



The Bible Banner

July 2017



Seeds

An old Professor of Biology used to hold a little brown seed in his hand. "I know just exactly the composition of this seed. It has in it nitrogen, hydrogen and carbon. I know the exact proportions. I

can make a seed that will look exactly like it. But if I plant my seed it will come to nought; its elements will be simply absorbed in the soil. If I plant the seed God made, it will become a plant, because it contains the mysterious principle which we call the 'life principle'."

Only the Creator of the world can make a seed grow.

Sunflower Sour Cream

1 cup (150 grams) sunflower seeds

1/3 cup (80 mL) lemon juice

1 tsp (5 mL) salt

1 tsp (5 mL) onion powder

1/2 tsp (3.5 mL) garlic powder

1 cup (240 mL) water

Blend on high 2-3 minutes or until creamy.

Yield: 2 cups (474 mL)



QUOTABLE QUOTES



"Anyone can count the seeds in an apple, but only God can count the number of apples in a seed."

PROFITABLE TRADITIONS

Plant seeds of Truth and a love for Bible Study—Teach your little ones that reading the Bible is fun. At family worship time read a verse or two or a Bible story directly out of the Bible. Then explain it to them in simpler words (Sometimes you may have to interject the simpler explanation as you go). Take the time to plan a hands-on activity to go with the story. (Examples – Use a flashlight for God creating light; a basket and doll for baby Moses; dried grass or hay for Ruth gleaning, or make a playdough man for Adam, etc.) Also pick a song you know to match the theme of the story. "In arousing and strengthening a love for Bible study, much depends on the use of the hour of worship. The hours of morning and evening worship should be the sweetest and most helpful of the day. Let the services be brief and full of life, adapted to the occasion, and varied from time to time. Let all join in the Bible reading ... When the service is not thus made too lengthy, let the little ones take part in prayer, and let them join in song, if it be but a single verse.

"To make such a service what it should be, thought should be given to preparation. And parents should take time daily for Bible study with their children. No doubt **it will require effort and planning** and some sacrifice to accomplish this; but the effort will be richly repaid." (Education, pg. 186)

While Men Were Sleeping

Every parent knows how fast the home can turn into a disaster if they happen to be asleep when their little ones are awake. I remember one morning, many years ago, when my two little ones decided that it would be fun to “sow” honey all over the living room carpet. What probably took them only minutes to create while I was sleeping, took hours to clean up. Jesus told a parable of a similar situation, saying, *“The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: **But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.**”* Matt. 13:24-26 In this parable, the wheat is used to represent the righteous and the tares to represent the wicked. But if we think a little more deeply and compare this parable with the parable of the sower—there are other kinds of seeds. According to the Bible, the Heavenly Sower plants the good seed of “the word of God” (Luke 8:11). But while the Laodicean church is sleeping, Satan and his agents sow the seeds of tares/weeds that, if left to themselves, will grow until they choke out the precious plants of moral principle and truth. (Matt 13:22).

I find it interesting that once seeds are planted, they can go unnoticed and dormant, buried in the soil until the conditions (such as warmth and moisture) are just right for them to sprout. Depending on the conditions this can be a short time or a long time. Sometimes we don't see the results of the seeds of truth that are planted until many years down the road. Likewise, sadly, seeds of evil, buried in the soil (of the heart-- Matt. 13:19) may also sprout later when the conditions are “right”. During the dormant time, one might actually falsely think that there is no result from the evil seeds sown. For example, we may think little seeds of evolutionary theory in school books and nature videos are just a little issue. But often many years later these seeds of doubt sprout a plant that chokes out faith in the word of God. I like the way this author explains it, *“The study of infidel authors holds a large place in the educational system. Skeptical sentiments are interwoven in the matter placed in school books. Scientific research becomes misleading, because its discoveries are misinterpreted and perverted. The word of God is compared with the supposed teachings of science, and is made to appear uncertain and untrustworthy. Thus the **seeds of doubt** are planted in the minds of the youth, and in time of*



temptation they spring up. When faith in God's word is lost, the soul has no guide, no safeguard. The youth are drawn into paths which lead away from God and from everlasting life.” {Christ's Object Lessons 41} See how the seeds sprout later when the conditions are “right”?

