

## SOWING TO OURSELVES

**HOS 10:12** Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; **break up your fallow ground**: for *it is* time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you. 13**Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity**; ye have eaten the fruit of lies: because **thou didst trust in thy way**, in the multitude of thy mighty men

**PRO 14:12** There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.

There is only one way to please God and that is to put all trust in Him. Man's ways are not God's righteous ways. There's that saying, "sow to the wind and reap the whirlwind. If we want to reap of God's love and increasing blessings, we have to sow in righteousness. Man uses cultural practices, lies, cheating, hard luck stories, personal excuses, manipulations, and all kinds of wicked techniques to gain an edge to personal blessing. Unfortunately, there are no shortcuts with God. Be righteous, practice integrity and God will shower you with His loving kindnesses. God said, "break up your fallow ground". (Hos 10:12)

Fallow fields (paddock) are fields that are not being used to grow crops.

"Fallowing" of such a field is achieved when a farmer or landowner ploughs his land deeply, exposing the roots of weeds.

"Hard pan" A hard pan can develop below the level of the roots of the crop. This occurs when the land is ploughed too shallow. This hard crust prevents rainwater and nutrients from getting to the plant root system. Believers can be like the "hard panned" fallow fields that need deep ploughing to help them come to their best potential. It is the believers' responsibility to "break up" his own (spiritual man) fallow ground and seek the Lord. Prepared (inner man) soils will receive God's showers of righteousness.

**MK 4:3** "Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow: " 4"And it came to pass, as he sowed, **some fell by the way side**, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up. " 5"And **some fell on stony ground**, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, **because it had no depth of earth:**"

20"And these are **they which are sown on good ground**; such as hear the word, and receive *it*, and bring forth fruit, **some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.**

The parables of Jesus contain present day truth. Mk 4:19 gives reasons why so many fall by the wayside. Seed sown correctly will bring forth a greater harvest.

## **JOSH 8:18-26**

Achan is a good example of those who choose not to allow God to nurture them. Some constantly disobey God's leaders and in doing so bring judgment not only on themselves, but also on those they fellowship with. Achan could not believe that God would bless him, so he coveted the natural blessing of gold and silver that belonged to the heathen. He thought he could bless himself and escape the eye of God. In doing things his way and in his strength, he incurred the judgment of God. However, there are other Bible characters who obeyed God and were blessed abundantly both naturally and spiritually.

**GEN 14:19** And he blessed him, and said, Blessed *be* Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: 20And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And **he gave him tithes of all.** 21And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself. 22And Abram said to the king of Sodom, **I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth, 23That I will not *take* from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that *is* thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich:**

We can learn some amazing “sowing” lessons from Abram. Abram had a wonderful personal relationship to God. He spoke to others about “the most high God” (v.22) Abram believed that God was the possessor of heaven and earth. Abram tithed on all his increase. (v.20) Abram believed that God was big enough to meet his needs, and obeyed God with tithing. Having won the battle waged against the king of Sodom, Abram was offered a deal to keep the natural spoils of the war that was rightfully his as the victor. (v.21) Abram always believed God for the higher “heavenly” blessings that came directly from God. Look at his response to the king's free gift. (v.23) Abram was committed to the receiving of heavenly blessings and he didn't want the king of Sodom to get the glory that belonged to God. (v.22)

The apostle Peter (who denied Christ three times) broke up his fallow ground by repenting. Peter was found very short on courage prior to the crucifixion, when he lied about his knowledge of Christ. Broken hearted, he later wept bitterly, repented and went on to become a great soul winner and one of the most anointed and senior apostles in Jerusalem. (Act 2:36-38; 3:5-6)