

THE PLANTED SEED

THE IMMUTABLE LAWS
OF SOWING AND REAPING

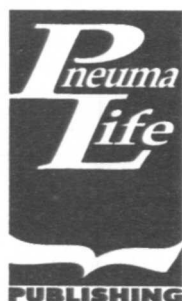


Juanita Bynum

The Planted Seed

The Immutable Laws of Sowing and Reaping

Juanita Bynum



The Planted Seed

Unless otherwise indicated, all scriptural quotations are from *The Holy Bible—King James Version*.

Printed in the United States of America. All rights reserved under International Copyright Law. Contents and/or cover may not be reproduced in whole or in part in any form without the express written consent of the publisher.

Copyright © 1997—Juanita Bynum

The Planted Seed

ISBN 1-56229-122-X

Pneuma Life Publishing
Post Office Box 885
Lanham, MD 20703-0885
(301)577-4052

Visit our webpage at <http://www.pneumalife.com>

Contents

<i>Dedication</i>	<i>vii</i>
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>ix</i>
<i>Introduction</i>	<i>xi</i>
1 The Planted Seed In Me.....	13
2 The Breakthrough.....	23
3 God's Seed For You.....	29
4 The Harvest of Your Seed.....	45
5 My Testimony.....	53

Dedication

I would like to dedicate this book to my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bynum, who are always there when I need them. (Daddy, I know that means all the time!) I would also like to dedicate this book to my beloved grandmother, the late Evangelist Doretha Juanita Bynum, after whom I was named.

Acknowledgments

A special thanks goes to my pastor, Dr. John H. Boyd, Sr., and his loving, sweet wife, Mother Margie Boyd, and to the entire New Greater Bethel family of Cambria Heights, New York, for their prayers and support.

Also, to Pastor and sister W. T. Nichols and the New Hope Tabernacle family of Port Huron, Michigan.

A special, special thanks goes to John and Valerie Boyd, Gail Johnson, Aretha Wilson, Norma D. Neal, Bethanie O. Beard, De'Andre Patterson, Gena Avery, Apostle John Eckhardt and Pastor Tom Bynum (my brother).

Included as recipients of special thanks are Linda M. Robinson for her editorial consulting, and Pamela N. Hairston for editing assistance.

And last, but by no means least, I would like to thank my administrative staff for their untiring efforts, as well as the prayers of the saints who helped to make this book a success.

Introduction

While studying the Word of God one evening, the Lord interrupted my studies and began to share some very powerful things with me concerning His perfect will for my life.

He allowed me to venture back in memory to some extremely hard times I had experienced. I felt as if I was in a time capsule, being rocketed back into the past. As I began to move toward the present, God began to reveal to me the purpose of each situation that had occurred.

The Lord spoke plainly to me saying, "Juanita, it was Satan's plan to keep your life fragmented in a million pieces, but I want you to see how I have taken those same pieces of your life and recreated a new life [for you] in Me."

I sat there—broken in spirit—before the Lord. I began to see how I had gone from divorce, welfare, anorexia and broken relationships to become a spiritually secure young woman in God.

It was absolutely incredible to look back and see the "Juanita" I used to be, in comparison to the Juanita I am today. It was at this point that the Lord spoke to me and said, "I want you to write a book."

The next morning, at exactly 3:15 a.m., He spoke to me the title of this book saying, "I will give you a revelation of St. Mark, chapter four, and you will

entitle the book, *The Planted Seed*."

I sat straight up in bed, turned on the light, and began to write. I wrote so fast that at one point the pen tumbled out of my hand. I had never experienced what it felt like to write under the anointing of the Holy Spirit while listening to the voice of God.

I would like to thank my readers for allowing me to share the revelation God gave me concerning *The Planted Seed*.

Chapter 1

The Planted Seed In Me

When I was a little girl, about seven years old, I remember getting up in front of the church on Easter and Christmas holidays to say my little speech.

After I finished, the congregation would be astonished that such a strong anointing could be on such a young child. Even when I would sing, I could feel the presence of God upon me, although I didn't completely understand what was happening.

One day, my pastor, the late Reverend Luke Austin, Sr., came to my mother and said, "The enemy [Satan] is going to try to destroy this child at a young age, but God said, 'He will not succeed.' In fact, she will be a powerful instrument for Him in the last day ministry. She will be greatly used of the Lord."

God Plants A Seed In My Spirit

At seven years of age, my mind could not process this experience that set my life on a course I have yet to fully comprehend. Pastor Austin laid his hand on my little head and, with Holy Ghost boldness, began to decree the word of the Lord. When he removed his hand, I experienced what felt like a heat wave go completely through my body. At that moment—that

very instant—God planted a seed in my spirit!

As I grew older, my life began to become quite chaotic. My mother would always say to me, "Juanita, I don't care what Satan is doing right now in your life. I know what *God* said, and I'm going to stand on the promises of God!"

It's life changing when you have a praying mother who says with powerful conviction, "I am standing on the promises of God!" Her words would ring out with such authority that you could sense Satan being halted in his tracks.

At times, when I was stumbling and being beaten up by the enemy, I could still hear a small voice down on the inside of me saying, "I am the Lord your God. I have called you by My Name, and I desire to use you in a great and mighty way."

God, You've Got The Wrong Juanita!

