

Planting for the Future

I. Future Containers – The Brilliance of Seeds

PROMISES, PLANS, DREAMS, DESIRES - A People of Hope!

You can change the future by planting seeds! It's God's way!

A seed an embryonic information capsule, carrying all the instructions needed for increase and multiplication. A seed is alive and packed with **almost limitless potential**.

Seeds are God's future containers. Seeds contain God's blueprint for the future.

[SLIDE 1] - Small seeds, Big results over time

Seeds are God's **development** plan and **disaster recovery** plan.

[SLIDE -2] Need fire to release seeds.

Seeds utilize **resources** that are not **accessible** by any other means.
Soil and **Sunlight**.

[SLIDE 3] A lasting impact

II. Divinely Designed Seeds –

A. **Our children are seeds.** The Creator Himself becomes a **Seed of His creation and in so doing, breaks the bondage of decay and releases the power of an endless life!**

Gen 3:15 NKJ And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and **her Seed**;
He shall bruise your head,
And you shall bruise His heel."

Children - **Relationships and opportunities** (not limited to natural)

Paul - Timothy, Onesimus, Corinthians

Peter -- calls Mark his son. John - "Little Children"

Joyful "impossibilities" *"Yitzhak"*

Gen 18.1 And the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day.

10 The LORD said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and **Sarah your wife shall have a son.**" And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him.

14 **Is anything too hard for the LORD?** At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time **next year**, and Sarah shall have a son."

Abraham had issues (relying on his own strength)

Gen 20.3 But God came to Abimelech in a dream... and said to him, "Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man's wife."

God's Promise is BIGGER than Abraham's failings!

Gen 21.1 The LORD visited Sarah as he had **said**, and the LORD did to Sarah as he had **promised**. 2 And Sarah conceived ... 3 Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, **Isaac**. ... 5 Abraham was a **hundred years old** when his son Isaac was born to him. 6 And Sarah said, "**God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh over me.**"

Gen 21:12 NKJ But God said to Abraham, "Do not let it be displeasing in your sight ...; for **in Isaac your seed shall be called** (ESV offspring named)

The seed of **JOYFUL LAUGHTER at the IMPOSSIBLE** blesses all the nations on Earth.

(Ishmael was out of **logic** and **effort**. Isaac was **the impossible made possible**.) **Hagar** could tell you how she got pregnant. **Sarah** - not so!

B. Words are Seeds containing a potential future. Every word contains in a future reality in an immature form.:

Luke 8:11 Now the parable is this: ***The seed is the word of God.***

1 Pet 1.23 NKJ having been **born again**, not of corruptible **seed** but **incorruptible**, through the **word of God** which lives and abides forever,

Our words are also seeds!

[SLIDE 1] - Small seeds, Big results over time

Children and **all our plans** flourish in an atmosphere of HOPE. Even a WORD of HOPE can set their course, unlocking potential. You can become anything you really want to become.

Your Father delights in your success!

The **greatest gift we can give our children** and the people around us is our **cheerful trust in God's personal commitment** to each of our lives, and to the future!

C. Offerings are Seeds containing a potential future. Every offering contains in a future reality in an immature form. It releases the creative activity of God:

2 Cor 9.6 ESV The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

OFFERINGS and BREAKTHROUGHS!

1. Abraham of Isaac – sworn oath ... all nations blessed Gen 22

Gen 22:18 NKJ In **your seed** all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

2. David -Threshing Floor – ended the plague, temple 1Ch 21, 2C 3

3. Elijah on Mt. Carmel – ended drought & idolatry 1K 18

4. The Widow to Elijah – gave her & son a life & future **1K 17**
5. Elisha and the Widow – debt free & her children **2K 4**
6. Widow's Mite – GREATER THAN **Mk 12**
7. Alabaster Jar – anointed for burial **Mk 14; Mt 26**
8. Lamb of God – made all things new
9. Cornelius' – Gospel to Gentiles **Acts 10**

FEBRUARY 12 FIRST FRUITS Sunday
First Fruit is Given at the beginning of a cycle.

II. A GRACE OF GIVING

1. Grace is the ABILITY of God given, not earned!

John 1:14 NKJV And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, **full of grace and truth**....

2. Grace liberates us from every bondage!

Eph 2:8 NIV For it is by **grace you have been saved**, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God —

3. There is a Grace of Generosity

2 Cor 8:7 NIV But just as you excel in everything — in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us — see that you also excel in this **grace of giving**.

III. The Importance of Planting Seed!

Sowing seed is the wise response to faith in God's SOV-EREIGN purposes. As seed sowers, we participate in filling the earth with the glory of the Lord, the knowledge of the Lord and the joy of the Lord!

Gen 26:12 NKJ Then Isaac **sowed** in that land, and **reaped** in the same year a **hundredfold**; and the LORD blessed him. **13** The

man began to **prosper**, and **continued prospering** until he became **very prosperous**; 14 ... So the Philistines **envied** him.

Ministry:

Grace of Giving

2 Pet 1.4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great **promises**, so that **through them** you may become **partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire..

2 Cor 9.8 And God is **able to make all grace abound to you**, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.

Declaration that the windows of Heaven will open for them.

For the traumatized, the disappointed, the discouraged, the worried.

The God of HOPE will be revealed.