**Each day we may
choose to sow seeds of
Bible truth and faith or
seeds of skepticism
and doubt.**

Galatians reminds us how important it is to plant good seeds by saying, *“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.”* Gal. 6:7,8 Each day we may choose to sow seeds of Bible truth and faith or seeds of skepticism and doubt. By our actions, we may plant seeds of compassion, sympathy and love or seeds of anger and hatred. By being honest in

all we do we may plant seeds of truth instead of seeds of falsehood. We should consider, are we daily sowing seeds of righteousness, willingness, benevolence and practical godliness or seeds of evil, infidelity, obstinacy, rebellion, indolence and error?

Let's take a closer look at what seeds common practices sow in the minds of children and those young in the faith. For example, do competitive games sow seeds of love and kindness or seeds of envy, jealousy, discord and strife? Do some of our games actually sow the seeds of gambling habits? What about the pictures in our books? Do we excuse pictures that would otherwise be considered inappropriate since they are “Biblical”, such as those of Adam and Eve, when if we followed out their fruits we might actually find that they sow seeds of corruption/vice and seeds of licentious practices in children? What about the food commonly found on our tables? Does it sow seeds of health and life or seeds of intemperance, disease, sickness, drunkenness and even death? Do the clothes we wear sow seeds of self-denial and meekness or seeds of vanity, pride and selfishness? What seeds do our words plant? Are we sowing seeds of virtue and religion or seeds of discouragement or worse yet evil seeds, corrupting the minds and hearts of others. Do we often consider that *“The seeds of vanity are easily sown in the human heart by injudicious parents and guardians, who praise and indulge the young under their charge, with no thought of the future.”* {Child Guidance 178} and that *“A man that flattereth his neighbour spreadeth a net for his feet.”* Prov. 29:5? Are we actually planting seeds of pride that *“goeth before destruction”*? Proverbs 16:18

Like a good gardener, God recognizes the seeds even when they are small and He knows what will ultimately grow from them. Why not heed the counsel in His word today and avoid the tares that are sown while men sleep. For in the end, Jesus tells us, *“Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.”* Matt. 15:13



THE NEW EMPEROR

“Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;” Colossians 3:9

The story is told of an Asian emperor who was growing old and knew it was coming time to choose his successor. Calling all the young people in the kingdom together one day, he said, “It has come time for me to step down and to choose the next emperor. I have decided to choose one of you.” The youth were very surprised but the emperor continued. “I am going to give each one of you a seed today. One seed. It is a very special seed. I want you to go home, plant the seed, water it and come back here one year from today with what you have grown from this one seed. I will then judge the plants that you bring to me, and the one I choose will be the next emperor of the kingdom!”

There was one boy named Ling who was there that day and he, like the others, received a seed. He went home got a pot and some planting soil, and he planted the seed and watered it carefully. Every day he would water it and watch to see if it had grown. After about three weeks, some of the other youths began to talk about their seeds and the plants that were beginning to grow, but Ling’s seed had still not sprouted anything. Three weeks, four weeks, five weeks went by. Still nothing. Six months went by and still nothing in Ling’s pot. He just knew he had killed his seed. Everyone else had trees and tall plants, but he had nothing. He felt like a failure.

A year finally went by and all the youths of the kingdom brought their plants to the emperor for inspection. Ling told his mother that he wasn’t going to take an empty pot, but she encouraged him to go, and to take his pot, and to be honest about what happened. Ling felt sick to his stomach, but he knew his mother was right. He took his empty pot to the palace.

When Ling arrived, he was amazed at the variety of plants grown by all the other youths. They were beautiful, in all shapes and sizes. Ling put his empty pot on the floor and many of the other youths laughed at him. When the emperor arrived, he surveyed the room and greeted the young people. Ling tried to hide in the back. “My, what great plants, trees and flowers you have grown,” said the emperor. “Today, one of you will be appointed the next emperor!”