There were seasons in my life when the enemy would seriously challenge my calling. It was during those seasons when I felt like Gideon—when the angel of the Lord appeared to him, and he thought the angel had the wrong address.

I have said on several occasions, "God, you must have me mixed up with another girl named Juanita. There are several of us in the earth, you know. I just know I am not the right one, especially after all that has happened to me!"

As time went on, however, I began to see God's hand in my life. I watched Him turn my life upside

down and inside out. He began to bless me, both spiritually and naturally, in ways you would not believe.

I became more and more excited about God's Word. As I began to soar in God, I knew there was no turning back! My heart and my entire being began to say "Yes!" to God's will. Hence, I completely surrendered my will to Him.

The Manifestations of the Seed

I began to move out on the things God had shown me. The things He had spoken in the past began to manifest themselves before my eyes. Doors were being opened, and God was moving by His Spirit! Sick bodies were being healed, and old and young alike were turning their lives over to Jesus as never before in my ministry. To all those things I said, "To God be the glory!"

I was invited to conduct a crusade in Greensboro, North Carolina. Something in my spirit was saying, "Juanita, this is no ordinary meeting." So I began to consult the Lord in earnest prayer about this meeting because I could feel a shifting taking place in my spirit.

The seed on the inside of me had matured and was about to bear fruit—or results—that would be new to me. I knew I was being ushered into a different realm in God, but I wasn't quite sure where I was headed. However, one thing was for sure, I knew I did not want to miss the move of God!

While on the airplane, in transit to the crusade, I

kept feeling an awesome presence of the Holy Spirit. It was barely containable in my human body. His presence was so overwhelming that I literally had to get up out of my seat and go into the lavatory in order to release the praises of God that had been welling up within me!

Being a flight attendant by profession, it was commonplace for me to seek a time of privacy to give reverence to God. As the plane proceeded to land, I felt my spirit man do an enormous flip! At first, I thought we had a rough landing, but when the plane came to a complete stop, the Holy Spirit was all over me. His presence was so strong that I couldn't move until all the other passengers had departed the plane!

I was afraid that if I attempted to move or say anything, I would burst into uncontrollable tongues! Finally, I slowly got up out of my seat, pressed my lips together tightly and began to grunt—as though my bags were extremely heavy—in an effort to contain the anointing that had besieged me.

As I walked down the aisle, I knew that what had just happened inside of me had nothing to do with the cabin pressure, the hydraulic system, or any other earthly system.

Plugged Into The Heavenly System

It is clear to me now that the experience I had on the plane was a manifestation of the seed God had deposited within me. Through that one of many encounters with the hand of destiny, I found myself

caught in the eternal realm. I knew the Lord had just plugged me into a heavenly system.

Furthermore, if I didn't hurry up and get off that plane, everyone who was left on board would see exactly how it operated! I also knew in my innermost being that I would never be the same again.

The next night, I arrived at the crusade full of faith and anticipation. I walked into the building and there sat only twelve people! I kept my poise, went to my seat, and prayed: "God, I've fasted and prayed. You told me to accept this invitation because many souls would be saved and You would show Yourself mighty. So what now, Lord?" I paused for a moment and said, "I'm listening, Lord."

That night, I ministered as if the room was filled to capacity. Regardless of what I saw with my physical eyes, I was totally focused in the realm of the spirit. When I finished the message, I made the altar call and two souls came forward to be saved. Then something strange happened.

As they repeated the sinner's prayer, I began to sense the most overwhelming presence of Jesus I had ever experienced in an altar call!

I began to say to myself, "If these people are asking Jesus into their hearts, that means He is entering into their lives at this very moment! That means His presence is fresh in this room!"

It was as if a light bulb suddenly illuminated my spirit.

Then the Holy Spirit spoke to me and said, "I am

here, and nothing can overthrow My presence."

People of God, this is why it is imperative that we take the time to invite the presence of Jesus into everything that we do. Once His presence is there, nothing—absolutely nothing—can overthrow Him!"

His voice began to engulf my spirit saying, "Not only am I here to save, but I am here to heal and make whole."

Once God made me aware of what He wanted to do, it ignited something in my spirit. It was at that very moment of awareness that God manifested a spiritual shift in my ministry—into His healing virtues.

The Holy Spirit drew my attention to a young woman on the other side of the room. I fixed my eyes on her and said, without thinking, "Young lady, the Lord wants to heal your body." I didn't know what was wrong with her, I just spoke what God had told me to say. I moved closer to her and asked, "What is your condition?"

She replied, "I had brain surgery five years ago, and I have not been able to bend my left leg since the surgery."

The devil immediately began to taunt me, saying, "Ah ha! Miss Anointed Great Evangelist, you just messed up! God has never used you in this realm before. You'd better think twice about what you're doing. What if you pray for this lady and nothing happens?"

The enemy persisted, "Why don't you ease back from her and tell her you will be praying for her and

believing God to do a work for her as she goes. This way, you won't embarrass yourself."

At this point, I could not get into fear because I was in God's presence. The Lord began to say, "I am the Lord that healeth! Speak the Word, and command this woman's leg to bend in the Name of Jesus!"

I grabbed her leg and commanded it to bend in obedience to His voice. Then I began to praise God. At first, nothing happened.

