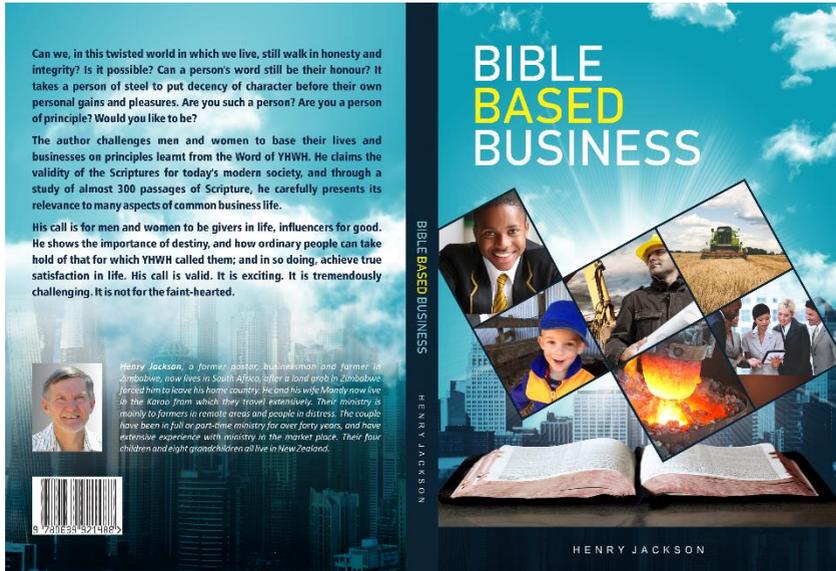


Herewith **chapter 9** of my book  
**Bible based business**



This article (chapters 9) is sent out free of charge, with the prayer that it will be a blessing and encouragement to all who read it. It may be freely copied in its entirety and sent to family and friends as far as it will go.

Should you, however, wish to acquire the book itself, it may be ordered from Magda Du Plessis. She can be contacted at the following address:

Email: [dieboomzas@gmail.com](mailto:dieboomzas@gmail.com)

Cell number: (+27) 823213236

# Chapter 9

## SOWING and REAPING

Gen 8:22      *“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.”*

This passage seems to be a simple statement of fact. It was a promise given by YHWH to Noah just after the flood had destroyed the earth. YHWH was setting in motion another universal principle. I will only allude to one part of this Scripture – the principle of seed time and harvest. Sowing and reaping. What a man sows he will also reap – no sowing, no reaping.

This principle does not only apply to the physical seed of wheat or rye or corn or whatever we might sow, but also to every other facet of our lives. David, the Psalmist, speaks about a wicked man, pointing out the lessons that he had learned as he observed this man’s behavioural pattern and the results of such upon himself. This is what he said,

Psalm 109:17      *“He also loved cursing, so **it came to him**; and he did not delight in blessing, so it was **far from him**.*

18                      *“But he clothed himself with cursing as a garment, and it **entered his body** like water, and like oil into his bones.”*

You see, even though this man had cursed someone else, his curse just bounced back upon himself. Because he did not bless others, he himself was not blessed!

It is vital that we recognise the serious and powerful repercussions of this principle. Even in our seemingly insignificant actions in our homes – our outbursts of anger and harsh words; our private thought life; our honesty or underhanded dealings; our righteous

or devious actions – all have consequences. They all bear their own fruit in the end.

*Much fruit that we see in our children are the results of what we have sown into their lives by our own actions.*

This thought could be quite frightening to some. Don't let it be. Rather, turn the principle into something positive for you. Sow good things into the lives of those around you. If you want friends then go out and be a friend to someone. If you want to be loved, then show unconditional love to others. If you want peace in your home, then sow words and actions of peace on a regular basis. Don't stir up strife.

Prov 30:33      *“For the churning of milk produces butter, and pressing the nose brings forth blood; so the churning of anger produces strife.”*

The following verse (previously quoted) is well-known and worthy of note again:

Gal 6:7      *“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.*

8              *“For one who sows to his own flesh shall from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life.*

9              *“And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary.”*

## **Sowing in famine**

However, what about a time of famine? Someone might well say, *“Surely we can't be expected to sow in times of famine?”*

I believe that it is especially important to sow at such a time. Observe what Isaac did in his time of difficulty, and what wonderful results came his way:

- Gen 26:1        *"Now there was a famine in that land ...*
- 2                *"And YHWH appeared to him and said, 'Do not go down to Egypt; stay in the land ...*
- 3                *"Sojourn in this land and I will be with you and bless you ..."*
- 12               *"Now Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold. And YHWH blessed him."*

From the passage, we see how the Philistines, who lived in close proximity to Isaac, envied him. They even became afraid of him and eventually asked him to move away from them because he was becoming more powerful than they were. YHWH was blessing him.

