



Turning Potential into Purpose

God Gives Potential, We Bring Forth Purpose

Genesis 2:15 NLT - The LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it.

2 Corinthians 9:10 NLT - For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you.

Philippians 2:12 NLT

Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear.

Introduction

God never places finished products in your hands—He places seeds. Because Heaven's design is partnership. What you hold may look small, raw, or unfinished, but inside it is the future waiting to be revealed. **The Spirit is saying: Do not despise the seed, for in it lies nations, inventions, testimonies, and fruit for generations.** **2**

Corinthians 9:10 (NLT) "For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you."

What seed has God placed in your hands today, and will you partner with Him to see it become a harvest?

Provision – God Supplies the Raw Materials - Genesis 1:29 – “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed...” God created trees, but not chairs; dust, but not bricks; minerals, but not iron tools. **Everything we need begins in God’s provision.** He is the source of potential. God provides what is necessary for survival, but not in finished form. Humans must cultivate, shape, and refine. This establishes a partnership model between divine provision and human labor.

Work as vocation: Genesis 2:15 describes humanity being placed in the garden “to till it and keep it.” This implies that creative transformation of raw resources is part of humanity’s purpose.

- **Trees → Wood → Shelter, tools, furniture**
- **Mineral that contains metals → Metal → Tools, weapons, infrastructure**
- **Dust → Bricks → Cities, culture**

Illustration: God gave wheat, but humans must grind it, bake it, and make bread.

Partnership – We Shape What God Supplies - Genesis 2:15 – Humanity is placed in the garden “to till it and keep it.” **God’s design requires our cooperation.** The seed must be planted, the ore must be refined, the voice must be trained. **To till” (Hebrew: ‘ābad) – literally means “to serve” or “to work.** It implies cultivation, labor, and active engagement. **Humanity is not idle in paradise; work is part of God’s design,** not merely a result of the Fall (contra Gen 3:17–19 where work becomes toilsome).

To keep” (Hebrew: šāmar) – means “to guard, protect, preserve.” This suggests stewardship and responsibility, not exploitation. Together, humanity is tasked with both developing (tilling, cultivating) and protecting (keeping, sustaining) the creation.

Spiritually: God gives faith but we must grow it. Romans 12:3 NLT - Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us.

Illustration: God gives clay, but the potter must form the vessel.

Product – The Fruit of Cultivated Potential - John 15:8 NLT

When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father. **“My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit.”**

- What begins as raw material becomes testimony when cultivated:
- Sound becomes a song of praise.
- Stone becomes a house of worship.
- Seed becomes a harvest.
- The goal is not just to receive, but to produce for God’s glory.

Illustration: A forest becomes furniture, shelter, and firewood — but only when we work with what God has given.

Closing Challenge

God never hands us the harvest; He places the seed in our hands. The question is not whether He has provided, but whether we will partner with Him in cultivation. Raw material becomes wasted potential if it is left untouched. But when we till, refine, and guard what God supplies, His provision is transformed into purpose, and His purpose into fruit that endures. **1 Corinthians 3:9 For we are God’s servants, working together; you are God’s field, God’s building.**

Prayer Points

- **Forgive us when we bury the seed, when we neglect the field, when we leave the ore untouched in the ground. Teach us to see Your provision not as an end, but as an invitation to co-labor with You.**
- **Make us faithful workers in Your vineyard, wise stewards of Your garden, and skillful builders of what You entrust to us. May our hands turn raw potential into fruitful purpose, and may our lives bear a harvest that endures beyond us.**
- **I worship You Oh merciful, compassionate God of all the earth Amazing love, amazing grace I bow to You**
- **All the glory to You My love, my breath The center of my life Everything that I am, Today, dear Lord, It's all because of You**