Suddenly, the young woman began to walk down the aisle. When she reached the end, she turned around, bent her knee and began to dance in the Holy Spirit! To God be the glory!

While heading back to the hotel, I began to meditate and praise God for such an awesome move of His Spirit. I rejoiced for the healing that sister had received.

As I reflected on what God had done, I imagined how she must have been feeling. It had to be wonderful for her to once again, after five years, have the ability to sit in a chair and bend both her knees. I also gave thanks for the two souls who came to Jesus, and I meditated on how wonderful they must have felt to be free from the clutches of the enemy.

While I was rehearsing in my mind the victories that had taken place that evening, the minister who was driving said, "Sister, God is going to use you in an even greater way before this meeting is over."

When he spoke those words, something hit my spirit! I quickly said "good night" to the other saints in

the car, hurried to my hotel room, double locked the doors and said, "God, would you please tell me what's going on?" I waited for His reply, and He said nothing—zilch! I did not hear one, single word from Him!

What Happens When You Say, "Yes Lord!"

The next morning, I was awakened by a telephone call from the crusade leader. He informed me that the Christian radio station in Greensboro had heard that I was a young woman being used of God, and they wanted to do a live interview with me.

That afternoon, I went to the radio station to do the interview. I sat there thinking, "Lord, things are really moving against my intellect. Lord, I don't know what is happening. I don't know anything about going on radio or physical miracles. Lord, I just don't know what I'm doing!"

The Lord responded very gently, saying, "Juanita, that's because you're not the one who is doing the work—I Am!"

A scary feeling came over me. I thought to myself, "Is this what takes place when a person says 'yes' to the will of the Lord?"

This whole episode was like watching a movie or having some kind of out-of-body experience, but I was finally getting the picture. I thought, "Oh, my goodness, this really makes my liver quiver!" My insides screeched, and I thought, "Why didn't someone tell me?"

It was as if I had come to Niagara Falls and taken a

big step off the edge, yelling, "Yes, Looooord!" In taking that step, I couldn't turn around and simply walk back up to the top and say, "I really didn't mean to step off this waterfall. See ya!"

It was a bit too late for that.

Once you begin to say a total "YES!" to God, it isn't that easy to turn around later and say "no" because of fear or insecurities. Let me tell you, those two little words—"Yes, Lord"—will literally be ringing in your sleep!

Even when you chew your food, the chomping sound in your mouth will seem to be saying, "Yes, Lord. Yes, Lord. Yes, Lord."

The washing machine will seem to change its tune from swish-swish to "Yes, Lord. Yes, Lord. Yes, Lord."

Once you have spoken those two words unto the Lord, it's not easy to retract them. That one statement will wreak havoc in your life!

Chapter 2

The Breakthrough

The hostess informed the live radio audience that they would be hearing from Juanita Bynum, a young evangelist who is running a meeting in town. With my mind blank, but my spirit filled with "Yes, Lord", I boldly stepped up to the microphone.

In that moment, God gave me a word for that city. I told them that I was in Greensboro by divine appointment. I went on to say that the Spirit of God was visiting that city. I prophesied that God would heal and bring strong deliverance.

Something broke in the spirit realm over that city and when the Holy Spirit had finished, I realized that fifteen minutes had elapsed. There was a heavy presence of God that paralyzed the station. Deejaays, secretaries and other station employees had begun to cry in acknowledgment of the Spirit of God.

They were so moved, they attended the meeting that night. The conviction was so strong, they were convinced that I was sent by God to that city and felt an urgency in their spirit to make the divine appointment.

The whole city seemingly came alive. The phone lines at the station were immediately jammed with

people requesting prayer. Something had changed.

Open Your Mouth, and I Will Fill It

When I arrived at the service the second night, lo and behold, the building which comfortably held three-hundred fifty people was filled! Chairs lined the hall and everywhere a body could be, one was there.

I tried to look poised, as if I had it all together, but all I kept thinking was, "Lord, if you would just tell me what's going to happen next, I would feel much better. How about just a little bit of feedback, huh?"

I approached the podium and stood there for a moment. I didn't have a prepared message. I didn't know what I was going to say because God had not given me a message.

As I stood there, the Holy Spirit spoke to me and said, "I am the speaker, not you. Put your trust in Me. Open your mouth, and I will fill it."

I opened my mouth and asked, "How many people came tonight looking for a fresh drink from the Holy Spirit?"

Immediately, as if someone had thrown a bomb, the power of the Holy Spirit fell inside that building. I really believe that if someone had taken a picture of me at that moment, my eyes would have been bulging out of my head like the character, Buckwheat, in the old television sitcom "The Little Rascals".

The place erupted in the Spirit! People came hurriedly to the altar to be saved while others were filled with the Holy Spirit. There was a mighty move

of God that night!

Once again, following the service, God began to deal with me. He let me know that in this last-day move, the Holy Spirit will not need just an intellectual or analytical mind to work through; He will use vessels who are willing to lose themselves totally in Him and yield to what He wants to say and do.

The Power Is In His Presence

The next night, as I ended the message, you could feel the presence of God hovering in that place. I began to pray in the Spirit to get further direction from the Lord.

After a minute or two, a word of knowledge came up in my spirit. I spoke it out saying, "The lady with the brace on your leg—Jesus wants to heal you." A woman wearing a plastic brace came forward, and I prayed for her. She went back to her seat rejoicing because the pain had left.

