

HOW TO RECEIVE YOUR

Abundant Harvest

BY KEITH A. BUTLER

It's time to celebrate the harvest! God instructed Israel to observe harvest time with a feast: *"And the feast of harvest, the firstfruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field: and the feast of ingathering, which is in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field"* (Exodus 23:16). Ask any farmer, and he will tell you that harvest time is joyful and lively, but it is also hectic! Crops don't bring themselves in from the fields. Someone has to go get them.

Partner, this is harvest time in the body of Christ, but we can't merely sit on our hands and wish that it will come in for us.

Proverbs 20:4

The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing.

Wealth is not for the sluggard. If a farmer doesn't plow and plant, or if he doesn't gather the crop and bring it in from the field, he will lack. **To experience the blessings of the harvest, you need to sow, tend, and gather.**

Lots of people want a harvest, but they haven't planted anything. They can beg, cry, sing, pout, and shout, but if they have not planted their own seed, they will not have a harvest to celebrate. Others may have sown seed, but they don't understand what God requires of us at harvest time.

What do we need to do to assure a full, festival-worthy, abundant harvest? First, we have to get right with God. Before we can receive God's abundance financially, we must receive His abundant grace!

Romans 5:17

For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.

The word receive is *lambano* in Greek. It means *to grab*. *Second Peter 1:3* tells us that God has already provided everything you need for life and godliness, but you have to take it by faith. We reign in life because of His

abundant grace! *Grace* is *charis* in Greek. It has nearly two dozen meanings in the New Testament. One of the most prominent is found in the *second chapter of Ephesians*.

Ephesians 2:8

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.

Grace is a gift; simply receive it! Grace is also favor, as Noah had with God: “*But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD*” (*Genesis 6:8*). Partner, God’s favor makes you His favorite! **One day of favor with God will promote you faster than a year of labor!** Paul described another definition of grace when he wrote about his ministry.

Ephesians 3:7-8

Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.

Paul equated God’s grace to the anointing! God has given you grace and anointing to do whatever He has called you to do!

Paul ministered to people he once disdained. He operated in a field for which he wasn’t formally trained. He was stoned, beaten, and left for dead, but he realized that God’s grace was sufficient (*see 2 Corinthians 12:9*). His anointing would fill in wherever he lacked as He served God.

Your harvest is in the field that God has called you to! Partner, if God calls you, He will give you the grace to be where you need to be to receive your abundant harvest!

Grace shows up as harvest in various ways. Two are described in the *fourth and fifth chapters of Acts*.

Acts 4:33-35

And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them and brought the prices of the things that were sold, And laid them down at the apostles’ feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.

The early church experienced the grace of God in giving, receiving, and healing! I know some very generous givers, but the believers in Acts sold everything and brought all the proceeds to the apostles! Such generous giving happens only as a result of the grace of God!

2 Corinthians 8:1-2

Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.

Those who were in financial need in Macedonia flowed in the grace of giving! Those who lacked in the *fourth chapter of Acts* had their needs met because of the grace of giving upon others. **Partner, the way to get out of poverty is by sowing!**

Grace also manifested in the early church as an outpouring of the gifts of the Spirit, particularly gifts of healing and special faith!

Acts 5:16

There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.

Harvest time is here! Harvest begins by receiving God's grace and flowing in giving, receiving, and healing! Just as farmers use combines to harvest wheat, there are a few things we need to implement to gather our harvest as well.

YOU WILL ALWAYS
harvest
WHAT
YOU PLANT

GALATIANS 6:7

The first component we need to implement to gather our harvest is found in *Galatians 5:6*: “*For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.*”

The word *worketh* is *energeo* in Greek. It means *made active and efficient*. **Walking in love is necessary for gathering your abundant harvest!** Satan understands

how important it is. He knows that if he can get you out of love, he can get you away from the anointing and the grace of God. Then, your harvest will just rot in the field!

The next vital tool of harvest is thanksgiving. “*For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God*” (2 Corinthians 4:15). The word *rebound* in 2 Corinthians 4:15 means *to increase*.

Partner, be grateful for where you are now. Give God thanks for all He's done for you in Christ Jesus. Stop complaining and bellyaching. There's always someone who is worse off than you!

Focus on what you already have and what God has already done. God favors you! God is opening up the windows of harvest for you! Begin to praise God now. Give Him thanks that what He promises always comes to pass! Don't look in the rear view mirror. Look forward to the harvest!

Another important tool of harvest is your mouth! What you say is very important.

Matthew 12:34-37

O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

Your words have a lot to do with gathering your harvest! If you've got symptoms in your body, you need to say, “*I am healed.*” If you have financial needs, you should say, “*My every need is met in abundance.*”

The last important component you need to implement for harvest that I want to share with you today is obedience, particularly when it comes to sharing the Gospel.

Matthew 9:36-38

But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

Partner, tell someone about Jesus! God wants you to make Him rich with souls, and you can never out give God!

Finally, remember that when the farmer sows his seed, he doesn't see it grow for some time, and he doesn't necessarily understand how it happens.

Mark 4:26-29

And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.

Partner, if you've sown seed, just do as the farmer does. Expect it to grow. Praise God. Go to bed and get up; then praise God again. Don't worry about the harvest. Instead, be prepared to gather it! This is your year of abundant harvest!

Partner, Pastor Deborah and I pray for you daily. You are important to us. More importantly, you are important to our Lord! You are always on our minds and in our hearts.

If you have a specific prayer request and would like prayer, please call us at our KBM Partner Care Center at 248.353.3476, ext. 256. Or, if you would like to email your prayer request, you may do so by sending it to partners@keithbutler.org. You may also submit your prayer request through our website at www.keithbutler.org.