All of a sudden, the emperor spotted Ling at the back of the room with his empty pot. He ordered his guards to bring him to the front. Ling was terrified. “The emperor knows I’m a failure! Maybe he will have me killed!” When Ling got to the front, the emperor asked his name. All the other youths were laughing and making fun of him but the emperor asked everyone to quiet down. He looked at Ling, and then announced to the crowd, “Behold your new emperor! His name is Ling!” Ling couldn’t believe it. He couldn’t even grow his seed. How could he be the new emperor?

Then the emperor said, “One year ago today, I gave everyone here a seed. I told you to take the seed, plant it, water it, and bring it back to me today. But I gave you all boiled seeds which would not grow. All of you, except Ling, have brought me trees and plants and flowers. When you found that the seed would not grow, you substituted another seed for the one I gave you. Ling was the only one with the courage and honesty to bring me a pot with my seed in it. Therefore, he is the one who will be the new emperor!”

Honesty at all times and under all circumstances always pays. Even if the results on earth may seem to be negative, the blessing of an eternity spent in the presence of the God who cannot lie will be reward enough.



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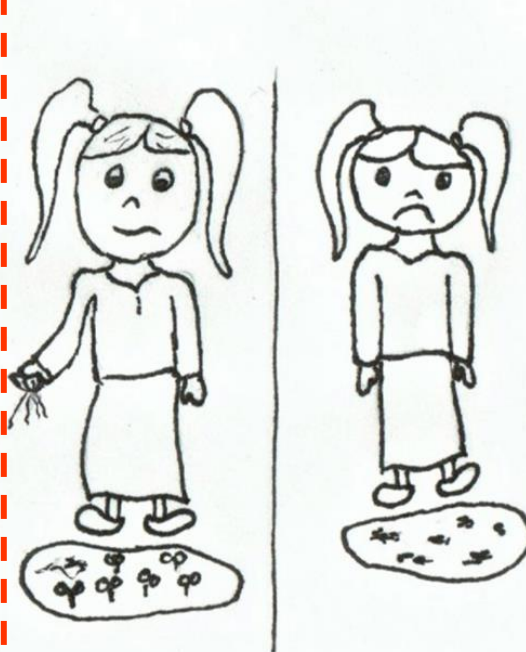
GOD'S AMAZING CREATURES



The red squirrel is the smallest tree squirrel in the area it lives in. Red squirrels live in most of Alaska and Canada and in parts of the United States. The red squirrel lives in pine and most other forests. Red squirrels are up and running around, even in winter. The red squirrel eats pine cone seeds, acorns, beechnuts and other nuts as well as the seeds of hickory, tulip, sycamore, maple, and elm trees. They eat berries too. Red squirrels have also been known to harvest maple sugar. Since the red squirrel takes the nuts and buries them in the ground for later, sometimes the nut or seed grows into a plant or tree. Just like the little red squirrel can plant trees, little boys and girls can tell people about Jesus and plant gospel seeds that will sprout too.



Patience planted some corn seeds in her garden. She watched as the small corn plants grew up. She wanted to eat corn but she knew she must be patient. In the fall, the corn was finished growing and there was lots of corn for Patience and her family to eat. She was glad she had been patient.



Passion planted cucumber seeds in her garden. When the small cucumber plants came up she decided she wanted cucumbers right away. Passion was not patient, and she pulled up all her cucumber plants, trying to make them grow faster. The plants died. Passion wished she had been more patient.

Memory Text:

James 5:7 "Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain."



LITTLE RUNNER'S HEALTH TIP

Janet the Junco likes to eat seeds. She knows they are good for her. Seeds like sunflower seeds, sesame seeds, flaxseeds, pumpkin seeds and chia seeds are good for boys and girls too. They will help them to be healthy.



SEEDS OF DISEASE AND DEATH

I can't help but notice the similarity in size and shape of pharmaceuticals to seeds. Could it be that the "medicines" we take, thinking to make ourselves better, are seeds that actually cause more problems than they are worth? A recent news article* told of how a police officer almost died after an overdose caused by just by brushing the white residue of Fentanyl (an opioid pain medication) off his clothing. The officer only touched the drug with his skin—and yet people actually put these "seeds" into their bodies. Are people taking medications actually planting the "seeds of disease and death"?



