74171-0001. In Canada, write to: Oral Roberts, Toronto, Ontario M4P 2G2.

Table of Contents