



SOWING SEEDS for the *Kingdom*



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AUGUST 2025 MAKING AN IMPACT... MORE IMPORTANT THAN FAME

Dearly Beloved in the Lord,

In almost every area of life, people who we sometimes refer to as “game-changers” become famous and their names are forever upheld as an innovator or leader. George Washington, Henry Ford, Wilbur and Orville Wright, Albert Einstein, Thomas Edison, and Benjamin Franklin are all names of men who in recent history, changed the world. Through their innovation and dedication, their actions caused countless lives to be affected, and in all cases, their names are heralded and revered. In the world, this is the method of operation—you create something, and you become famous for it.

However, in the Kingdom of God we should not expect or even desire what the world gives. As Christians, this world is not our home. We are aliens; we are citizens of the eternal Kingdom of God. In a kingdom, the king receives the glory. In a kingdom, the king vies the rewards. In a kingdom, you receive glory by being **in favor** of the king.

In the Kingdom of God there are rewards. Jesus said that when He returns for His body (the church), that He would bring rewards with Him based upon a person's deed or what they have done (Revelation 22:12). This clearly tells us that whatever reward we receive in this age is not the ultimate reward. Earthly fame profits nothing, but heavenly rewards cannot be matched or equaled by anything earthly.

There is an account in the book of Acts about an individual whose name was Ananias who was a disciple of Jesus. He lived in Damascus along with a thriving, growing Christian community. They were relatively safe, except for one thing. There was this person by the name of Saul of Tarsus who had gone to the high priest and obtained documents that would allow him to enter houses uninvited and arrest anyone claiming to be Christian and then take them to Jerusalem for imprisonment, punishment, and even death (Acts 9:1-2).

While on one of his journeys, Saul encountered the glory of God manifested in the form of a bright light; and from within the light Jesus spoke to him. Saul, falling to the ground, confessed that Jesus was Lord. The brightness of the light blinded Saul and he spent the next three days fasting and in prayer (Acts 9:3-9). I personally believe that during that time, great repentance and change took place.

During this time of fasting and prayer, Saul had a vision and saw a man named Ananias laying hands on him. Through this laying on hands, he would be healed of his blindness. Shortly after this Ananias, the disciple living in Damascus, also received a vision. And in this vision, he was told about Saul's vision and how Saul would be healed and received the Holy Spirit through the laying on of his hands (Acts 9:10-18).

Although this vision from the Lord should have been great news and received with joy it actually revealed fear within the disciple. Saul's reputation and his cunning were so widely known that many Christians felt that this was a trick—nothing more than a deceptive ploy by Saul to expose the location of the Christian gatherings so that he could do more harm to the infant Church.

Ananias had a choice to make. Would he respond to the fear and hide, or would he believe God, put his fears aside and boldly act on the Word from God he had received in the vision? He believed God, acted on the Word he received, and the rest you might say is history. Saul's name was changed to Paul (Acts 13:9) and he went on to write almost two-thirds of the New Testament.

Here is the point. Throughout the world, there are many churches and ministries that carry the name of Paul the apostle. There are many murals that feature Paul. In America, Paul is a common name given to young men (you might even know of somebody named Paul...LOL). But what about Ananias? Where are the murals, churches and honor for him? After all, without the obedience of Ananias, what would have happened to Saul? Is it possible that history hinged on the obedience of ONE MAN who lived in Damascus? Of course, the answer is yes. Countless lives for generations were affected because of the obedience of Ananias.

Although the name of Ananias is not a household word, he was a partner in Paul's ministry and as Paul set forth to establish churches and change lives, Ananias shared in the victory. In other words, the people working *behind the scenes*, through obedience and support, helped to spread the gospel throughout the world. They share accounts with the one who stands in the spotlight and has their name proclaimed.

Revelation 22:12(KJV)

12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

We are closer now than we have ever been before to the return of Jesus. The new is like reading pages from the Word...we need to be busy doing the work of the kingdom, not being concerned with who gets the "fame!"

ARE YOU READY?

Throw out the nets, bring in the lost, proclaim the gospel, heal the sick, cast out demons! JESUS IS ALIVE AND HE IS COMING BACK.....**ARE YOU READY TO MEET HIM?**

IF YOU ARE NOT SURE PRAY THIS OUTLOUD:

I believe with all my heart that Jesus died for me. I believe with all my heart that He was raised from the dead for me. I turn away from sin. I turn away from everything that is not pleasing to Jesus. From this day forward I declare that JESUS IS LORD OF MY LIFE. I expect the Holy Spirit to lead me and guide me into all the truth. Thank you Lord Jesus for making me a new creation...I will serve you the rest of my days...**COME ON IN JESUS!**

If you prayed that prayer, you are a **NEW CREATION**, please, please, please contact me so I can help you get started on the journey of your New Life In Christ Jesus.

Kathy and I are so grateful for your faithfulness in giving of prayers and offerings to help us spread the Kingdom of God throughout the whole earth. SHALOM!

KATHY AND I DECREE YOU BLESSED IN JESUS NAME!

Pastor Dave and Kathy

Matthew 6:33

You are loved. You are welcome. You belong.