

About seeds and a harvest

Shofar Table View
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Seed always reproduces after its own kind



Seed has to be sown



Seed has to die before it can produce

1 Corinthians 15:36 (TLB)

- ▶ What a foolish question! You will find the answer in your own garden! When you put a **seed** into the ground it doesn't grow into a plant unless it "**dies**" first.



The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares

- ▶ ²⁴ Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like **a man who sowed good seed in his field;** ²⁵ but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.
 - ▶ ³⁶ Then Jesus sent the multitude away and went into the house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the tares of the field.”
 - ▶ ³⁷ He answered and said to them: “**He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.** ³⁸ **The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom,** but the tares are the sons of the wicked *one*. (Matt 13)
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The seed is good

Jeremiah 2:21 (NKJV)

- ▶ ²¹ Yet I had planted you a noble vine, a seed of highest quality.
How then have you turned before Me
Into the degenerate plant of an alien vine?



The size of the seed is not important; the type is



- ▶ ³¹ Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, ³² which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches.” (Matt 13) (NKJV)
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The seed must die

John 12:24 (NKJV)

- ▶ ²⁴ Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.



How do we die?

Galatians 2:20 (NKJV)

- ▶ I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Colossians 2:12 (NKJV)

- ▶ ¹² buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with *Him* through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.
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1. Obedience

- ▶ Obedience to God: not man/ own nature/ systems and institutions
- ▶ Obedience is “dying to self”
 - Marriage
 - Work
 - Finances
 - Ministry
- ▶ Obedience *will* result in a harvest (Deut 28)



2. Tribulations

- ▶ ³³ These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will^[d] have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” (John 16)

- ▶ ²² “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.” (Acts 14)



Tribulations: endure or overcome

- ▶ Victory only comes through battle
- ▶ Triumph only follows trial
- ▶ No testimony without a test
- ▶ Harvest only after death



Humility: the hallmark/measuring stick

- ▶ "He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death."
(Philippians 2:8 NKJV)
- ▶ Humility leads to perfect death
- ▶ Humility is the "hallmark" of "death of the self"

Paul: an example

- ▶ ²²“And now I am going to Jerusalem, drawn there irresistibly by the Holy Spirit,^[c] not knowing what awaits me, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit has told me in city after city that jail and suffering lie ahead. ²⁴ But life is worth nothing unless I use it for doing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about God’s mighty kindness and love. (Acts 20)
 - ▶ Acts 21: ¹²When we heard this, we and the people there pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. ¹³Then Paul answered, “Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.” ¹⁴When he would not be dissuaded, we gave up and said, “The Lord’s will be done.” (Acts 21)
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Corrie ten Boom's sayings

- ▶ “Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow. It empties today of its strength.”
- ▶ “Worry is like a rocking chair: it keeps you moving but doesn't get you anywhere.”
- ▶ “When I try, I fail. When I trust, he succeeds.”
- ▶ “If God sends us on stony paths, he provides strong shoes.”
- ▶ “God takes our sins – the past, present, and future, and dumps them in the sea and puts up a sign that says **NO FISHING ALLOWED.**”



Jesus: The ultimate example

- ▶ ³ Don't be selfish; don't live to make a good impression on others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourself.
⁴ Don't just think about your own affairs, but be interested in others, too, and in what they are doing.
 - ▶ ⁵ Your attitude should be the kind that was shown us by Jesus Christ, ⁶ who, though he was God, did not demand and cling to his rights as God, ⁷ but laid aside his mighty power and glory, taking the disguise of a slave and becoming like men.^[a] ⁸ And he humbled himself even further, going so far as actually to die a criminal's death on a cross.^[b]
 - ▶ ⁹ Yet it was because of this that God raised him up to the heights of heaven and gave him a name which is above every other name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
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