Again, the Holy Spirit spoke through me and said, "There is another lady here with a brace on. Please come out into the aisle."

The first woman's leg was in the healing process after spiritual surgery. However, when I asked for the second woman, a much older woman wearing a leg brace stepped forward.

When she stepped out I asked, "Lord, You're trying to embarrass me, right?" He responded, "Relax in Me and follow My leading."

The woman came to the front, sat down, and took

the leg brace off. I stood over her and began to pray in the Spirit.

The Lord let me know that when you pray in the Spirit, it ushers you straight into His presence—and where He is, there is no fear, doubt or worry. When in His presence, you stand in complete assurance that every word He has ever spoken will come to pass!

There was a spiritual drive inside of me that went beyond just belief; it was an absolute confidence in my "knower". I had no doubt in my mind at all. Actually, before she even got up, I saw her in the Spirit, already walking.

I quickly pulled her to her feet, and she began to walk and give God the praise! She had not walked without that brace for more than 35 years!

At that point, I stopped questioning God about what He was doing and began to move with the flow of the Holy Spirit. I have learned that when you simply yield to the will of God, He will begin to show Himself mighty—to you, *in* you, and even more so, *through* you!

The Origin

You must understand that all of the events that took place in the crusade didn't just fall out of the clear, blue sky. Nothing in this world suddenly jumps into existence. Everything has an origin. Everything has its beginning—though hardly recognizable—at the point of manifestation.

First, there must be a process by which a seed of

some sort is planted—whether by word or deed, spiritual or natural, good or bad.

The planting of seeds is the method God has ordained for all things to come into existence. That is how, as stated in the book of Isaiah, *He declares the end from the beginning*. God puts the ending of a thing in the seed, and when He is ready to begin that particular thing, He plants the seed.

Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me. Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure. Isaiah 46:9,10

In the next few pages, we will tap into some spiritual truths concerning seed planting. It will change the course of your life!

Chapter 3

God's Seed For You

In this chapter, we will examine the reproduction of a planted seed in relationship to the process of sowing and reaping. Notice what the Bible says:

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. Galatians 6:7

I don't believe the people of God have really grasped the true concept of this verse: "whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Nothing more and nothing less—only that which he has sown, whether positive seed or negative seed—that's what he is going to get back.

Some of you may argue the fact and say, "Sister, I have planted seeds of faith many times before, and nothing happened. I sowed good seeds in feeding the poor, helping the homeless, giving tithes and offerings, and even giving special offerings when asked to do so by the men and women of God. I've done all this for years and years, and I didn't get what I was praying for! I know I asked within the will of God."

You see, the strategy of Satan is to cast a negative light on preachers and evangelists in order to cause people to have reservations about giving. He paints a picture of dishonesty and distrust by using sources—

especially the television media—to magnify the problems of one or two people. Satan attempts to create a negative perception of ministers in an effort to deceive viewers into thinking or strongly considering that all ministers are crooks.

His devious motive is to keep seeds from being planted, and with many, unfortunately, he is successful. The good news, however, is that **GOD WILL PREVAIL!**

Does this sound like you? Well, don't throw in the towel yet! God has a fresh word just for you. He wants you to know this: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked." God will never be mocked by the enemy, and this perception of sowing is a deception of the devil!

Everything God has promised He is well able to do "...exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think..." The punch line is in Ephesians 3:20, "...According to the power that worketh in us!" We must tap into the power God has placed in us and not accept this wrong perception Satan desires to use in trickery against us.

The Critical Stage

The power has to come from within you. The problem is neither the promise nor the manifestation of that which was promised. So you may ask, "Sister Bynum, what is the problem?"

To find the answer, you must again look within because to understand those things concerning God and His promises, you must search for a

spiritual/inward revelation. You must ask yourself what it was that went wrong during the waiting period that kept the promise from coming into manifestation?

In other words, "the problem" is what took place during the waiting period. You have a responsibility during the waiting period; it is the critical stage—the pivotal time when things will go one way or the other. Many of us lose out on what God has promised us because we are not aware of the precautions we must take during this time of transition.

To clearly understand the complete process by which one receives, you must understand the entire principle of sowing and reaping. We must learn what to do while that seed (promise) is in its incubation period. How do we protect that seed from the clutches of Satan once it has been planted?

The first thing we must do is change our perception of seeds to God's perception of seeds.

Bruising the Head of the Enemy

Did you know that the first prophetic word spoken in the Bible concerning defeating Satan mentions a Seed?

Jesus, Himself, was a Seed sown into the world by the Father in order to destroy Satan. Notice when the Father wanted to destroy the power of the enemy, He released a Seed—His Son, Jesus Christ! This shows us the power of seed planting; just as Jesus did whatever He saw the Father do, we should do likewise. Remember, the servant is not above his Master.

Even though a seed may seem small and insignificant, it is powerful, in the hands of God, in bruising the head of the enemy and destroying his power. This is what you are protecting until its time of fruition.

God is the same yesterday, today and forever, and we, His children, are made in His image. So, when we want to defeat the enemy in our lives, we do it by releasing a seed. God then anoints that seed and destroys the work of the enemy.

