

2nd Quarter 2023

CONCEPTS OF FAITH

Worry—A Gateway Drug

BY ANNETTE CAPPS

SOWING SEEDS INTO THE KINGDOM

BY CHARLES CAPPS



Sowing Seeds Into The Kingdom

BY CHARLES CAPPS

The Kingdom of God operates on the principle of sowing and reaping. The Kingdom of God within is the production center or source. In the parable of the sower from Mark's Gospel, chapter 4, Jesus tells us the heart is the soil which produces whatever you plant in it.

Jesus' interpretation of this parable begins with verse 13: *"And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable?"* In other words, "If you don't get this one, you're not going to understand any of them. You won't understand about the Kingdom because this parable lays the groundwork for all the others."

Words Are The Seed

In verse 14 Jesus says, *"The sower soweth the word."*

There is a twofold application of this: Jesus is talking specifically about sowing the Word of God, but you can draw a parallel from that

and say, "The sower sows words." The person Jesus was speaking of was not sowing natural seed at all; he was sowing words.

"And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts." (v. 15)

Matthew's Gospel says it this way: *"When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one..."* (Matthew 13: 19)

If you hear the Word of God, but don't *understand* it, then satan is capable of coming in and stealing it from you. I am convinced also that if you don't act on the Word, satan will steal it from you. We have to be doers of the Word, not just hearers. (James 1:22)

Jesus said, *"Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the*

word that was sown in their hearts." Immediately! Where was the Word sown? In the hearts of the people.

Pressures of Life

"And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness;

And have no root in themselves and so endure but for a time; afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended." (Mark 4: 16, 17)

Here we have people who heard the Word, received it with joy, and walked in it for a while. But then affliction and persecution showed up and they quit.

The word *affliction* means "pressures of life." It could mean five dollars a gallon for gasoline and ten dollars for a dozen eggs... It could be sickness or disease. These are the pressures of life!

Jesus said, *"...immediately they are offended."* They thought that God would change the prices for them. A person hears, "When you give, God will give to you in return." He gets excited and suddenly decides to give away his car; then later he says, "I gave away my car. Why didn't God give me a new one?"

God is not necessarily obligated to give you a car. He may give you the money to buy one. If I am believing for a hundredfold

return in my giving, I wouldn't give away my watch and expect to get a hundred watches in return. I wouldn't give away a car and believe for a hundred cars.

Believe God for the finances. You don't need a hundred cars. Keeping up a hundred cars could drain your bank account. It could be a curse instead of a blessing.

"Every time you speak, you sow either God's words or the devil's words."

Sometimes, I think, we try to put God in a box. If you give something away, believe God for the finances to replace the item or to buy your own car. Don't lock God in a box. In doing so, you may miss it altogether.

Notice *why* afflictions and persecutions arise: *for the Word's sake* – not to make you strong, not to cause you to grow, but to get that Word out of you!

Pulling Thorns

"And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, and the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful."

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.” (Mark 4: 18-20)

When the Word was sown among thorns, the thorns sprang up and choked it. The thorns were already there, which tells us we need to do some *thorn pulling*.

If the thorns in your heart choke out the Word of God concerning prosperity, then you must get rid of the thorns. Get rid of those ideas which cause you to believe, “Maybe it’s not God’s will for me to prosper in a particular area.” Meditate on God’s Word concerning prosperity in the particular area you have a need. Get rid of the thorns, dig up the stones, then allow God’s Word to take root in your heart.

“Whether you sow right seeds or wrong seeds, the principle of sowing and reaping will produce in your life.”

Matthew 13:23 describes the man who received the seed into the good ground as one who *hears* the Word and *understands* it. Only one planting survived and brought forth fruit: the soil (heart) that received the seed. In other words, that soil was prepared; it had no thorns or stones in it.

The sower is sowing words. Jesus said the soil that these words

are sown into is the heart of man or the human spirit. The heart is the *production center*. It is the soil that will produce what you plant.

