



POWER Principles
of Fellowship

The **Power**
of **Sowing** the
Gospel Seed

by Larry Neville

**The
Power
of
SOWING
GOSPEL SEED**

Larry Neville

Scripture Verses,
unless otherwise indicated,
are taken from
THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW KING JAMES VERSION
Copyright 1979, 1980, 1982
Thomas Nelson, Inc., Nashville, Tenn.
Copyright © 2005
by, Larry Neville

First Published (2005) by
Planters & Pioneers
P.O. Box 1769
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91729
USA

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION

THE POWER PRINCIPLE OF SOWING GOSPEL SEED

TIME IS IMPORTANT IN SOWING THE GOSPEL SEED

INCREASE IS THE REWARD FOR LABOR

PLANT & WATER

ONE PERSON PLANTS AND ANOTHER HARVESTS

OUR CALLING IS TO BE EARTH-FILLERS

HOW DO WE ENGAGE ETERNITY?

A SUPERNATURAL WORK OF GOD IS INVOLVED IN SOWING GOSPEL SEED

FIND THE MAN OF PEACE

THE REAL ISSUE IN SOWING THE GOSPEL SEED IS, "EVERLASTING LIFE"

MY CHALLENGE TO YOU

Introduction

I don't believe it is difficult to be fruitful and to live a life that counts in the kingdom of God. The church is made up of people from the bottom much more than the top. No matter where you are in life today God can use you as He has used so many others. You do not have to be a super star.

The vision of the fellowship of churches I'm a part of is: Win, Build and Send. Through this simple vision we are seeing thousands of people fulfill their calling and become fruitful in God's kingdom.

I have written each Power Principle of Fruitfulness in an individual book. I trust they will help you to know that you can be one of His workers who bring forth "much fruit."

Larry Neville

The Power Principle of Sowing Gospel Seed

“He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap. As you do not know what is the way of the wind, or how the bones grow in the womb of her who is with child, so you do not know the works of God who makes everything. In the morning sow your seed, and in the evening do not withhold your hand; For you do not know which will prosper, either this or that, or whether both alike will be good” (Ecclesiastes 11:4-6 NKJV).

It is simple. We are called to sow seed. Fruitfulness in the kingdom of God is the result of sowing the gospel seed. You plant seed, you watch it grow and it produces fruit. Fruitfulness is not difficult. It does not take multi-talented people to produce spiritual fruit. God chooses to use the weak and insignificant for the Kingdom of God.

It may be sharing your faith with your family and friends or taking a gospel track and witnessing to someone. You may go to the unreached people of the world as a missionary.

Wherever you go the task is still the same, we are called to sow the gospel seed.

You cannot take the “go” out of the gospel. It is an action word. The Bible says, “He who continually goes forth weeping, Bearing seed for sowing, Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, Bringing his sheaves *with him*” (Psalm 126:6).

Time is Important in Sowing the Gospel Seed

In working with the “Power Principle of Sowing the Gospel Seed” time is a very important factor.

- **First, you cannot circumvent time.**

Good fruit does not develop and mature overnight. Discipleship and church planting is much the same way. One of the main reasons many do not invest in church planting is this factor of time. It is great to be involved in sowing the gospel seed, but you must be willing to invest the time for the seed to grow. When we send out a worker to plant a church we understand that we cannot circumvent time.

- **Time is also on your side.**

Sowing the gospel seed is like investing, the more you invest and the earlier you invest it, the more probability you have of success. Wise investing starts early in life because of the power of compounded interest. If you invest \$25.00 a week at 6% compounded interest, in 10 years you will have \$17,802. If you continue for another 10 years \$50,240. Continue another 10 years and you have \$109,345, and 10 more years it doubles to \$217,043. I have found that the gospel seed that I have sown throughout the world is like that, it keeps bringing forth more fruit as the

years go by. Jesus said that the gospel seed will produce.

How we sow the seed and build will determine the lasting fruit we have in the kingdom of God.

“But some seeds fell on fertile soil and produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted” (Matthew 13:8 NLT).

In 1982 my wife Janet and I joined with Pastor Sammy and Naomi Mores and started our first church in the Philippines. The church was located on the third floor of a small building where we had many services with only a handful of people. At the end of seven or eight years we had a strong mother church and had planted about 60 churches. Today, Pastor Sammy Mores leads a great family of fellowships in the Philippines with over one thousand churches in many countries. It all begins by sowing the good gospel seeds.

