

## The Seed of Thanks

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 New American Standard Bible

<sup>6</sup> Now I say this: the one who **sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows generously will also reap generously.** <sup>7</sup> Each one must do just as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for **God loves a cheerful giver.** <sup>8</sup> And God is able to make all grace overflow to you, so that, always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

### Introduction

I love Thanksgiving. I love Thanksgiving Day (one of my favorite holidays). I love doing the Thanksgiving Eve service. Thanks for coming tonight. May the Lord bless all of us tonight.

Please look at the sermon title: *The Seed of Thanks*. Both words “Seed” and “Thanks” deserve our attention. We always plant some “seeds” in our heart; that seed is “Thanks.” That’s what I am going to talk about tonight.

### Content

Tonight’s passage refers to offerings to the Lord. Out of many types of offerings, I am going to limit my focus on the offering of thanksgiving. More specifically, I am going to talk about planting the seed of thanks in heart and later harvesting them in our lives.

First, in verse 6, **the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows generously will also reap generously.** I am sure you have heard of the law of “Sowing and Reaping.” Whatever we sow, we harvest. Further, if we sow a little, we will also reap a little. If we sow generously, we will also reap generously. Either good or bad. Either thanksgiving or complaint. The less thanks we sow in our heart, the less thanks we will harvest in our life. The more thanks we plant in our heart, the more thanks we will harvest in our life. No brainer.

Next, in verse 7, *Each one must do just as he has decided in his heart, **not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*** When you plant thanks in your heart, God commands, do it cheerfully. Not reluctantly or under compulsion. Giving thanks to God in all circumstances is always a choice. So, when you choose to give thanks to God, do it cheerfully, because God loves a cheerful giver of thanks.

Finally, verse 8 says: *And God is able to make all grace overflow to you, so that, **always having all sufficiency in everything,** you may have an abundance for every good deed;* ---wait a minute.

It is God's will for you to be sufficient in everything. When we do the first two things in verse 6 and 7, that is, to sow generously and cheerfully, we will have an abundance for every good deed. I believe that. I have experienced that too.

Now I am going to illustrate my point with a story from the book entitled, "The Book of Mysteries" (by Jonathan Cahn). The story is about a conversation between a teacher and a student. One day they were talking about Jesus' feeding the five thousand people with five loaves and two fish.

The teacher asked the student: How did He (*Jesus--kc*) perform that miracle?

S: It doesn't say (*in the Bible--kc*).

T: But it does. Listen again: (*the teacher reads Matthew 14:19--kc*) 'and looking up to heaven, He gave thanks, broke them and gave them to the disciples...

S: He gave thanks?

T: Yes. He looked to heaven and gave thanks. He gave thanks and the miracle happened. That's the secret. That's the key to miracles.

S: Giving thanks?

T: Giving thanks is crucial to a life of fulness and blessing. On top of that, it also gives you the power to perform the miracle of multiplication.

S: How?

T: By doing what He did. You don't look at how little you have or how big your problem is or how impossible the situation is. You don't panic, you don't complain, and you don't get discouraged over not having enough. You take the little you have, whatever good there is, no matter how small or inadequate it is, and you do what Messiah did. You lift it up to the Lord and you give thanks for it. And the blessings you have will multiply, if not in the world, then in your heart. The more you give thanks, the less you will hunger, and the more full and blessed your life will be.

S: So in order to perform miracles, I need to...

T: Give thanks. Whatever you have, no matter how much or how little. Give thanks even for what is not enough, and it will multiply to become what is enough... and what is more than enough... Practice this key. Then get started multiplying your bread.

(Day 42, How to Multiply Bread, *The Book of Mysteries*, Jonathan Cahn).

## **Conclusion**

So, folks, this Thanksgiving, let us give thanks to the Lord. Let us not look at how little we have or how big our problem is or how impossible the situation is. Let us not panic or complain. Let us not get discouraged over not having enough.

Let us take the little we have, whatever good there is, no matter how small or inadequate it is, and let us do what Messiah did. Lift it up to the Lord and give thanks for it. And let us see how God multiplies our blessings both in our hearts and in our lives. The more we give thanks, the less we will hunger, and the fuller and more blessed our life will be. Remember the law of sowing and reaping. Give thanks to the Lord cheerfully. Then, you will be enriched in everything (v. 11). Amen.