I looked up Fentanyl, and according to Encyclopedia.com, *"Fentanyl is a very powerful synthetic opioid analgesic routinely used legally for anesthesia. The amount of fentanyl that could fit on the head of a pin is enough to kill ten people. It is a member of the narcotic analgesic class of drugs that reduce pain. Today it is used in 70% of the surgeries performed in the United States...it has also been used to treat chronic pain associated with cancer or other terminal diseases."*

<http://www.encyclopedia.com/science/applied-and-social-sciences-magazines/fentanyl>

Ok, so Fentanyl is "routinely used" even though an extremely small amount is enough to kill ten people—*effects like that make it sound like a seed of death to me.* But the idea that drugs in general are the seeds of death is not a new concept. Listen to the words of one of my favorite health reformers. *"... institutions should be established for treating the sick without drugs. Man is God's property, and the ruin that has been made of the living habitation, the suffering caused by the **seeds of death** sown in the human system, are an offense to God...When you understand physiology in its truest sense, your drug bills will be very much smaller, and finally you will cease to deal out drugs at all. The physician who depends upon drug medication in his practice shows that he does not understand the delicate machinery of the human organism. He is introducing into the system **a seed crop** that will never lose its destroying properties throughout the lifetime. I tell you this because I dare not withhold it. Christ paid too much for man's redemption to have his body so ruthlessly treated as it has been by drug medication."* [Medical Ministry, pg. 229]

Now, in the quote below listen to the contrast made of drugs with Christ's remedies as shown on this disease treatment table based on the ground types in the parable of the sower.

*"Shall physicians continue to resort to drugs, which leave a deadly evil in the system, destroying that life which Christ came to restore? Christ's remedies cleanse the system. But Satan has tempted man to introduce into the system that which weakens the human machinery, clogging and destroying the fine, beautiful arrangements of God. The drugs administered to the sick do not restore, but destroy. Drugs never cure. Instead, they place in the system **seeds which bear a very bitter harvest.**"* {The Place of Herbs in Rational Therapy, pg. 14}

Why "reap a bitter harvest" when you could plant the seeds of health instead of the seeds of death?

Cleanse the system with charcoal, clay and herbs. Plant the seeds of life with nutrition, water and a healthy lifestyle. Why take the seeds of death when the Great Physician has provided so many seeds of health in simple natural remedies? Consider the counsel of the wisest man who ever lived—"Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldest thou die before thy time?" Eccl. 7:17 Choose life today by living God's way!

*Police Officer Overdoses after Brushing Fentanyl Powder off his Uniform, By Artemis Moshtaghian, CNN Tue May 16, 2017 <http://www.cnn.com/2017/05/16/health/police-fentanyl-overdose-trnd/index.html>

Disease Treatment Table				
[Based on the ground types mentioned in the Parable of the Sower (Matt. 13)]				
Parable Parallel	Good (Healthy) Ground	Trampled Ground	Rocky Ground	Weed-Choked Ground
Application of Parable	Healthy Body	Fast paced lifestyle diseases	Rocks = things that should not be there that are preventing good health from taking root	Weeds = Seeds of little things that grow
Examples of Diseases	Good Health	Heart disease, stroke, diabetes, mental disorders	Cancer, autoimmune disorders and other disabilities	Infectious Diseases like the flu, strep throat, parasitic diseases, etc.
Causes	Gets fresh air, exercise, water, rest, nutrition, sunshine, temperance, Trust in God	Caused by unhealthy food and high stress	Caused by Toxins—heavy metals, drugs, radiation, EMFs, pharmaceuticals, chemicals or calcium build up (stones) No root-malnutrition	Parasites, fungus, yeast, virus, bad bacteria
Natural Remedy Examples	Keep up the Good Work and go help someone else!	Change Lifestyle and eat and live more healthfully; Trust in God A tsp of Cayenne as emergency remedy for stroke or heart attack	Absorb Toxins and Rebuild: Clay, Charcoal, Cilantro, Milk Thistle. Red Clover or Dandelion root tea is an excellent blood purifier. For kidney and gallstones—apple juice fast 3 days followed by 1c olive oil and 1c lemon juice	Herbs and Hydrotherapy: Garlic is antiviral, antibacterial, antiparasitic, Ginger is antiviral, Grapefruit seed is antibacterial, Black walnut = antiparasitic Fever baths, hot and cold, and cold mitten frictions. Cranberry Juice for urinary tract infection.