There is simply no way Satan can defeat a giver. This is why he fights us so hard in our giving. The only way he can win is if you hold onto your seed. Givers are releasing seeds that bruise his head.

Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness. 2 Corinthians 9:10

Now, let's look at the Living Bible translation:

For God, who gives seed to the farmer to plant, and later on, good crops to harvest and eat, will give you more and more seed to plant and will make it grow so that you can give away more and more fruit from your harvest.

This Scripture refers to giving as a seed. God not only multiplies our seed, but He uses it to crush the authority of the enemy.

In the Scriptures, the head represents authority. The head of Christ is God, the head of the man is Christ, and the head of the woman is the man (1 Corinthians 11:3). When we speak of bruising the head of the enemy, it means attacking and destroying his authority.

Whatever authority the enemy is exercising against

a believer, in any area, it can be broken with a seed.

Think about it. The enemy has exercised authority against our finances, marriages, bodies, children and churches. The enemy has also exercised authority in our families for generations. Curses of poverty, lack, debt, promiscuity and destruction need to be broken in the lives of many.

The authority of the enemy in these areas needs to be bruised by the sowing of seeds into the Kingdom of God. To bruise means to crush, to injure, to hurt. It is taken from the Hebrew word "shuwph" meaning "to snap, overwhelm and break". Your giving overwhelms the enemy. Your seed breaks, bruises and crushes any authority he may be trying to exercise against you. Don't underestimate the power of your seed.

Following are several Scriptures that must take root in your spirit:

He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap. Ecclesiastes 11:4

He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him. Psalm 126:6

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again. Luke 6:38

Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness. 2 Corinthians 9:10

There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. Proverbs 11:24

To become a recipient of the manifestations of God flowing through you, there must be a sowing (planting) of God's Word in your spirit.

Sowing

The sower soweth the word. Mark 4:14

This is the first and most important step. It is important for you to realize that God cannot schedule your harvest until He has your seed. You can only sow what God's Word says to sow in order to reap the blessings of God. In other words, you can't use the methods of the world to get what God has for you. They will never work.

Everything you sow must line up with God's Word and His will for your life. It must be a spiritual transaction as well as a verbal affirmation, in accordance with the Word of God.

Why? Because if God's method for blessing us was based on how much money we earned or our savings, some of us would never drive new cars, live in fine homes, or wear nice clothes. If we were to reach out and try to obtain these things on our own, we would wind up frustrated and in over our heads in debt. Then, there goes our peace of mind and our physical health!

Sowing in the Spirit

In order to receive that which only the Spirit of God can bring into existence, the seed you plant [sow] must be done in the Spirit.

For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but

he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.
Galatians 6:8

You must sow according to the Word of God. Looking back at the miracles that were wrought during the crusade in Greensboro, North Carolina, I realized that a spiritual seed was planted in the spirit within me. It was nourished and cultivated, and in the right season, it came to pass.

All of the blessings of God come through the principle of sowing first, and then reaping.

Success in your ministry, business or personal life does not just evolve; it is determined by the type of seeds you have sown within those areas. Your outcome or harvest will not and cannot exceed your input!

We need to understand that what we receive is not determined by the person that gives it to us. It is determined by our giving. What we give determines what we will receive.

Even your income is not determined by what people give you, but by how much you give. Your income solely depends on you. You determine your own income. It can increase or decrease according to the seed you sow.

The preacher's reward comes, not by the service that he or she does but by the seeds that they sow.

Whatever we receive as a return is determined only by what we give.

The Thief

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. Mark 4:15

Satan comes immediately to steal that "word" out of your heart. Have you ever wondered why? First, it is a part of his character. The Bible tells in John 10:10, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy..."

We must fully comprehend this characteristic concerning the devil. The ultimate reason he comes "immediately" to steal the word is because he knows that God's Word has the power to take root and GROW immediately.

To clearly understand the creative operation of the Word of God, let's look at what took place during the creation of the world.

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. Genesis 1:1

Notice when God said, "Let there be light", there was light. And when God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature after its kind", they came into existence right then and there!

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. John 1:1-3

Since God is the Word, and the Word is God, and everything was made by His spoken Word, we must understand that every word of God—every promise of God—has the power to BE the moment it is spoken!

Why is this? Simply because every spoken word of God has the power to CREATE!

This is why Satan must come immediately to steal God's Word from our hearts. He knows that the moment it is properly received, it will immediately take root and manifest itself. So, whatever you do, don't allow Satan to steal that word from your heart. Remember the power of the tools given to you in bruising the head of the enemy. Stand firm on every Word of God!

The Importance of Roots

When we enter a flower garden, we immediately admire the beauty of the garden with our natural eye. We rarely take the time to stop and analyze the process by which it came into existence; we just enjoy what we see.

If we took the time to analyze this beautiful garden, we would realize that a plant not does have its inception on top of the ground. A seed must first be planted.

Therefore, what we see on the surface is only the result of that which was planted underground. In order to have a healthy plant, the following three elements are necessary: soil, seed, and in all cases, healthy roots.

