

CORNERSTONE

DISCIPLESHIP

GROUPS

MONEY & MISSION: THE DIVINE CONNECTION
PART 2 | PASTOR BARRY BURNS
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

Overview

The Divine Connection — Sowing, Reaping, and the Funding of the Kingdom

Core Scriptures: Exodus 25:1–8; Genesis 8:22; 2 Corinthians 9:6–11; Philippians 4:15–19

Overview

This guide is designed to help your group explore the biblical principles of sowing and reaping as they relate to financial stewardship and kingdom purpose. Pastor Barry traced a pattern that runs from the tabernacle in Exodus to the offering Paul collected for the saints — God’s work in the earth has always moved through the willing generosity of his people. Use the discussion questions, key takeaways, and practical applications below to spark honest conversation and personal reflection.

Key Takeaways

1. **Money and mission are inseparable.** From the very beginning, God's purposes have required financial partnership. The tabernacle in Exodus 25 could not be built without the freewill offerings of the people. This pattern continues throughout Scripture and into the life of the local church today.
2. **God's financial system is built on giving, not getting.** The world's system says to accumulate and hold. God's system moves in the opposite direction — it is a giving flow. Generosity is not a burden placed on believers; it is the design for which they were made.
3. **The law of sowing and reaping is universal and perpetual.** Established in Genesis 8:22, this law operates in every circumstance. Every seed produces a multiplied harvest, every seed produces after its own kind, and every sower reaps in proportion to what is sown. These principles apply to financial seeds just as they do to agricultural ones.
4. **The seed represents God's grace; sowing activates it.** According to 2 Corinthians 9, God's grace toward the believer is already present. The act of sowing in faith is what activates that grace to produce increase, multiplication, and sufficiency.
5. **God's purpose for financial increase is always outward.** The reason God desires believers to have enough is not so they can accumulate wealth for themselves. It is so they can fund the work of the kingdom, meet the needs of others, and give continually and generously.

Discussion Questions

Opening Question

Before you understood the biblical principles of giving, what did you believe about church offerings, and where did those beliefs come from? Follow that with an honest self-assessment: how would you describe your current relationship with money — are you more of a holder or a sower?

God's Will, God's Why, God's Way

Pastor Barry identified three elements present in every financial endeavor in Scripture: God's will, God's why, and God's way. In your own words, how would you describe each one? Which of the three is hardest for you to personally embrace, and why?

The tabernacle in Exodus 25 was God's idea, but it could not be built without the people bringing what they had. What does it say about God that he chose to make his own project dependent on the willing offerings of ordinary people?

The Law of Seed Time and Harvest

Read Genesis 8:22. Pastor Barry described the law of seed time and harvest as immutable, universal, and perpetual. What does it mean to you that God himself established this law — not a pastor, not a financial advisor, but God?

Three laws follow from it: every seed produces a multiplied harvest, every seed produces after its own kind, and every sower reaps in proportion to what is sown. Which of the three challenges you the most when it comes to financial giving, and why that one?

Bread and Seed

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6–11. Paul draws a distinction between the bread you eat and the seed you sow. In practical terms, what does it look like to identify which portion of your finances is bread and which is seed? How do you currently make that distinction, if at all?

Verse 8 promises sufficiency in all things — enough, always, for every good work. Does that read to you like a promise you can hold onto, or does it feel out of reach? What in your own history makes it land the way it does?

Motive and Mission

Pastor Barry addressed the common thought that church leaders “only want your money.” Have you ever had that thought? What does Paul's statement in Philippians 4 — that he was not after the gift but after the fruit that abounds to their account — reveal about the true motive behind biblical teaching on giving?

He also described a progression from the land of lack, to the land of even, to the land of abundance. Where would you honestly place yourself on that spectrum right now, and what do you believe is keeping you from moving further along?

Practical Application

Choose one or more of the following to put into practice before your group meets again.

Start somewhere. If you are not currently sowing seed, commit to beginning — even if the amount feels small. Write down a specific amount and a specific date you will begin, and share it with a trusted person in the group for accountability.

Identify your seed. This week, review your finances and prayerfully ask God to show you what portion is bread for your daily needs and what portion is seed to be sown. Write down what you discover.

Study the passage on your own. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6–11 every day this week. Read it slowly. Read it in more than one translation if possible. Write down one new observation each day and bring those notes to share with the group next time.

Examine your thought life around giving. Pay attention this week to any negative or fearful thoughts that arise when you consider giving money. Write them down. Then, next to each one, write a truth from Scripture that directly addresses that thought.

Pray with expectation. Close each day this week with a brief prayer thanking God for providing both bread and seed, and asking him to multiply the seed you are sowing. Practice expecting a return rather than dreading a loss.

Closing

God uses people. He moves resources to people through the law of sowing and reaping so that those people can fund the mission of the kingdom. Seeing yourself that way — as someone God intends to route his provision through, not merely to — changes how you think about your income, your budget, and your giving habits.

Close your group time by praying together. Ask God to reveal to each person where fear, unbelief, or a scarcity mindset has kept them from sowing. Ask him to build faith in the group for his financial system, and commit together to being a people who live in a giving flow — not because they have to, but because that is how they were made.

News & Events

Scan QR code for Upcoming Events, News, Giving and more! <https://linktr.ee/cornerstonejc>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- September 20 - Communion
- September 27 - Guest Speaker, Jeremiah Johnson
- October 3 - Ladies Event
- October 24 - Harvest Party
- October 29-31 - Men's Advance
- November 7-8 - Guest Speaker, Chad Gonzales