INCREASE is the REWARD for LABOR

Sowing and reaping is a fundamental principle of the kingdom of God.

“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, 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’”
(Matthew 13:31-32).

Here is a man who sowed seed in his field. This is all it takes to begin fruitfulness in our lives, go out and do some sowing. If you want your church to grow, you must go out and sow some seed. The more seed you sow the more you are going to reap a harvest in your life and in the kingdom of God.

The building that the Praise Chapel in Dallas, Texas rents has stained glass windows with the name of the donors who gave to that church back in 1918 on the windows. This church was pioneered in that area of Dallas in the early 1900s. Somebody had to pioneer it. Dallas has churches of every size and style and somebody had to plant each and every church

in that city. Someone went and planted the church, they sowed the gospel seed. Every season there has to be sowing. It never stops. *"There is a time to sow and a time to harvest."* Today, Praise Chapel is in that building in Dallas sowing the gospel seed to another generation. We can never stop sowing.

It is great to be a part of a fellowship with churches all over the world, but I can remember when there was no Praise Chapel Fellowship. When my brother Mike and Donna Neville got in their car towing a luggage trailer and drove off to Los Angeles to take a small church in Maywood, California, there wasn't a Praise Chapel Fellowship, just one church called "Rosewood Assembly". Today, because of the seed sown from that church, we are part of a fellowship of churches and ministries that are reaching into many parts of the world, blessing all of our lives that are a part of this fellowship.

One reason organizations and churches stop growing or even die is because they stop sowing.

It's that simple. They get a harvest and prosper, the blessing is flowing and they stop working the field. Or, they move into a maintenance mode, taking care of what they have. Then, stagnation sets in, maintenance programs replace sowing new seeds. It is so easy to fall into this mold of life and ministry.

We are not called to maintain. Yes, we have a responsibility to conserve the fruit the Lord has given us. That is why we pioneer local churches. There is no greater way to reap a harvest than to plant a church. In every church growth study, church planting is still the most fruitful method of extending the kingdom of God.

- You cannot stop sowing.
- You cannot stop working at plowing the fields.
- You cannot stop doing the outreaches that reach the unchurched.

The fields must be plowed over and over again. Every season we have to sow the gospel seed through effective evangelism, and do all that we can. If we stop sowing the gospel seed, we will die. It is not us; it is the seed we sow that has the power. The power of the gospel is in the seed.

When we sow this precious seed through evangelism and church planting, we release the power of the seed.

It is not the harvest that holds the power. It is wonderful to get a great harvest, but the seed brought the harvest. What is beautiful about this is that anyone can sow the seed. If you want to see souls saved, get out and sow seed.

Plant & Water

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase (1 Corinthians 3:6)

What am I called to do? Plant and water, plant and water, plant and water. It is God who gives the increase. I am called to plant and water. It can be Los Angeles or China but I am called to plant and water.

“So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor”
(1 Corinthians 3:7-8).

We will not be rewarded for the size of our harvest or how large our church is or the size of our fellowship. We will each receive a reward according to our own labor. The amount of work we do in the kingdom of God through sowing and watering.

These are the two things we do in Praise Chapel. We do a lot of planting and a lot of watering. We have put a lot of good seed in good ground, and it is bringing forth fruit.

“For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works”
(Matthew 16:27).

The World is Full of Good Ground.

Today you may be at a place in life where you are experiencing very little fruit. Jesus said that some seed will fall by the wayside or the stony places or among thorns. He does not leave the story there, He said some seed will fall into good ground and it will bring forth some *“thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted”* (Matthew 13:18-23).

If you keep sowing and watering the seed, it will bring forth a harvest.

Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy. He who continually goes forth weeping, Bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him (Psalm 126:5-6 NKJV).

Sowing that precious seed is not an easy job, you really do go forth sowing with tears. Jesus said, *“The harvest is ripe but the laborers are few.”* Not many people want to be farmers today, because farming is not easy. You have to plant when the time is right. You cannot just harvest whenever you want. Everyone has to help with the plowing, the planting and harvesting.

“Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes

and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together” (John 4:35-36).

One Person Plants and Another Harvests

“I sent you to harvest where you didn’t plant; others had already done the work, and you will gather the harvest” (John 4:37-38).

The harvest is not a one-person show. One sows, another waters and all is fulfilled in the harvest. God is saying this is a corporate venture. Real sowing is being willing to labor even when someone else may reap the harvest. We all want the harvest, but the fact is some of us may be called to be the sowers.