The life of a plant is in its roots. If the roots aren't healthy, the tree is not healthy. If the roots are contaminated, if the roots are dead, the plant will not produce anything. This brings us to a very vital passage of Scripture:

And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time:

The Planted Seed

afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended. Mark 4:16,17

Before you plant your seed, be sure the soil is free of rocks and stones because the soil is symbolic of your heart. If there are rocks and stones in the soil (heart), they will eventually gravitate toward your seed. They will press themselves against it, preventing its roots from developing, and destroying the roots that have already sprouted.

This is why the planting of your seed must not be based on emotionalism. If it is done according to feelings, the first time sickness occurs, persecution comes, or harsh words are spoken against you, your faith will become shaken. This will happen because your seed is rooted in emotion, which is shallow and not strong enough to support your seed.

We have gone through so much in life that we have had to become hardened to survive. So when your seed is sown in emotions, it is sown on stony ground. You must sow your seed in faith! This is the only environment in which it will grow properly.

Remember, without faith, it is impossible to please God. It is your faith in God's Word, concerning your seed, that is going to cause it to grow! Here's an important thought to file away for future reference: "My faith is not feeling."

Don't Disturb That Seed

Absolutely nothing must disturb that seed! In order for a seed to take root, it must not be moved after it is planted. It must not be shaken or disturbed. The

slightest movement will stop its growth!

What you experience in your life should not be the basis by which you plant or dig up your seed. Rather, the planting of your seed must be based upon God's Word. Emotions have a tendency to fluctuate from one extreme to another. If you, therefore, plant your seed contingent upon the way you feel, as soon as certain stress factors are removed and your emotions have settled, then doubt, fear and unbelief will set in and begin to disturb that which you have planted. Your seed must remain undisturbed!

Pressure Breaks the Shell

Yes, you are definitely going to feel the pressure, but you must keep this important fact in mind: Before the roots can sprout, the seed is pressured until the outer shell is broken!

Look at the example of Jesus.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. Isaiah 53:5

Jesus (the Seed), wrapped in flesh, was pressured, persecuted and whipped until His flesh died. His flesh is symbolic of the outer shell of the seed. He came in the shell of human flesh. When His side was pierced, healing virtue spilled forth. When that outer man (outer shell) is broken, then your spirit is renewed.

This is the only way the life that is within the seed can spring forth: the outer shell must be pressured until it is broken—pressured, not moved or dug up!

Consequently, during those times when you begin to feel pressure from the enemy, you should be praising God for the "breaking process" of the outer shell rather than getting fearful and fretful. Be very careful—doubt will dig up your seed!

At this point, your seed should be so important to you that nothing is worth losing out on what God has for you. Right now, if you have already planted a seed, begin to release any unforgiveness or grudges you may be harboring against anyone. If you fail to do this immediately, you will impede the growth process of your seed. Don't allow offenses from others to stop your blessings from coming to pass.

Three Major Devices of the Enemy

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. Mark 4:18,19

I honestly believe it is at this point where most Christians totally lose out on their blessings. Notice that Jesus spoke of three major devices of the enemy (Satan) that will choke the roots of our seed:

1. Cares of this world,
2. Deceitfulness of riches,
3. Lust for other things.

Let me explain this to you in detail. Some of you never give money, time, or service to anyone or anything without first analyzing every facet of that to which you intend to give. Many Christians make

excuses that sound something like this, "If I give \$50.00 to my church, I'll have to live on a tighter budget the rest of the week."

This is a trick of the enemy!

Even a stockbroker is aware that he has to invest a larger amount in order to receive a larger return.

There are still other Christians who say, "If I stay at church past 9:00 p.m., I won't be as sharp on my job the next day", or "If I go and help out at the Saturday women's fellowship breakfast, it will totally ruin my Saturday!"

You can readily see that these people have become totally caught up with the cares of this world, thus completely hindering their walk of faith; when, in fact, everything we do within our Christian walk must be done in faith.

Romans 14:23 tells us, "...whatever is not of faith is sin!" 2 Corinthians 5:7 instructs us, "For we walk by faith, not by sight." Also, let us not forget Hebrews 11:6 which admonishes us, "without faith, it is impossible to please him [God]."

Anything you give to the work of the ministry must be given in faith. You must not become overly concerned about the way the world system operates. You must not become such a scrutinizer that you choke the very roots of the seed which you have planted!

It is God's will that you give because it is in giving that you receive.

Don't Sabotage Your Crop

If the enemy can't stop you from giving, he will turn around and try to make you sabotage that which you have already given.

Read what the apostle, Matthew, has to say about this:

Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, what shall we drink? Or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Matthew 6:30-33

There you have it, straight from the mouth of Jesus! When you follow the principles of giving God's way, it has to come right back to you.

When operating within God's law of reciprocity, it is no longer necessary to seek after deceitful riches such as the lottery, horse racing or other aspects of gambling in order to become successful. Why should you gamble when you have obtained, through God's Word, a sure way to always win?

You don't have to lust for and covet that which belongs to your neighbor. Lust and covetousness are also tricks of the enemy (Satan). The dictionary states that lust is "an overmastering desire". It is not God's will for us to have overmastering, tormenting desires. It is His will, however, that we may be "...perfect and entire, wanting nothing" according to James 1:4.

Release Your Faith

Giving place to any of these temptations will result

in choking the roots of your seed, thereby causing hindered growth.

Get rid of that old way of worldly thinking and begin to walk in Christian maturity. Release your faith and watch God work!