STUDY TO SHOW THYSELF APPROVED

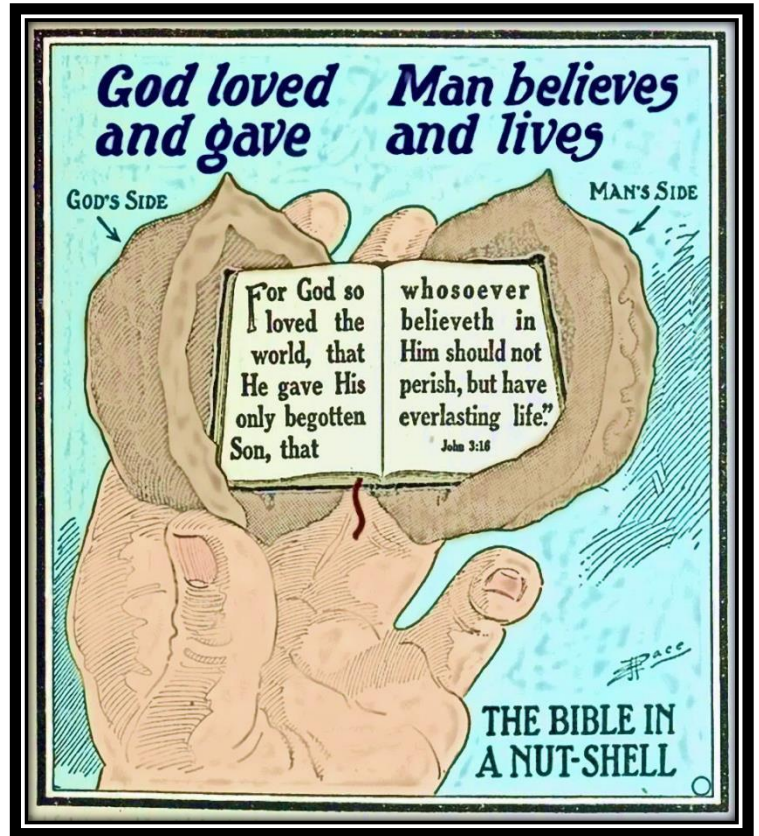
1. Isaiah 32:20 pronounces a blessing on those who _____. *"Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters, that send forth thither the feet of the ox and the ass."* Isaiah 32:20

2. In the parable of the sower, found in Matt. 13, Jesus taught many important spiritual lessons. What does Mark tell us the good seed represents? *"The sower soweth _____."* Mark 4:14
(For the interpretation of the parable of the sower, read Mark 4:14-20)

3. What else did Jesus liken to a seed? _____

"And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you." Matthew 17:20 *"And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you."* Luke 17:6

4. We are to sow God's Word in faith. What does Luke 13:18,19 say the tiny seed grows to become when it is planted? _____ (See also Mark 4:30-32) *"Then said he, Unto what is the kingdom of God like? and whereunto shall I resemble it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and cast into his garden; and it grew, and waxed a great tree; and the fowls of the air lodged in the branches of it."*



5. According to Mark 4:26-29, can we know how the seeds of the kingdom of God grow? _____, it is a mystery. *"And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come."* Mark 4:26-29

6. What does Psalm 126:5,6 promise that those that sow precious seed in tears shall reap with? _____ and _____
"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." Psalm 126:5,6

7. Considering this, how should we sow the gospel seeds? _____ *"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully."* 2 Cor. 9:6

Answers: 1. sow beside all waters 2. the word 3. Faith 4. A tree 5. No
6. Joy, rejoicing 7. Bountifully