We are all reaping the fruit of someone else’s labor. Moses was the deliverer that God used to lead Israel out of Egypt, but Joshua was the one to take them into the Promised Land. It was David that had a vision to build the temple. He collected the resources from his battles and set all this aside to build the temple, but it became Solomon’s temple.

**In life, we have to be willing to labor
for what may be
reaped by someone else.**

When we are sowing seed, we do not know where that fruit is going to come from. I will not know all the results of my sowing the

gospel seed until I get to heaven. I just want to plant good seed, and trust God. Pioneer pastors many times have to be willing to labor like this. They are sowing seed and laboring in a field where they do not always see the fruit.

In the Old Testament, if a brother died without having any heirs, one of his brothers would take the wife of the one who died and have children for him to keep his name alive. In Genesis 38:8 Judah said to Onan his son, *“You must marry Tamar, as our law requires of the brother of a man who has died. Her first son from you will be your brother’s heir”* (NLT). Onan refused and verse nine says, *“But Onan was not willing to have a child who would not be his own heir. So whenever he had intercourse with Tamar, he spilled the semen on the ground to keep her from having a baby who would belong to his brother.”*

He did not want to raise a child that was not going to be his. This was a violation of covenant relationship and the sin of selfishness.

“But the LORD considered it a wicked thing for Onan to deny a child to his dead brother. So the LORD took Onan’s life, too” (Genesis 38:10 NLT).

In the kingdom of God you do not always get the credit for the seed you sow. One sows and another waters, but we are all going to rejoice together in the harvest.

Pastor Bobby and Melinda Menchaca are in the country of Estonia planting a church. This couple pioneered the Praise Chapel in Fresno, California where Pastor Willy and Diane McKinnis have been pastoring now for fifteen years. Bobby and Melinda also planted the Praise Chapel in Dallas, Texas that they released to Ernest & Bunny Reynosa to pastor. This is the kingdom. Someone plants, another waters but God gives the increase.

Janet and I pioneered a church in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. We were only there one year when we felt the call of God to go the Philippines to pioneer. The church in Lancaster went well for a number of years after we left for the Philippines but later was closed. Churches do close but you can be sure that the good seeds of the gospel that were sown were not wasted. The gospel seed will always bring forth fruit. Philip and Yvonne Hernandez were workers in that church and the next week they opened a new church in their home. Today they are making a major impact in Lancaster and the world. Now we are privileged to enjoy the harvest with them.

The first person to help us in Lancaster was Debbie Kline. Her husband was later saved in that church and planted a church in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania. Also, planted out of the Lancaster church before it closed was Steve and Nancy Graybill in Reading, Pennsylvania. We have been blessed to enjoy

partnering with them all these years. So if you pioneered a church and sowed a lot of seed into a field and something happened that the church did not continue don't think for a moment that the time, tears or sacrifice you invested by sowing the gospel seed there is ever wasted. Even if you do not see the fruit yet, some of those seeds will break-through and produce fruit.

Our Calling is to be Earth-Fillers

My passion is to fill the earth with church planters. I want to plant workers, get their feet on the ground, put a little soil over the top of the seed, nourish them with spiritual water and believe God to bring the increase. We need to plant workers into the cities and nations of the world and God will grow the gospel seed they plant.

The fruit we are experiencing in Praise Chapel does not take great skill, but it does take a lot of sowing of the gospel seed. It does take a radical release of workers. It takes believing in people that no one else will believe in and being willing to invest in sending them forth into the harvest fields. It is not enough to just challenge people to go, we have to send them. We have to pay whatever cost it takes to make it happen.

There will always be reasons not to sow; *“He who observes the wind will not sow.”* Church planting is the demanding labor of plowing and sowing. Few like to do that.

“And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life” (John 4:35-38).

How Do We ENGAGE ETERNITY?

There must be something of eternity at work in our sowing or we are just going through the motions. So how can we engage eternity? There are two eternal components we touch in this life:

- **The Word of God.**

“The grass withers, the flower fades,
But the word of our God stands
forever” (Isaiah 40:8).

- **The Souls of People.**

“For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matthew 16:26).

**There is a
miraculous dimension
in the Seed.**

The seed knows what to do, the earth knows what to do – there is life in the seed and the earth. Our job is to plant and believe.

“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase” (1 Corinthians 3:6).

How does a seed grow and bring forth a harvest? How does the Word of God, when planted into the heart of people, grow and bring forth a harvest?

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

Christianity is not a religion of ethics, although ethics are involved. Christianity is a religion of power.

