

HOW MUCH ARE YOU WILLING TO RECEIVE?

by Kenneth Copeland

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— Prophecy Spoken by
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How Much Are You Willing To Receive?

As a student at Oral Roberts University in 1967, I discovered something that set the course of my life and ministry, forever. It was something so simple, yet, powerful enough to create an entire universe. It was something so obvious, yet, easily overlooked.

It was... faith in seed.

I remember boldly declaring to Gloria back then, “I am going to have the hundredfold return. You and I will walk in it. God will teach us how. We’re going to do things and have things that people will be too scared to even talk about. But we are going to do it!”

Since that time, a lot of people have told me, “Copeland, you just set your sights too high.”

Well, I’m just doing what the Apostle Paul did: “I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14). Notice it’s a high calling, not a low one.

That’s why I’ve found that a lot of church people— even preachers—get upset when you start talking about believing God for 30, 60 and a hundredfold return on what you sow into His kingdom. They get really nervous when you challenge them to receive all God has set before them.

But go talk to some farmers about the hundredfold return. That’s what they’re all after. They’re doing everything they can to get a hundredfold harvest from the seed they sow.

Why, then, are Christians so reluctant when it comes to believing God for a hundredfold return?

Because they don’t understand the principle of seed faith, they don’t expect much from God. The challenge for most believers begins with the fact they do not have faith in the seed they sow. That should not be. Believers should use their faith for a huge return on what they sow, the same as the farmer does.

You see, farmers—like God—believe in the power of multiplication that is in a seed. God does everything He does by seed, and farmers do everything they do by seed. What’s more, both have a hundredfold return on their minds. That’s what they work toward. That’s what they expect.

A Lesson From A Farmer

In fact, in 1947 God used a farmer to plant a seed in the heart of Dr. Oral Roberts. He planted this very principle of faith in a seed.

At the time, Dr. Roberts was pastoring a small church in Enid, Okla. He and his wife, Evelyn, had two children—and that was about all. They had no home, no car, few belongings, and lived from house to house with church members.

But on an unusually cold spring morning, just a couple hours before sunrise, a farmer knocked at their door.

The man apologized for waking them, but explained that he couldn't wait any longer. He was about to lose his farm.

It turned out that this man was a member of Dr. Roberts' church and happened to be one of the wealthiest men in the county. He had a large farm, but had lost a lot of money in the stock market and was about to lose everything. He came to Dr. Roberts for a miracle.

"God had me dig this up out of my backyard," he said. Then he handed an old can to Dr. Roberts. Inside were four, one-hundred dollar bills. "I want to put this in the offering for you and your family."

In a church service the night before, Dr. Roberts had confronted the church members about purchasing a parsonage. An offering was taken toward the down payment of a house and this farmer gave nothing. That night, however, God spoke to him.

"Oral," the man said, "I'm a farmer, and I believe in seed. I'm not considering this as money. I'm considering it as seed for my miracle."

Those words struck Dr. Roberts' heart, and by the Spirit of God he heard, Seed faith!

Faith in seed. Faith in God's way of doing things.

In the end, that farmer got his miracle, and Dr. Roberts got his house. But Dr. Roberts also went on to build his life, his ministry and a university worth more than half a billion dollars in property alone—and all by faith in a seed.

We Say Need—God Says Seed!

When we go to God with a need, He immediately begins talking to us about seed—something we can sow, or that we have sown, that will meet that need. Oftentimes, however, that’s the last thing we want to hear.

For example, there was a young rich man who ran up to Jesus and asked, “What shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?” (Mark 10:17).

He literally knelt before The LORD with all his need. He wanted eternal life.

Jesus recognized that this man knew all the commandments, backward and forward. He was a zealous man. In fact, Jesus saw his zeal and looked on him with love. But he still lacked one thing.

“Go...sell whatever you have,” Jesus told him, “and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me” (verse 21).

With that, the man got up from his knees and walked away downcast. Verse 22 tells us why. “The man’s countenance fell and was gloomy, and he went away grieved and sorrowing, for he was holding great possessions” (The Amplified Bible, Classic Edition).

