



ABOUT

This Book

The *Seed Principle* is a down-to-earth guide for getting control of your life. More precisely, it explains how you can sow the life of your dreams. Drawing inspiration from the parable of the sower, this book reveals eight proven strategies for harvesting a more abundant life.

The parable of the sower has many layers. On the surface it provides hope for evangelists who wonder if their labors will bear fruit. On a deeper level it is a story about success. It identifies the obstacles you face when trying to influence others, and it sheds light on how you can make desirable changes in your own life.

Using a farming analogy, Jesus explained the process of human growth and attaining goals. You can apply the principles in a shortsighted worldly way or, as they were intended, to develop greatness of soul. In either case, the principles work. How you use them is your choice.

In this parable Jesus explodes two popular myths about success. Success is not a matter of luck or of genius. Rather, success is the result of sowing the right seeds in the right soil. With every choice you make, you sow seeds that produce either weeds (negative results) or fruit (positive results). Consequently, to have the best possible life, make the best possible choices.

Section One: The Secrets

Section One of this book highlights four spiritual laws that explain the way life was designed to work on earth. They are called “laws” because they are unbreakable life principles that regulate all of God’s creation. Those who ignore these concepts are continually confused and frustrated by life. Those who learn these laws and put them to good use exercise more control over their lives and enjoy immense blessings as a result.

- **The law of the *seed*** reveals the principle of causation. Causation explains why things happen as they do. The law of cause and effect rules the material world, but it is no less potent in the spiritual world (Galatians 6:7). What you sow is what you reap.

- **The law of the *sower*** shows the possibility of creation. Character and circumstances are largely self-constructed. Humans shape their lives and control their destinies through their day-to-day decisions. Today’s choices are the seeds of tomorrow’s happiness or regret (Galatians 6:8). Choose wisely.

- **The law of the *soil*** demonstrates the prudence of cultivation. Wise people know that potential must be cultivated to yield its precious fruits. As a result, they tend their souls with the meticulous care of master gardeners. The condition of the heart is the most important factor in producing healthy human growth. Prepare yours well.

- **The law of the *sickle*** underscores the power of continuation (Galatians 6:9). The key to success is perseverance because the harvest comes at the end of the growing season (Ecclesiastes 3:1-2). What is reaped on that day is determined by the seeds you have sown or the opportunities you have blown. Confidence in the law of sowing and reaping inspires consistent effort and endurance. Therefore, the key to success is to sow prudently, plentifully and persistently.

Section Two: The Soils

Section Two of this book digs a little deeper into the soils mentioned in the third law of success. In gardening or landscaping, soil condition can accurately predict whether plants will die, survive or thrive. Jesus identified four kinds of ground and explained how each one affects the

growth of seed. He used these soils to represent states of soul. Each one provides a deeper understanding of the way your spiritual condition influences personal growth and the realization of goals. Jesus' message was unmistakable: Preparing the heart is the single greatest opportunity for producing a rewarding life.

- **Hard ground** describes the insensitivity of those who are unaware or unappreciative of truth. Those who are thoughtless or heartless cannot improve their lot in life. Meaningful change begins with acknowledging the need for change. One who does not long for personal transformation cannot succeed in life because growth is fundamental to success.

- **Rocky ground** depicts the condition of the uncommitted. Although enthusiastic, they lack the discipline it takes to follow through. Because progress usually comes through difficult ground, fortitude is essential for moving forward in life. Staying power is the secret to long-term success.

- **Thorny ground** represents those who are unfocused. Their good intentions get lost in a maze of competing interests. Lack of concentration keeps many from enjoying the success of which they are truly capable. New priorities must precede new growth.

- **Good ground** illustrates the integrity of the undivided. It describes men and women whose thoughts and words and deeds are fully aligned. When beliefs, emotions and behaviors harmonize, conditions are right for maximum growth.

Section Three: The Seeds

In Section Three of this book, you will find three practical lessons illustrating how the Seed Principle can be applied in your personal life. If you want to deepen your spirituality, strengthen your relationships, or sharpen your team, you will find just what you are looking for in this section. Use these chapters to move from theory to victory!

- **Sowing seeds for personal growth** – Chapter 10 focuses on your growth as an individual because becoming a better person is the key to a brighter tomorrow. This lesson will help you cultivate disciplines that will enlarge your spirit and enlist it in the service of your goals. When inward growth occurs, it enhances every part of your life. Therefore, success begins with spiritual growth.

• **Sowing seeds for *relational* growth** – Chapter 11 will explain how the Seed Principle can be used to enrich relationships with the most important people in your life, to eliminate harmful choices that keep others from drawing close to you. Then one healthy choice at a time, you can nurture a relationship where love and respect increase every day. Friendship and intimacy are not accidents. They are the well-tended gardens of purposeful sowers.

• **Sowing seeds for *organizational* growth** – Chapter 12 applies the Seed Principle to group settings. Because the principles are universal, they will work whether you are building up a church, growing a business, or leading a team of volunteers. Thriving organizations look beyond immediate goals to create a growth environment constructed of positive vision and healthy values.

Checklist for Success

The final chapter will recap the eight essentials for abundant living and provide you with a practical tool for sowing seeds of success in your everyday life. That tool, “The Sower’s Almanac,” consists of focused questions that enable you to forecast success in reaping the harvest you desire. Using this tool will dramatically increase the probability of positive outcomes by teaching you how to apply the laws revealed in Jesus’ parable.

Weed and Seed

At the close of each chapter, you will find resources to enhance your study of this book. Short-answer questions will highlight valuable information to be remembered, and discussion questions will reinforce spiritual principles to be practiced. Next comes the two-part seed and weed assignment. The Seed of the Week is a positive behavior to be cultivated, and the Weed of the Week is a negative behavior to be eliminated. Finally, each chapter closes with a suggestion for personal reflection and prayer. Taken together, these resources will increase your enjoyment of this material, accelerate your growth and hasten your success. So let’s get sowing!