“For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power” (1 Corinthians 4:20).

“I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God” (1 Corinthians 2:3-5).

“Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ‘Jeremiah, what do you see?’ And I said, ‘I see a branch of an almond tree.’ Then the LORD said to me, ‘You have seen well, for I am ready to perform My word.’” (Jeremiah 1:11-12).

A Supernatural Work of God is involved in Sowing Gospel Seed

“Be glad then, you children of Zion,
And rejoice in the LORD your God; For
He has given you the former rain
faithfully, And He will cause the rain to
come down for you—The former rain,
And the latter rain in the first *month*.”
(Joel 2:23).

“‘The time will come,’ says the LORD,
‘when the grain and grapes will grow
faster than they can be harvested.’”
(Amos 9:13 NLT).

**The Lord of the harvest makes the
difference between fruitlessness
and fruitfulness.**

“Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With
men *it is* impossible, but not with God;
for with God all things are possible’”
(Mark 10:27).

Saving people is impossible. No man or
woman can set another free from the bondages
of sin. But – Jesus can.

“And other sheep I have which are not
of this fold; them also I must bring, and

they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock *and* one shepherd” (John 10:16).

When Paul entered city after city on his missionary journeys, his aim was clear—to gather in the sheep. When Paul was facing challenges in the city of Corinth, the Lord spoke to him in a vision and said:

“Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city” (Acts 18:9-10).

And when Paul was finished preaching in the city of Antioch, Luke describes the result like this:

“Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed” (Acts 13:48).

“Now a certain woman named Lydia heard *us*. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul” (Acts 16:14).

When it comes to entering the kingdom there are two truths. One is this: With men it is impossible," and no one will be saved. The other is: "With God all things are possible,"

Those who are ordained to eternal life will give heed to the gospel and believe and be saved.

Find the Man of Peace

In every nation, tribe and people group of the world there are responsive people whom God has ordained to be saved and they will receive the good seed. All that is needed is for someone to plant and perhaps someone else to water, and then God alone brings forth new life and gives the growth.

“The lazy *man* will not plow because of winter; He will beg during harvest and *have nothing*” (Proverbs 20:4).

Is the need and day for Missionary Church Planters over?

“But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. I will deliver you from the *Jewish* people, as well as *from* the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes, *in order* to turn *them* from darkness to light, and *from* the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me” (Acts 26:16-18).

If people do not need the precious seed of the gospel message to be saved then this commission the Lord gave to Paul is meaningless.

- If the eyes of lost people and nations do not need to be opened.
- If they do not need to turn from darkness to light.
- If they do not need to be set free from the power of Satan to receive the saving power of Christ,
- If they do not need to be forgiven of their sins through faith in Christ,
- Then yes! The day for missionary church planters is over.

As I write this, I am in the nation of Turkey – in the area of Bythina where Paul was headed when the Holy Spirit gave him the Macedonia call and sent him to Europe. I do not believe that Paul gave his life to travel these lands of Asia, Macedonia, Greece and Rome as the missionary apostle to inform people that they were already saved.

The Real Issue in Sowing the Gospel Seed is, “Everlasting Life”

“Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, ‘It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles’” (Acts 13:46).

“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

“I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. So, as much as is in me, *I am* ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek” (Romans 1:14-16).

When you understand that the power is in the gospel seed – then you view life and fruitfulness in a different way than most people do. You realize that your life is not measured by what has been happening now or during the past six months or even the past few years. The

true evaluation of your life will only be complete in eternity. We are involved in an eternal work and it is only in eternity that we will see the true and lasting fruit that has been reaped because of sowing the gospel seed.

Many Christian workers have lived their lives in obscurity, laboring for God in unseen and unnoticed fields of the world. If we try to evaluate their lives in the context of the here and how they may look unsuccessful, but in the light of eternity? If we can only see beyond the horizon and look toward the eternal, we can make our lives count in the kingdom that never ends.

My Challenge to You

Keep sowing the gospel seed into the white harvest fields of the world. The more seed you sow the greater the harvest and the greater the reward you will receive in eternity.

More Kindle Books By, Larry Neville

[“Connectivity the Power to Touch the World”](#) by Larry Neville

[“The Globality Revolution”](#) The Gospel to Everyone, Everywhere by Anyone

[“Disciple Makers”](#) A Mandate for All Christ Followers

Planters & Pioneers Publications
P.O. Box 1769
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91729
Phone 909-980-5116
PCGlobalnetwork.com
larryneville.com