This rich man came to Jesus with a need—the need for eternal life—and Jesus began talking to him about planting seed, but the man didn’t realize it. In his natural way of thinking, he thought Jesus meant he was just supposed to give away everything he had—as if his “stuff” was keeping him out of God’s kingdom.

But that wasn’t the case at all. Jesus was simply trying to help him change from the world’s way of doing things to God’s way, by sowing a seed.

It’s obvious this rich man was very attached to his wealth. His trust was in money, land and riches.

So, when Jesus tried to help him step over into God’s kingdom by sowing seed, he could not let go. He could not make that transfer of trust from the world’s system over to God’s way of doing things.

As the young man walked off, Jesus turned to His disciples and said, “With what difficulty will those who possess wealth and keep on holding it enter the kingdom of God!” (Mark 10:23, The Amplified Bible, Classic Edition).

If you and I are going to enter God’s kingdom and operate in His ways, we must have faith in seed—and I don’t just mean have faith in God. Yes, we must trust God, but we must also have faith in the seed, itself. We must believe it will produce for us, the same as a farmer believes his seed will bring a harvest.

The Bible tells us that God based His kingdom, as well as the universe, on the principle of seedtime and harvest (Genesis 8:22). It has operated that way ever since the beginning of Creation.

That's why, when Jesus told this rich man to sell all he had and give to the poor, He was not trying to make the man go broke. He was actually trying to get him rich—but rich according to God's ways. He was trying to get him to change his motives for selling all that he had.

“Sell in order to give to the poor,” Jesus was telling him, “not just so you can give to yourself. I want you in business, but not just for yourself. I want you in business with Me.”

Again, based on the way this man's mind had been programmed over the years, that's not what he heard Jesus saying. He heard just the opposite. He thought God did not want him to have any riches (which is probably how most people in the Church think today), and he couldn't handle it.

In the end, he walked away from the best deal anyone had ever offered him. He walked away from guaranteed success in this life, and in the life to come.

“A Hundredfold Now In This Time”

As He often did, Jesus seized the opportunity to teach His disciples from what they had witnessed in His ministry. And what Jesus told them that day wasn't at all what they might have expected.

Mark 10:24-25 tells us that, after the zealous rich man walked away, Jesus told His disciples a second time how hard it was for a person who trusted in riches to enter the kingdom of God—so hard, in fact, that He said it was “easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle.”

It's interesting to note the disciples' response to this (verse 26, The Amplified Bible, Classic Edition): “And they were shocked and exceedingly astonished, and said to Him and to one another, ‘Then who can be saved?’”

To me, that kind of response does not sound like a bunch of poor boys talking. It sounds like a group of prosperous men who were thinking they may have some trouble getting into God's kingdom because of their wealth.

After all, these guys had been quite successful in their own professions. A number of them had done very well as fishermen, and Matthew was no stranger to business, having become wealthy as a tax collector. They had money and possessions.

Nonetheless, they had chosen to follow Jesus, to whom Peter was quick to point out—“We have left all and followed You” (Mark 10:28).

In response to Peter, though, Jesus brought the conversation back to the issue of sowing seed (verses 29-30): “There is no man that has left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time [in this life], houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.”

Indeed, the disciples had “left all” to follow Jesus. But Jesus was telling them, “You haven't left anything...you've sown it. And because you have sown for My sake and the gospel's, you can expect to receive a hundredfold return now in this time.”

So, the responsibility rested with them. It was up to the disciples whether or not they would believe they would receive the hundredfold return.

Understand, however, that this concept of “a hundredfold now in this time” was not unfamiliar to these Hebrew men. Under the Old Covenant, the hundredfold return was an indication of the blessings of God. We find an account of such blessing in Genesis 26: There was a famine in the land, besides the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines, in Gerar. Then the Lord appeared to him and said: “Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you. Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. And I will make

your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven...and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed. Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the Lord blessed him (verses 1-4, 12).

Even in a time of famine, a time of great lack, Isaac sowed and—in the same year—reaped a hundredfold return. That was a supernatural harvest. It was the same kind of harvest Jesus was proclaiming— a hundredfold now in this time.