The sower sows the seed of the Word of God. You are a sower. You sow God’s Word into your heart by speaking His Word.

Conceive the Word in Your Spirit

You sow seed (words you speak) into the soil of your heart, into your spirit man. Every time you speak, you sow either God’s words or the devil’s words. Each will produce after its kind.

Conceiving in the spirit is like planting seeds into soil. Just as a particular type of seed will bring forth that same kind of plant, so will a particular type of word produce after its kind. Whether you sow right seeds or wrong seeds, the principle of sowing and reaping will produce in your life.

This is the Law of Genesis. It has never changed, and it never will, for God made a promise to creation. In Genesis 8:21, 22 the Lord said in His heart, *“I will not again curse the ground any more for man’s sake... While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.”*

In the covenant God made with Noah and the animals of the earth,

He said that as long as the earth remained, the process of sowing and reaping would never cease.

Through the parable of the sower, God is telling us *how the Kingdom of God operates*, setting the stage for understanding how God’s Kingdom works inside us. *It works by the sowing of words*. We plant words in the Kingdom of God which is in us.

Seeds Produce After Their Kind

You don’t sow radish seeds in a garden and hope for cucumbers! When I was farming, I didn’t plant cotton and expect to reap soybeans or rice. It just doesn’t work that way.

While I was plowing the soil to plant cotton or soybeans, the ground never yelled at me and said, “I’m not going to raise soybeans this year. I’ve decided that you need cucumbers, so I’m going to raise cucumbers!”

It couldn’t do that; it had to produce whatever I planted – whether it was cotton, soybeans, rag weeds, or oak trees! The soil had no choice but to do what the seed demanded.

About six months after a soybean seed is planted it will produce a handful of soybeans that look just like the one planted. You can’t plant soybeans and get apples, or plant cockleburs and get roses. The soil was not designed to decide what should be produced. God designed it

to react to the demands of the seed that is planted and to bring forth an exact duplication of its kind.

The Heart Produces the Kind Planted

“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.” (Mark 4:26,27)

Jesus is telling us that the heart, or spirit, of man was designed to operate in the same way that the ground produces crops. According to the Law of Genesis, everything produces after its kind.

We are seeking first the Kingdom by finding where the Kingdom resides, then how it works. We don’t have to understand all the reasons why it works. We need to know how to plant the Word in the heart (soil), then once planted how to care for it to keep it from being choked. The soil will do the producing.

Your human spirit was designed to search the avenues of God’s wisdom day and night – for years, if necessary – to lead you to the things or position you have been confessing.

Don’t Sow Seeds of Trouble

When you understand that your spirit continually produces what you speak, you realize why some bad things happen in your life. You can

see that by saying things like, "Lord, we won't ever get these debts paid; we'll never have the money by the end of the year to make the house payment," you open the door to the Devil and allow that very thing to come to pass!

Some people say, "Trouble and sorrows follow me all the days of my life. I just get out of one, and another comes along. Every time I get ahead a little, something bad happens and it takes all our finances." These people don't realize that they have been saying this same thing for twenty years and the devil has had a heyday.

For several years Johnson grass was a problem on a portion of my farm. Johnson grass is a real problem to farmers and requires special attention. Suppose I had said to my workers, "Since we've had trouble with Johnson grass in this field, we're going to plant some more Johnson grass." It would be foolish for me to plant more grass or weeds just because I had been having trouble with weeds and grass. That doesn't make any sense at all, but many Christians are doing that very thing: praying and talking the problem.

When you say "Lord, I prayed and it's getting worse. What are we going to do?" you are sowing weed seed in the soil – and those seeds will produce. *Faith cometh by hearing.* They are hearing troubles and problems; therefore, they will have faith in the problems and troubles.

Some people continually sow seeds of doubt, fear, and unbelief. They talk sickness and disease, then wonder why they can't walk in prosperity and health. They may be crying out to God to change their situation; but as long as they continue to say the same things, God can't help them.