If you have already planted a seed, pause for a moment and think about the kind of seed you have planted and the soil you have planted it in. Begin to pray in the Spirit and clean your soil (your heart).

Make sure there is nothing in that soil—such as jealousy, malice, unforgiveness, envy, strife, discord or lust—which would hinder the growth process of your seed. Make sure there is nothing in that soil which would cause your seed to become malnourished.

Chapter 4

The Harvest of Your Seed

Now that you have cultivated your soil and properly nourished your seed, you are ready to receive what you have planted. This brings us to the third group of people mentioned in Mark 4:20:

And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirty-fold, some sixty, and some an hundred.

These are the people who are experiencing the trauma of waiting. Many of you are saying, "Now that I have done all according to God's Word, where is the promise?"

My brothers and sisters, you are losing faith because you don't see any results. Thus, you conclude, erroneously, that God isn't working on your behalf.

Oh, my friends, take courage right now! Remember, Hebrews 10:35, where the Word admonishes us:

Do not cast away our confidence, for it has great recompense of reward. The Amplified Bible

The Living Bible interpretation says, "Do not let this happy trust in the Lord die away, no matter what happens. Remember your reward!"

For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God,

ye might receive the promise. Hebrews 10:36

God is working for you this very minute! Release yourself into the realm of the spirit and begin to look at this concept with your spiritual eyes, not your natural eyes.

God Is Not Limited

You can only see so far with your natural eyes. However, when you begin to see with your spiritual eyes, there are no limitations. Why? Because you are seeing through the eyes of God, Himself, and God is not limited!

The concept of the seed is much more powerful than you can imagine. The life of a tree is in its roots, and the strength of a tree is determined by the strength of its roots.

Let's look at the palm tree.

Did you know that the palm tree, a symbol of warm weather and the tropics, is able to return to its original state after a terrible storm? Why is this so? It is because of its roots. Regardless of what is happening on top, its roots are firm and full of life!

After the storm has passed and the sun is directly overhead, casting its warm rays, that palm tree remains beautiful because its source of life emanates from its roots.

As believers, our source of life emanates from the Word of God, sown and correctly applied in our lives. No matter what the adversity in our lives may be, understand and know that because our roots are firmly

anchored in Jesus, what He has promised will surely come to pass.

Your job is to keep your heart right so the roots can remain firmly planted. One day, we are going to wake up to the fact that Satan stirs up storms to change our hearts because he cannot stop us. He applies external pressures which are geared at causing us to make a change on the inside of us.

Those who can focus and walk in the spirit will know the blessings of God.

While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. 2 Corinthians 4:18

How can Satan stop something that is eternal if it never begins or ends? He tempts us to abort it in our hearts while it's in transition from Heaven to earth.

God Wants Fruit That Remains

Two weeks had passed since God first spoke to me concerning writing this book. I asked Him when He wanted me to finish the book, but there was no response.

Finally, after three weeks had passed, He spoke to me again. I was lying down, but I was very restless that Sunday night. I tossed and turned so much that I finally got up and went into the kitchen with my Bible. It was 3:00 a.m.

When I opened the Bible and began to read, the Holy Spirit spoke to me and said, "Get your book and write." When I turned to the next blank page to begin

to write, the Holy Spirit spoke so powerfully that at first I couldn't write anything. I just sat in His presence and listened.

There are times when you come into the raw presence of God, and no flesh can move. All you can do is bask in the Spirit.

He said to me, "Juanita, I desire to bless my people, but I also desire to bring forth out of them the kind of fruit that will remain."

Look at Abraham. God promised him a son. The right spiritual seed was planted, and he waited on God. Even when his wife, the closest person to him, laughed in unbelief, Abraham's faith in what God had promised was not shaken! This was the lineage of Isaac, the son of promise.

It is the ordained will of God that His people bring forth both spiritual and natural fruit.

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. John 15:16

When God speaks a word of promise, His method of blessing you cannot be different from the process He has stated in His Word. Because He is the Word, it is impossible for Him to deviate from that which He has spoken. God is immutable!

It is essential that we come into the realization that the moment God speaks the Word, the intangible is brought into existence.

Examine the incident concerning the fig tree in

Mark 11:12-14, 20.

When Jesus spoke to the fig tree, it died then and there. The moment He cursed it, its roots died, but the death of the tree wasn't immediately apparent; that is, it didn't appear, on the surface, to be dead. Yet, underground—outside the range of the natural eye—it was dead.

The twentieth verse tells us that the next day, as they passed by, the disciples saw that the fig tree was dried up from its roots. There's that word again—roots!

Now, reverse that situation. Since God's words have the power to kill a tree so that it dies from the roots, certainly He has the power to speak the Word to a seed that has been planted in faith, and immediately beneath the ground (the unseen), its roots come into existence!

My brothers and sisters, just because you don't see anything on top of the ground, it's no indication that activity is not going on underneath the ground!

In all cases, there must be an hour or time of abandonment between the farmer and his seeds. After a farmer plants his crop, he does not stand over the field night and day, watching it. Why?

1. He is sure of what he has planted.
2. He is certain that he has planted in the correct type of soil.
3. He knows he will reap a harvest because he has planted in the right season!

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall

reap, if we faint not. Galatians 6:9

By all means, this is the right season to plant. You must get your seeds into the ground now!

