



Sowing & Reaping



Our words are powerful. Scripture teaches that our words and our speech have the power of life and death (Proverbs 18:21). James warns that the tongue is like a raging fire or filled with deadly poison (James 3:1-7). And Jesus said that we would give account of every word and that our own words would justify or condemn us (Matthew 12:35-37).

Our words are either creative or destructive, blessings or curses. Our words can encourage, exhort and be valuable expressions of God's love and purpose, or our words can have a negative, destructive power which hurts and wounds. Our words are seeds that will take root and eventually produce fruit.

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man sows, that will he also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.” Gal. 6:7 - 8 (NKJV)

What we sow with our words, we will reap in our lives. Carnal, destructive words will produce a harvest of corruption and death. Words of life and love will produce a harvest of life and love. Seeds produce after their own kind. Watermelon seeds do not produce apples, nor do apple seeds produce tomatoes. In this is the understanding that God is not mocked. His principles will be kept intact. His order will not be supplanted.

The sower sows the word. And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble. Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirty fold, some sixty, and some a hundred. Mark 4:14-20 (NKJV)

Lets look at the stony soil. The stony soil quickly receives the word, but the seed is unable to sink a deep root. These are those who hear, but take offense or stumble. The planting only lasts for a short time before the heat causes the young plant to wither and die. This is true with our vows and words of commitment as well. Received into stony hearts, hearts holding past hurts, unforgiven episodes, offenses of any nature, the words and commitment of love cannot take root.

When our hearts have no stones, the potential is there for an unlimited harvest. The possibilities for a successful marriage are unlimited, not to mention other vital relationships that will flourish in healthy soil. Without the rocks and stones of unforgiveness and offense the potential is unlimited.

The Paradigm of Clamor

Clamor is the noise of our hearts, minds and lives. It is the noise we produce out of bitterness, wrath or anger. It is racket!

Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor and evil speaking be put away from you with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you. Eph 4:31&32

When we allow the racket to be come a way of life, we rob ourselves. There is a cost to filling our lives with racket. But like every bad behavior, there is also a payoff. This payoff reinforces the clamor paradigm and racket lifestyle.

The racket is seen as a consistent and persistent complaint:

“If you only knew...”

“Nobody knows what I’m going through...”

“You don’t understand...”

“I can’t...”

“It’s impossible...”

“They don’t care about me...”

“I always mess things up...”

It is rooted in the past, in an upset or disappointment that may even be set in the foundation of the individual from early childhood. This paradigm gives place to a series of excuses and justifications. The racket consistently blame-shifts or is an excuse. It whines about circumstances, others or self. The racket enables the person to deny responsibility.

THE PAYOFF

- Domination (controls conversations & events)
- Superiority (“I’m right, even if you prove me wrong.”)
- Validation (at others expense)
- Avoidance (the noise of the racket helps drown out the truth)

THE COST

- Acceptance (the thing desired most is withheld)
- Health and vitality
- Joy and peace (the Racket keeps you from Kingdom living)
- Communication and expression
- Creativity and accomplishment

This all translates as deception. This deception clouds all other areas of thinking.



Out of the same mouth comes forth blessing and cursing. These things, my brethren, ought not be so. James 3:10 (Amplified)

The Power of Blessing!

We see the power of the blessing in Genesis where Esau weeps at the discovery that his brother Jacob had stolen from him the blessing of his father, Isaac (chapter 27). Later, we see the significance and prophetic nature of the blessing as Jacob blesses his sons and the sons of Joseph (chapters 48 & 49). Our words of blessing are important.

The practice of blessing is to declare the goodness of the name of the one being blessed.

“Bless the Lord, oh my soul, and all that is within me; bless His holy name.” Psalm 103:1 (KJV)

If we make it a practice to declare the goodness of others, especially our closest relationships, we take giants steps toward being a doer of James 3:2.

“For we all often stumble and fall and offend in many things. And if any one does not offend in speech - never says the wrong things - he is a fully developed character and a perfect, mature man, able to control his whole body and to curb his entire nature.” (Amplified)

SUMMARY

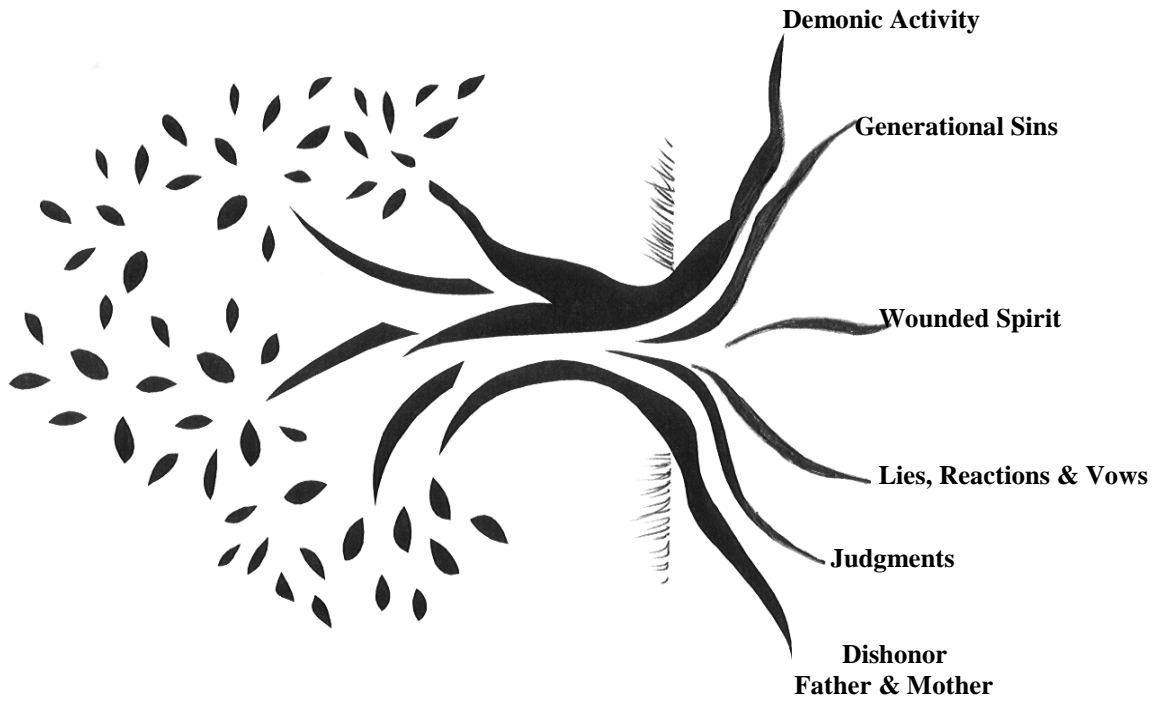
Our words are seeds which determine our future harvest. The crops will take time to mature and grow. Proper sowing of good seed crowds out weeds. Faith is the fertilizer which encourages growth but discouragement plows up the plants. We are always planting either carnal or spiritual seed. Spiritual seed reflects the Kingdom, while carnal seed reflects self-interest. Sowing to the flesh is counter-productive to abundant living, covenant life and the hundred-fold harvest.

AFFIRMATION

Today, I choose to be a disciple. I choose to discipline my thoughts, words, attitudes and behavior. I will master my thoughts and attitudes. I will guard my mind and heart from all negative thoughts, renewing my mind with and by the Word of God and will maintain self-control, love, gentleness, kindness, sympathy, and understanding. I repent from and, by God's grace, will eliminate all hatred, envy, jealousy, selfishness, and cynicism by activating God's love in me, which never fails.



Roots of Bitterness



Healthy Roots