Everything produces after its kind. If they would speak according to the Word by making statements such as, "All the blessings in Deuteronomy 28 are coming upon me and overtaking me; goodness and mercy are following me all the days of my life," they would change the direction of their life. To turn your ship, you must turn the rudder. To change the harvest, you must change the seed you are sowing.

The Spirit Never Sleeps

The Apostle Paul said, *"The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God."* (Romans 8:16)

You can't contact God with your body. God is a spirit; therefore, we commune and fellowship with God through our spirits, even while we are asleep. Your spirit can commune with God twenty-four hours a day.

Whether you sow right seeds or wrong seeds, the principle of sowing and reaping will produce in your life. Learn the principles of how the Kingdom operates and apply them

daily. They will not work for you just because you know about these principles. You must believe them and put them into action. ■

Things to Remember

God's Kingdom operates on the principle of sowing and reaping.

Your heart is the soil.

The words you speak are the seeds.

You sow God's Word in your heart by speaking it out your mouth.

Each time you speak, you are sowing words – God's words or the devil's words.

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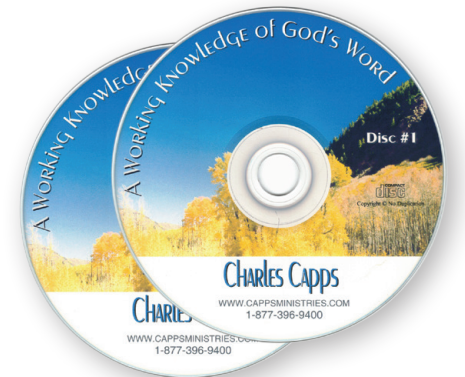


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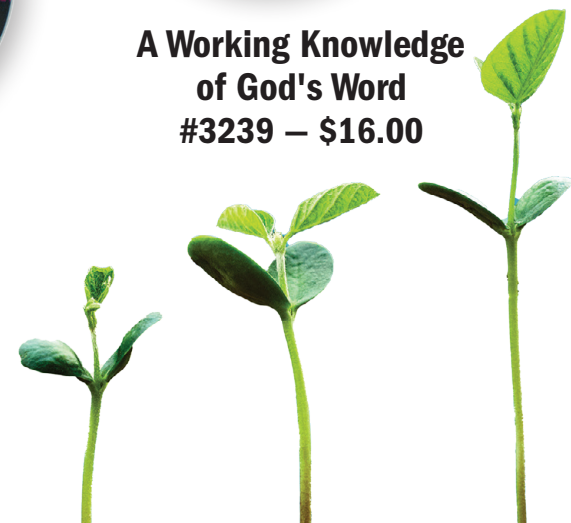
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*Prophecy given by Charles Capps
Russellville, Arkansas — June 17, 1988*



When the seed is sown in the earth, before the sun can rise and set, the seed has demanded that your need be met.

The heart will respond without regret, but the process has only begun, and it is not revealed yet;

But hath confidence in and respect for the seed, for it has given its life for what you need.

It will work night and day, giving substance to what you say.

It will assemble the information piece by piece and know the exact time for its release.

So set a watch on what you speak and how you pray, for a time of release comes every day.

Take heed to the words God has spoken, and obey. For you see, the fruit is being fashioned each day.

The process continues until the harvest is perfected in this very way. For day after day the seed demands and the earth does obey.

But be careful not to tamper with the seed, for if you do, you will come up with a weed.

But if you will encourage it with the water of the Word, it will produce exactly the way you have heard.

WORRY— A GATEWAY DRUG

BY ANNETTE CAPPS

You may have heard of gateway drugs. It's said that habitually using a lesser drug like marijuana can lead to using stronger, more addictive drugs like cocaine or heroin. As I was studying on casting your care and anxiety over on the Lord, I realized that worry is a gateway drug to fear.

Worry is seen as something rather harmless. Everybody has worried at one time or another. But continually (or habitually) worrying opens the door to fear, and fear attracts whatever you're afraid of. Worry is the gateway to fear.

