

Power Planting

Sowing, Growing, and Stowing

August 9, 2026



Today we're learning to sow and grow and stow what we know, to survive our own famine!



So, **how do you get blessed?** How do God's blessings work? For *that*, let's start with God's *promise* to Joseph's great-grandpa Abraham. He said:



"I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you [Why?] ... so that you will be a blessing ... and in you *all* the families of the *earth* shall be *blessed*." – Genesis 12:2-3 ESV



And then Abraham had Isaac. Not much to *write home* about. And Isaac had Jacob. No comment. But Jacob had Joseph. And **Joseph becomes the first fulfillment of God's prophetic promise** when Pharaoh releases him from prison to feed a starving world. And according to *Biblical timespans* and the near-universally-accepted, *middle-kingdom Egyptian chronology*, Senuwoserr II is the Pharaoh who released him. You see ...



Pharaoh had a dream ... [seven] [cannibal] cows that were *ugly* and *gaunt* ate up the seven *sleek, fat* cows. ... [In] a second dream ... [seven] *thin heads* of grain swallowed up the seven *healthy, full* heads. ... But *no* one could *interpret* them. ... So [on the cupbearer's advice] Pharaoh sent for Joseph ... [who said] God has revealed ... seven years of *great abundance* ... but seven years of *famine* will follow ... [Let] a *discerning* and *wise* man ... [take] the *harvest* of Egypt during the seven years of *abundance* ... and store up the grain ... to be used during the seven years of *famine* ... Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since [your] God has made *all* this known to you ... I hereby put you in charge ..." Then Pharaoh took his *signet ring* from his finger and put it on Joseph's finger. – Genesis 41:1-42 NIV



A signet ring was a cart blanch credit card of power. This scarab ring of Sithathoryunet is not only the same *type* used, *this* one was worn in the palace of Senuwoserr II! The *bottom* had an *engraving* to make an *impression*! And boy, *did it*! The *King's ring*! All *authority*. Go anywhere. *Point*. *Have it*. See *why* God *had* to do what He *had* to do to *prime* Joseph to be given *this blessing*, *this moment*, and *this opportunity* to *glorify* God by *serving* and *blessing* others, *rather* than *blasting off* on a *self-indulgent bender*!



Notice, **he wasn't called to be a prophet or a preacher, but a slave, a victim, and a survivor.** And *through* it all, like us, Joseph was **blessed to be a blessing**. Which means, **before we can be a blessing, we gotta be blessed**. Which begs the question: **How does one get blessed?** I made a *list*.



Blessed is the one ... who does not *look* to the *proud* – Psalm 40:4 NIV

Blessed is the one ... in whose *spirit* is *no deceit*. – Psalm 32:2 NIV

Blessed is the one who does not *walk* in *step* with the *wicked* ... But whose *delight* is in the *law* of the *Lord*, and who *meditates* on His law *day* and *night*. – Psalm 1:1-2 NIV

Blessed is the one You *discipline*, Lord, the one You *teach* – Psalm 94:12 NIV

Blessed are those ... who find *great delight* in His *commands*. – Psalm 112:1 NIV

Blessed is the one who *reads* the *words* ... and blessed are *those* who *hear it and take to heart* what is *written* – Revelation 1:3 NIV

You see, *that's* the key. It's *not* how *much* you *read* a *Bible*, or how *many* *studies* you *attend*. **It's all about taking what you hear to heart.** Jesus *summed up every Scriptural command* with: love the Lord with *all* your *passion, reactions, intellect, and abilities*, and love *others* as *yourself*. Because:

People [who *claim to follow Christ*, Paul *warns*] will be *lovers of themselves*, *lovers of money* ... without [true] *love, unforgiving, slanderous*, without *self-control* ... not *lovers of the good* ... [but] *lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God*— having a *form of godliness* but *denying its power*. ... *Always learning* but never able to come to a [genuine] *knowledge of the truth*. ... But as for you, *continue* in what you have *learned* and ... [take it to heart and] be thoroughly *equipped for every good work*. – 2 Timothy 3:2-17 NIV

Joseph *gained* the *whole world*, but didn't *forfeit* his *soul*. Cuz he *knew* he'd been *created* with a *productive, strategic purpose* and *called* to the Lord's *loving, caring, compassionate work* of *feeding a hostile, starving world*. Because, he *knew* he'd been *blessed to be a blessing*. Because:

Blessed is the one who *perseveres* under *trial* – James 1:12 NIV

Blessed are those whose *strength* is in You – Psalm 84:5 NIV

Blessed is the one who *trusts* in the Lord, whose *confidence* is in Him. – Jeremiah 17:7 NIV

[Because] The Lord will *send a blessing* ... on everything you put your *hand* to. The Lord your God will *bless you* ... [and] *establish* you as His *holy people* – Deuteronomy 28:8-9 NIV

"Test Me in this ... and see if I will not *throw open the floodgates* of heaven and pour out *so much blessing* that you will not have *room enough* for it." – Malachi 3:10 NIV

That's what *happened* to Joseph. Because, **what was Joseph blessed with? Growth!** You gotta *grow* as though the *life* of your *family* and *friends* and *classmates* and *coworkers* *depends* on it!

During the seven years of abundance the land produced plentifully. Joseph collected all the food produced in those seven years of abundance in Egypt and stored it in the cities. In each city he put the food grown in the fields surrounding it. Joseph stored up huge quantities of grain, like the sand of the sea; [but there came such an unexpected, overwhelming surplus, his crew couldn't keep up!] it was so much that he stopped keeping records because it was beyond measure. – Genesis 41:47-49 NIV

This isn't *figurative*! He *grew so much*, his own *measuring system gave out*. Talk about *growth*! **He couldn't even keep track of God's blessing** ... and he was *trying*! However, **getting blessed with growth is hard work**. I mean, I know you can *get the job*, but can you *get the job done*?