Teaspoonful Or Truckload?

Jesus' disciples had also heard Him teach on the 30, 60 and a hundredfold principle just a few chapters earlier in Mark 4, as He taught a great multitude of followers the foundational principle of God's kingdom—which is, sowing seed.

After Jesus had finished teaching the multitude, the disciples pulled Him aside to try and make sense from all He had said. That's when He gave them the revelation that "the sower sows The WORD" (Mark 4:14).

He explained that there were four different "grounds," or degrees to which people receive The WORD of God that is sown into their hearts. In this particular parable, the fourth type of ground was the best. It was the heart that He described as follows: "These are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirty-fold, some sixty, and some a hundred" (verse 20).

His point was, God works with seed.

Using parable after parable that day, Jesus taught His disciples the value of seed, as well as the power of faith in seed (verses 21-34). But in the middle of all that teaching, He challenged them with this: "If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.... Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given. For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him" (verses 23-25).

By saying, If any man have ears to hear, let him hear, Jesus was telling us that there is no limit who this kingdom principle of seed faith will work for. It will work for "any man."

What's more, the only limitation to this principle is found in verse 24—"Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use...."

In other words, you and I are only limited by how much we choose to hear, or how much we choose to measure.

What exactly are we measuring?

We are measuring the amount of God's WORD we hear.

Proverbs 4 says it like this: "Give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; For they are life to those who find them..." (verses 20-23).

Just like Jesus challenged the disciples, His challenge to us is, "How much will you measure? How much of His WORD will we give ourselves to?"

When Jesus' words— with what measure you [measure]—become our standard of living, suddenly, 30, 60 and a hundredfold is no longer a theological debate. It's a responsibility that falls back into our laps. We ultimately determine the amount of "return" we receive from every seed

we sow into the kingdom of God.

The standard by which we choose to measure is the standard by which we will receive. We choose what—and how much—we hear. We decide whether it will be a teaspoonful, a handful or truckload.

God has faith in the power in seed to multiply. That's His way of doing things. His kingdom doesn't operate any other way.

Consequently, you and I must have that same faith. We must develop faith in the seed we sow. That's the only way we will ever see any return—whether it's 30, 60 or a hundredfold.

God is waiting. It's your move. It's your measure.

Faith Activities

Pray this out loud:

Heavenly Father, thank You for teaching me how to measure. I expect a hundredfold harvest, so I will listen to You and Your WORD a hundredfold. I ask You to increase my understanding and teach me to see, hear and serve You with all my heart. I pray in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Speak this truth aloud and be confident in who you are in Christ:

I determine to use a large measure to hear God's WORD. In this way, I will receive a hundredfold return of people being saved, of unity of Christians and a great financial harvest!

Keep A Record

As you sow financial seeds and prayer seeds, keep a record of what you are expecting as a harvest.

Watch And Listen

Spend even more time listening to God's WORD, so the measure of your listening will increase the measure of your harvest. Go to kcm.org/watch to hear the WORD of God!

We want to hear about your hundredfold harvest! Please send your testimonies and contact info to us by visiting kcm.org/testify.

We're Here For You!

Your growth in God's WORD and victory in Jesus are at the very center of our hearts. In every way God has equipped us, we will help you deal with the issues facing you, so you can be the victorious overcomer He has planned for you to be.

The mission of Kenneth Copeland Ministries is about all of us growing and going together. Our prayer is that you will take full advantage of all The LORD has given us to share with you.

Wherever you are in the world, you can watch the Believer's Voice of Victory broadcast on television (check your local listings), the Internet at kcm.org or on our digital Roku channel.

Our website, kcm.org, gives you access to every resource we've developed for your victory. And, you can find contact information for our international offices in Africa, Asia, Australia, Canada, Europe, Ukraine and our headquarters in the United States.

Each office is staffed with devoted men and women, ready to serve and pray with you. You can contact the worldwide office nearest you for assistance, and you can call us for prayer at our U.S. number, +1-817-852-6000, 24 hours every day!

We encourage you to connect with us often and let us be part of your everyday walk of faith!

Jesus Is LORD!

- Kenneth and Gloria Copeland