My Grandmother Capps was a world champion worrier. If trophies and blue ribbons were given out for worrying, she would have a lot! Years ago whenever I would get into my airplane and fly off the grass runway on my dad's farm to minister at meetings, she would pray, "Jesus, protect Annette. Don't let her crash as she travels all over the land!" Unfortunately, she wasn't praying a prayer of *faith*. It was a prayer of *fear*!

WORRY IS A GATEWAY TO FEAR.

When I flew back home, I would "buzz" her house before landing so she would know that I was back home. (That means I flew the plane low and gassed the engine as I zoomed over her house.) She recognized the sound of my plane's Lycoming 360 engine and could tell the difference in sound between my plane and my dad's. But if she didn't hear me fly over when she thought I should be returning, she would worry that I had crashed.

My Grandmother Walls, my mom's mother, was horribly afraid of snakes, and she managed to always see one wherever she went. It was like she was the pied piper of snakes. They seemed to always find her, attracted by her fear, which is faith in reverse.

FAITH VS. FEAR

Yes, fear is faith in reverse. While faith attracts good things; fear attracts the negative. Faith attracts the desires of your heart. Fear attracts what you DO NOT want. Worrying about bad things that *could* happen opens the door to fear. Worry is the *gateway* to fear. Even Job said, *“What I have greatly feared has come upon me.”* (Job 3:25) Fear opens the door for what you are afraid of to come to pass.

I have known many Christians who fear the devil and what he might do to them. They don’t realize that his only power is to lie and deceive. He tries to twist your thoughts and convince you that a lie is the truth. For example, he has deceived some people into believing that they will die at a young age. Their father or mother may have died early, and so he tries to convince them that they will too.

If you believe something strongly enough, either good or bad, it will happen. Elvis Presley believed and said he would die at age 42. He either

WE ARE CONDUITS—GATEWAYS OF FAITH TO RELEASE OUR FAITH IN THE WORD AND THE HOLY SPIRIT ON BEHALF OF OTHERS.

had faith or fear for it. Whichever way you look at it, he believed it, and it came to pass.

It’s imperative that we guard our hearts and minds with all diligence. Jesus said, “DO NOT be anxious, worried, or troubled!” (paraphrase of Luke 12:22) If Jesus said, “DO NOT!” then it must be *possible* for us to rest in God and NOT worry.

JESUS—THE FIRST OF FOUR WITNESSES

Picture yourself on a jury. During the trial, four well-regarded men of proven integrity are called to testify. Would you think what they had to say was important? Yes, you would because of their reputations.

I am building my case that it is possible to trust in God and not worry about anything. I am going to show you four witnesses in the Bible who have testified against worry. From their testimony, you see that worry is a gateway drug we must get out of our lives.

The first and most important witness is Jesus. *“Jesus said to His disciples, ‘For this reason I tell you, do not worry about your life, as to what you will eat; or about your body, as to what you will wear.’”* (Luke 12:22 AMP)

A few verses earlier, Jesus said, *“When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.”* (Luke 12:11–12 NIV)

These verses are telling you not to worry if you are ever on trial or being questioned, for the Holy Spirit will help you.

Can you imagine being taken to court and not worrying? Have you ever stayed awake at night worrying about what you will say the next day at a meeting or an event? Jesus’ instruction is not to worry because the Holy Spirit will show you what to say and do in every situation.

In verse 25 of Luke 12, Jesus asks, *“Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life?”* If you spent three days worrying, do you think you could worry yourself into one more hour of life? Or one more day? One more minute? No. Worry does the opposite. It shortens your life. In other words, worry is unproductive and destructive.

The cares and worries of the world choke the Word and cause it to become unfruitful. Jesus cursed a fig tree that was unproductive. God’s plan is prosperity and productivity. He wants our lives to be fruitful, and that won’t happen if we spend our energy worrying and being distracted with everything going on around us.

