

Sowing and Reaping

Ponder: How does seed grow?

Scripture: “. . . and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how” (Mark 4:27b, NKJV).

Can you explain how a seed sprouts and grows? Most of us can describe the process, but telling “what” happens is not the same as explaining “how” it happens. In short, it isn’t a matter of describing chemical and biological processes; the living God put life within the seed, and He is the One who brings forth additional life from it.

It’s the same with the word of God, which Jesus likened to seed (Mark 4:14). Jesus and His disciples planted that spiritual seed, and our task is to do the same. “Preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15). The fact that we cannot explain “how” God’s word produces faith and obedience in people must not stop us from planting the seed! How many successful farmers stop planting wheat or corn because they can’t explain “how” the seeds grow? It is enough for them to know that the seeds “do” grow; and it is enough for us to know that the gospel really is God’s power unto salvation (Romans 1:16).

The one who plants the seed is not the one who makes it grow. “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase” (1 Corinthians 3:6). You might teach someone the gospel and rejoice to see them believe and obey it. Though you planted the seed in their heart, it was God who made it grow. The next person you teach might reject the gospel. That doesn’t mean you failed, or that it’s your fault. Please do not feel guilty! You do not have the power to make the seed grow. God does, and He will do so when the soil (the person’s heart) is receptive.

Realize, too, that the growth of the seed is gradual – “first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head” (Mark 4:29). As a farmer’s son, I can tell you what we love harvest! And waiting is hard! Likewise, we want people to obey the gospel; but first the seed must sprout and develop. Meanwhile, keep planting! If the soil is right, the harvest will come.

Song: “Are You Sowing The Seed Of The Kingdom?”