Just think. The blessings started right at a **time of famine** when Isaac, in obedience to YHWH, **continued to sow** in the dry land – against all odds.

Things might look wrong at times. The key is that we must be sure that we are being obedient to YHWH's instructions (as discussed in the opening chapters of this book), and then we must **keep on sowing** and working and doing what has to be done - without any fear.

## Walking on water

It was at the time of a great storm that Peter the apostle stepped out of the boat and walked upon the water to Jesus. The other disciples felt much safer in the boat and no-one else dared to get out. Consequently, Peter was the only one who has this testimony of a wonderful experience with Jesus, of *walking on water*.

*If you want to "walk on the water", then when you experience the storms of life, you must learn to get out of the boat of your comfort zones and start walking.*

It was when the pressure had been on, that I often did most of my leaps forward. It was when we were running low on orders that I unsettled the foundry from their comfortable settled routine, and increased their production to almost five times their usual production levels. I then went out to prospective customers and gained the orders to fill our new production levels, and through this action increased the entire operation of the business.

I should say, though, that the whole move was soaked in much prayer, and I do believe that I had YHWH's guidance in this.

Prov 24:10      *"If you are slack in the day of distress, your strength is limited."*

At a time of distress and trouble, you need to be especially strong. Such strength YHWH can and does give. I believe that in the area of the gifts of the Spirit (1Cor 12:1-11) this is where the gift of faith comes into its own.

I have often seen this gift at work in my life, where I have faced impossible situations. In times of the greatest difficulties, the greatest testimonies of YHWH's faithfulness are waiting around the corner to be revealed. You need to make those testimonies yours by taking hold of YHWH's promises, believing them, and living them.

At times, I have not known which way to turn, but as I have earnestly prayed, and faced the difficulties head-on, I have experienced a faith beyond my own faith, rise from deep within me – a determination to make things work by the grace and power of YHWH. In such situations, I have seen the most wonderful things

happen, and the history of our engineering company and our farm is full of such miracles.

## **Swimming upstream**

In the years 2001/2002, we experienced a most depressing situation in Zimbabwe. Farms were being invaded, and our own family farm where I had grown up, and which my brother had inherited, was forcefully taken. At that time some 80% of the national herd of cattle were slaughtered. There were no farms available for White farmers to farm, and by new government legislation no White farmer was allowed to buy or own land..

At this depressing time, I felt a nudge from the Holy Spirit to get involved and to make a difference wherever I could. I felt that I should buy a farm. It was a crazy thought! It was impossible for White people to buy farms and with farm invasions all around, who would want to dare to buy one anyway? I prayed about it and the Lord guided me to the following Scripture:

Psalms 139:11 *“If I say, ‘Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, and the light around me will be night,’*

12 *“Even the darkness is not dark to Thee, and the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to Thee.”*

I wrote the following next to that verse in my Bible,

*“He knows my way even when it is dark before me. 28/06/2002. The farm seems impossible now.”*

What I had in my heart was so crazy that I dared not tell it to anyone. However, I started looking for a farm. I had no money to buy a farm; it was illegal to do so; the country was filled with fear; I knew nothing about farming, and I had no farm implements or experience whatsoever. In the face of the impossible, I followed

what I believed to be the voice of the Holy Spirit nudging me on and forward.

The miracle happened. On 12 July 2002, just two weeks later, I had a farm available and my first cattle arrived on the farm. At the time I was able to lease a part of the farm, but about three months later the farmer agreed to swap my house in town for the farm, and thus in a simple action, I had bought the farm. The impossible was made possible.

I farmed for eleven years, in spite of farm invasions all around me. Early in 2012, the Lord spoke to me, challenging me, and asked if I would be willing to give up the farm for Him. I agreed to do that, and soon thereafter was plunged into a negative set of circumstances.