SECOND WITNESS—THE APOSTLE PAUL

Our second witness is Paul. He says in Philippians 4:6–7 (CJB), *“Don’t worry about anything; on the contrary, make your requests known to God by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving. Then God’s shalom, passing all understanding, will keep*

FAITH OPENS THE GATEWAY FOR GOD’S MIRACLE WORKING POWER.



your hearts and minds safe in union with the Messiah Yeshua.”

Have you ever had peace while worrying? No. Paul goes on to tell us how to put an end to the gateway drug of worry. *“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think on these things.”* (Philippians 4:8 BSB)

When we try to figure things out by worrying, we block the real answer that comes from our spirit which is in communion with God. God doesn’t need our “worrying” to help manifest His promises in our lives.



THIRD WITNESS— THE APOSTLE PETER

Our third witness is the Apostle Peter. He tells us to cast, *“all of your care [all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully.”* (1 Peter 5:7 AMPC)

Being a fisherman, Peter had a lot of experiencing with casting. He threw nets out of the boat every day. Those nets were pretty heavy, but they couldn't do their job until they were cast out of the boat into the water. There are probably some problems weighing YOU down and trying to sink your boat, but like Peter said, cast your care out of the boat where God can handle it!

God doesn't want you to worry about your personal life—food, clothing, and shelter. Neither does He want you to worry about other people. I'm going to paraphrase the words of Jesus. How many of you, by worrying for a solid hour between three and four o'clock in the morning, can change what is happening in the life of someone you're concerned about?

Can you save sister so-and-so or brother so-and-so? Can you heal their body? No. You are not the savior of the world. We love people and have concerns about them. We see things in their lives that disturb us greatly, but we are not anybody's savior.

We are conduits—gateways of faith to release our faith in the Word and the Holy Spirit on behalf of others. We release the grace of God

to them and throw them a life jacket, but it's up to them to put it on.

After we pray, all we can do is cast our care for them on the Lord and give thanks. “Thank You, Lord, that You're ministering to them and speaking to them. That You're giving them the spirit of wisdom and revelation and the knowledge of Christ. I thank You that You're intervening in their situation. Help them hear what You're saying.”

FINAL WITNESS— KING DAVID

Our final witness is King David. He said, *“Cast your burden on the Lord [releasing the weight of it] and He will sustain you. He will never allow the [consistently] righteous to be moved (made to slip, fall, or fail).”* (Psalm 55:22 AMPC)

God can't sustain you if you hold on to the burden, care, or anxiety. Provision for what you need comes from the Lord, but it comes when you open the *gateway of faith*, not the gateway of fear and worry. Faith opens the door for God's miracle working power.

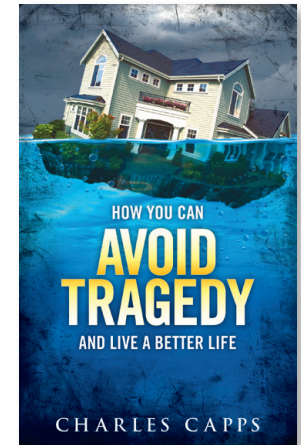
I have presented you with four biblical witnesses who have all testified against worry. What I have found effective when I'm tempted to worry is what I do when sickness, disease, or lack attack me. I say NO! Practice that with me right now. “NO! NO! NO! I will not allow it!”

After I have prayed, I don't allow myself to think about the situation. I won't entertain any elaborate story or picture of what could happen.

Imaginations are not the end result, God's promises are. I have declared the end from the beginning and the end result is victory, so I refuse to be moved.

What about the people I have a concern for? I keep sending the Word to them. I pray and stand with them in faith. When a thought comes to my mind that something bad will happen to them, I say, “No. In Jesus' Name, I've cast that care on the Lord.”

