

# 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

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## 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

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- ▶ <sup>24</sup> Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like **a man who sowed good seed in his field;** <sup>25</sup> but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way.
  - ▶ <sup>36</sup> 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.”
  - ▶ <sup>37</sup> He answered and said to them: “**He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.** <sup>38</sup> **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

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Jeremiah 2:21 (NKJV)

- ▶ <sup>21</sup> 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

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- ▶ <sup>31</sup> 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, <sup>32</sup> 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

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## John 12:24 (NKJV)

- ▶ <sup>24</sup> 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?

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## 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)

- ▶ <sup>12</sup> 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

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- ▶ 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

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- ▶ <sup>33</sup>These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will<sup>[d]</sup> have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” (John 16)
  
- ▶ <sup>22</sup>“We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.” (Acts 14)



# Tribulations: endure or overcome

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- ▶ 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

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- ▶ <sup>22</sup>“And now I am going to Jerusalem, drawn there irresistibly by the Holy Spirit,<sup>[c]</sup> not knowing what awaits me, <sup>23</sup> except that the Holy Spirit has told me in city after city that jail and suffering lie ahead. <sup>24</sup> 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: <sup>12</sup>When we heard this, we and the people there pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup>Then 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.” <sup>14</sup>When 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

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- ▶ “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

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