My farm was invaded and a while later I was imprisoned on a false charge. In the prison I had an opportunity to minister to other fellow prisoners – always looking for an opportunity to bring something positive for YHWH's kingdom. During an unfair trial, I was advised to flee the country or face a possible 9 to 25 years' imprisonment on a false, politically motivated charge.

My wife and I fled to South Africa with a suitcase of clothes each, and no money. We walked out of our house full of furniture, clothes in the cupboard, meat in the deep freeze, food in the pantry. We closed the doors behind us, leaving everything behind. In this extremely negative situation, arriving in SA with nothing, living with dear friends who took us in, we started to minister to others in need – always moving forward, whatever the circumstances.

In this way a lovely ministry opened for us in South Africa – much bigger than I could ever have dreamed. Folks, the Lord is true to His promises. You can trust Him, whatever your circumstances might be. There is always a positive forward move which you can make in faith.

We made a decision that we would never ask anyone for money. As much as we came into South Africa with nothing but a suitcase of clothes each, we would not become beggars. We would be givers in life. Wherever we could help someone else, even just with a word of encouragement, we would do that. In this way, the Lord has been faithful to us and supplied our every need. We have travelled over 160 000km through the length and breadth of South Africa in the almost five years that we have been here (2018), and we can witness to the faithfulness of YHWH.

### ***YOU CAN TRUST HIM!***

A time of trial is a **wonderful opportunity** to prove the faithfulness of YHWH. But you must take hold of His promises, believe them, and face the trial head-on without fear. Fear is a potential destroyer of faith if we succumb to it.

When things are tough, don't sink into the depths of despair. Rather, plan a move forward. A stationary ship cannot be guided. If you sincerely want YHWH's guidance and direction, then move forward, and ask Him to direct your steps as you move. King Solomon had noted this principle, and wrote it down for our instruction.

Ecc 11:4        *"He who watches the wind will not sow and he who looks at the clouds will not reap."*

The principle here is that if we continually look at the negative '*might be's*', then we will never move forward nor achieve anything of significance in our lives. We become just like the lazy man which King Solomon also wrote about:

Prov 22:13     *"The sluggard says, 'There is a lion outside, I shall be eaten in the streets!'"*

Because of his fears of what *might be*, the lazy man never ventures outside. There will always be a million and one good opportunities

for you to give up. The road to the top of the hill, unfortunately, leads upward, and that means climbing, which is not easy!

There are many places of rest at the side of the road, and every available seat is taken up by *'resting'* people. I believe that resting is good in its place. But we cannot be found resting all the time while we ponder the difficulty of the climb ahead.

While we ponder, we are not climbing and therefore remain at the same place. No! We must climb, brushing aside all the negative fears and anxieties. Brushing aside the criticisms; brushing aside thoughts of failure; also brushing aside the **stumbling block of pride**. We can only make it with YHWH's strength – that is if we really desire to experience the best of what YHWH has in store for us.

Isa 40:29        *"He gives strength to the weary, and to him who lacks might He increases power.*

30                *"Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly,*

31                *"Yet those who wait for YHWH will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary."*

Notice that the strength which comes, enables the one who is weary to *'rise up with wings ...'*, to *'run'* and to *'walk'*. These are all **action words**. In other words, it is a strength not for lazing about or for *'waiting to see how things will turn out'*, but rather for the positive **taking of action** in a **forward move**.

One more Scripture should suffice to show the importance of this principle:

Eccl 11:1        *"Cast your bread on the surface of the waters, for you will find it after many days.*

*“Divide your portion to seven or even to eight, for you do not know what misfortune may occur in the earth.”*

King Solomon advises a life of giving – sowing into the lives of other people. In the end, he says, it will come back to you when times of difficulty, ‘*misfortune*’, come. You should not wait for the difficulties to come before you start sowing. Start sowing now.

Be alert to the situations of those around you, and when there is a need and an opportunity for you to offer a helping hand, then do it. You always lose something when you sow – you give it away.

However, you must lose before you can gain. A price must be paid before the reward can come. The seed must go out before the harvest can come in. You must not be afraid to sow at a time of famine, putting your trust in the YHWH of the harvest. He sees and rewards faithfulness and obedience.

Chapter 10 to follow –

“RELATIONSHIPS

**Personal, Home”**