Don't open the gateway drug of worry. Instead, open the gateway of faith by being a doer of the Word. As King David said in Psalm 37:5 (AMPC), *“Commit your way to the Lord [roll and repose each care of your load on Him]; trust (lean on, rely on, and be confident) also in Him and He will bring it to pass.”* ■



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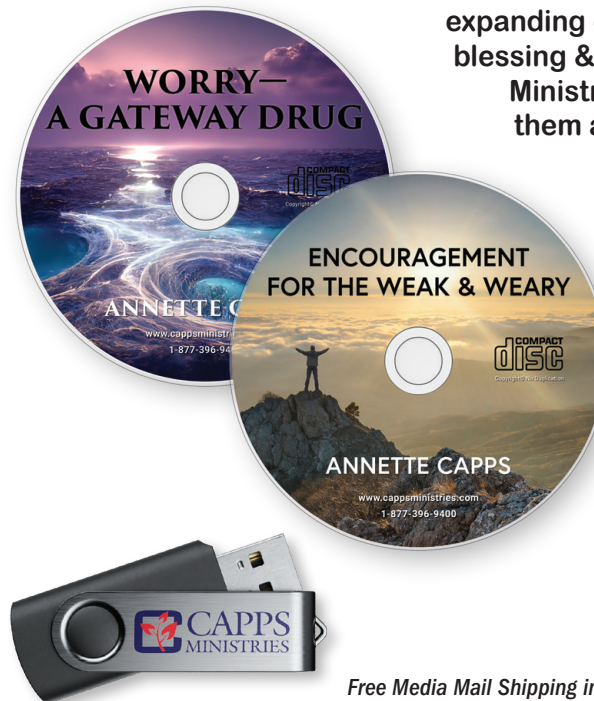
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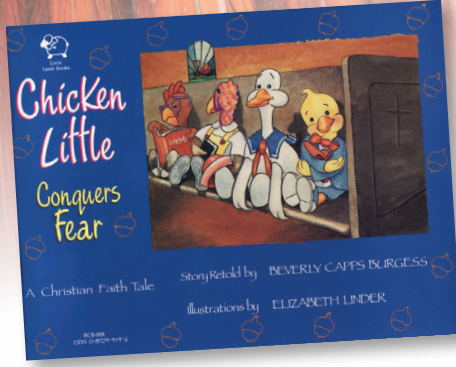
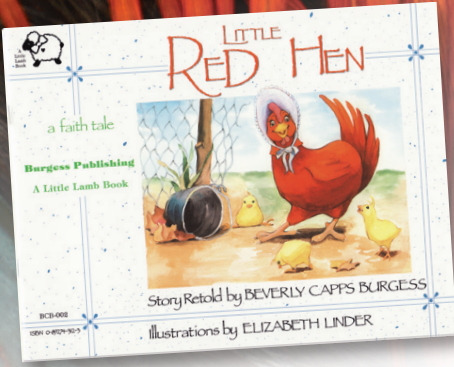
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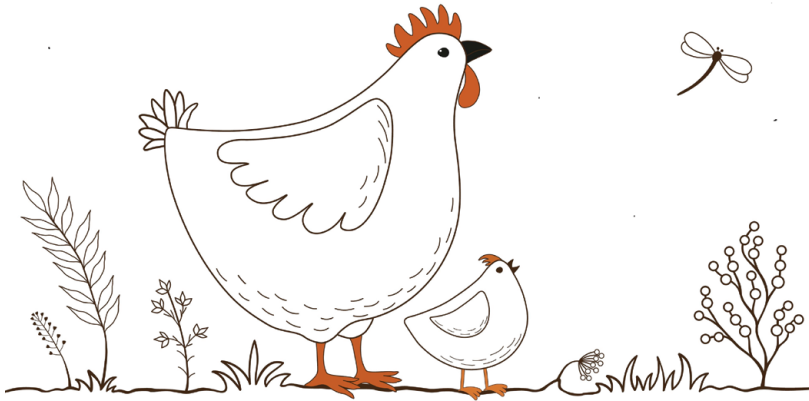
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