Know what Senusret II's *greatest accomplishment* was? **A manmade, 570-square-mile, heart-shaped agricultural oasis called the Faiyum**. Visible from *space*! And it's *connected to the Nile* by **a 10-mile-long, 16' deep, hand-dug canal, called the Bahr Yussef (Canal of Joseph)**. And it's *often compared to the Great Pyramid* for the *monumental effort* it required.



This is a *lake* in the *Faiyum*. And *Senusret* was so *proud of it*, he *moved his family tomb* into it (at *El Lahun*). So **while Pharaoh was busy building a monument to himself, Joseph was building a monument to God!**



Imagine *Joseph* standing on the *threshold* of 570-square-miles of *amber waves of grain* (that's *Canada to California* if I-5 was a *mile wide*!) And **it all begins with sowing and growing**. Which *Jesus* makes very *clear* by *comparing our heart to four types of soil*. A **hard heart**, where the *Word* can't *penetrate past the surface level*. A **shallow heart**, where His *Word* takes *root* but *quickly dies*. An **overcrowded heart**, where *distractions choke out His kingdom*. And:



A *noble and good heart*, **[found in those]** who *hear the Word*, *retain it*, and by *persevering produce a crop*. – Luke 8:15 NIV

You have *purified yourselves by obeying the truth* so ... Love one another *deeply*, from the *heart*. For you have been *born again*, not of *perishable seed*, but of *imperishable*, through the *living and enduring Word of God*. – 1 Peter 1:22-23 NIV

For we are *God's fellow workers*; **[and]** you are *God's field* – 1 Corinthians 3:9 NIV



That is, if you *have a heart* for it. So, **what are you giving God to work with?** Keep in *mind*, *Jesus* also *compares His kingdom to treasure found buried in a field*. (Mat 13:44) But then *warns of a wicked servant who buries the treasure entrusted to him, rather than putting it in a bank to at least earn interest*. (Mat 25:18, 27) Which means, **we're expected to discover it and deposit it**. Because, **it's not enough to just sow it and grow it**. Like little *Joe*, **we gotta stow it**. Because:



The *good person* out of the *good treasure* of his *heart* produces *good* – Luke 6:45 ESV



Because **what we store up down here is what God's Spirit uses to guide us from within**. So we gotta *sow it*. We gotta *grow it*. And we gotta *stow it*.

For where your *treasure* is, there your *heart* will be *also*. – Matthew 6:21 NIV

[Therefore] Your *Word* I have *treasured in my heart* – Psalm 119:11 NAS

Because, *that's* your *memory bank*. And, ***you can't draw from an empty account.***

Which is a *horrible state* for a *believer*, because ***God chiefly speaks through the Words He spoke.***

And ***if I'm not in His Word, His Word can't be in me.*** Which is *why* the prophet *Amos* said that *most* of the *well-fed* are *suffering* in the *midst* of a *famine* of which they're *not even aware*.

Not a *famine of food* ... but a *famine of hearing* the *Words of the Lord*. – Amos 8:11 NIV



You see, *Satan* has a *simple strategy*: *starvation*. *Spiritual* starvation.

[Because] “Man shall not *live* by *bread alone*, but by *every word* that comes from the *mouth of God*.” – Matthew 4:4 ESV



[Therefore] I have *stored up* Your *Word* in my *heart* – Psalm 119:11 ESV

Did you *know* that ***starving people stop craving food?*** A former U.S. Food and Agriculture Ambassador, *Tony Hall*, wrote about his own *starvation*:

The *sensation* of *hunger* *faded* in about a *week*. ... From then on, I could *join* my family at *mealtimes* and not be *bothered a bit*. I now fully understood ... a *strange phenomenon* I had *witnessed* during *famines*: *starving children* who *refused to eat* when *food* was *finally offered* – Changing the Face of Hunger

Let's not *let* that be *us*. To *not hunger* for *righteousness* (Mt 5:6) *not only* means you're *starving*, it means you're *deceiving* yourself even as you *waste away*. And *that's* *Satan's strategy* – ***to get God's children to slowly die of suicidal hunger while the Bread of Life is with us.*** The same *Savior* who taught His *disciples* to pray, “*Give us this day our daily bread,*” (Mt 6:11) also said:

[My Father] *gives* you the *True Bread* from *heaven*. For the *Bread of God* ... *gives life* to the *world*. [Spoiler alert] ... I am the *Bread of Life*. He who comes to Me will ... [and] feeds on Me will live because of Me. ... [Because] The *Words* I have *spoken* to you are *Spirit* and they are *Life*.” – John 6:32-63 NIV

Oh, *taste* and see that the *Lord* is *good*; [because] *blessed* is the man who *trusts* in Him!
– Psalm 34:8 NKJ



Jesus *isn't* just like *bread-bread*, ***He's like restaurant bread!*** The *kind* that when you *taste* it, you *can't stop eating* it. And it makes you *sorry* you ordered anything *else*. ***Everything on the menu was so tempting before you started eating that bread.*** With the *steam* and the *pulling apart* and the *salted butter* and the *melting*. And the *more* you *eat*, the *less appealing* all that ol' *menu food*.

So whatever *trial*, *hurdle*, *test*, or *disaster* you might *face* in your *moment of truth*, the *truth* is, ***the truest provision will always come from the Words of the True Bread from heaven.***

So take it to heart and store it up down here, cuz the lives of those you love depend on it.