He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap. Ecclesiastes 11:4

Let us again examine this Scripture in another translation of the Bible:

If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done.
Ecclesiastes 11:4 The Living Bible

Many people are too cautious because they are more in tune with their family, job, or financial and economic seasons than they are with the seasons of God. He will often have us sow during seasons of turmoil in our lives to deliver us from the snare. The perfect condition for the seeds of God to grow in your life is spiritual, not natural.

God Is At Work On Your Case

Stop, right now, and turn this book over. Look at the front cover.

This is what your seed of faith looks like. This is the vision God showed me that morning.

He said, "I am working for My people. They may not see anything visible yet, but the work is already done. The roots are there, and the promise is alive. It is going to come to the surface."

Yes, yes, yes—those things you have been believing God for are already done!

Receive your healing right now, in the Name of

Jesus! I command your spirit to receive spiritual restoration, right now, in the Name of Jesus!

And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts. Malachi 3:11

...your crops will be large, for I will guard them from insects and plagues. Your grapes won't shrivel away before they ripen, says the Lord of hosts. The Living Bible

Isn't that something? Just think about it. Once you have been obedient to the method God has laid out for reaping, He will protect your seed until it comes into full maturity, or better yet, until it is in your hands!

Chapter 5

My Testimony

I can testify personally that ever since the Lord showed me this vision, I have become a recipient of the promises of God. I now know how to get the promise into my hands.

In order to receive that which God has for you, surround yourself with people who believe God even more than you do!

That is why I praise God for my Pastor, Dr. John H. Boyd. Through attending his Faith Clinics and sitting under his teachings, my seed was able to receive the proper nourishment it needed to grow.

The Plunge of Faith

I can remember the times when I was on the shoreline of faith, occasionally testing the waters with my big toe, until the man of God taught me how to take a deep breath, and jump in.

That reality hit me in my spirit like a ton of bricks! I received what the man of God said and took the plunge of faith. I began to give like crazy! I stopped looking at how much money I could afford to give and began to give what the Holy Spirit was telling me to give.

You may ask, "Did it hurt?" Yes, it did!

Pastor Boyd would say things like, "Now it's time to give. When I count to three, jump up and shout, 'Hallelujah!', because God loves a cheerful giver!"

The first few times, my "hallelujahs" were so faint, you would have to climb down my throat to hear them. Many times I went to the offering basket feeling like I had an active ulcer and had just drank an entire bottle of Texas hot sauce!

I literally gave until it hurt, but never begrudgingly. I began to give in the manner in which I wanted to receive.

Becoming Mature In Giving

Yes, obeying the voice of God in giving is a very difficult thing to do at first, but, after a while, you will begin to develop such a love for God that you will say, "Lord, what else can I do to please You?"

You will even start planting seeds for spiritual things!

My faith escalated to the extent that I would say to the Lord, while completing my offering envelope, "Lord, I just want more of You in my life."

I went totally against logic. One Sunday, the enemy showed up to harass me about my ministry budget. However, the Lord spoke to me clearly, saying, "If you give to Me according to your budget, I will be forced, by you, to bless you according to your budget."

Of course, I tore the envelope up and raised my

hand to signal Deacon Brown. I said, rather shakily, "May I have another envelope? I kind of messed up the first one.

Yes, I have lived out the contents of this book. I went through the breaking process of the outer shell. I had to cultivate my soil and keep it clean. I had to keep praising God when I didn't see anything.

Thank God! Because of the vision depicted on the front cover of this book, I knew God was underground working for me!

Blessings Overtook Me

After a short time, the blessings of the Lord overtook me in such a great way, I thought I was getting ready to die, and God just wanted me to enjoy life a little before I left this world!

The reason why I am debt free today is that when I felt that I could not afford to give, I gave—regardless of what circumstances and conditions dictated. I gave my way out of debt and into the promises of God. The blessings are still coming, both spiritually and naturally.

I am often reminded of a line from an old song the late Pastor Luke Austin, Sr. would sing: "You can't beat God giving, no matter how hard you try."

As a single woman, my greatest testimony is that the Lord can truly supply all of your needs and even many of your wants. You do not have to bow to Baal to be blessed!

Remember this true saying of the late Bishop

Remson: "A righteous and a giving man can get anything God's got."

Blessings Are Coming For You

My friend, the promises of God are getting ready to burst forth for you!

Your unsaved loved ones are being rescued out of the clutches of the enemy. The car that you've been waiting for is on its way. And, by the way, you won't have to keep asking, "Where is the house God promised me?"

These things are coming to pass. By the spoken Word of God, the roots are there.

Remember, the roots determine whether a plant (or blessing) is dead or alive. My friend, it's alive! God's Word is keeping it alive. Praise God!

Your finances are beginning to spring forth—thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold. You will lend and not borrow! Don't walk in doubt and fear. Instead, "let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing" (James 1:4).

The seed is planted! The soil is clean! The roots are there and, according to the Word of God, it must bring forth fruit!

People of God, understand that there is absolutely nothing Satan can do to stop your blessing from coming to fruition because it is already so!

Remember:

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down,

My Testimony

and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again. Luke 6:38

A Parting Word

If after reading this book you have not planted a seed in the work of the ministry, I challenge you in your walk of faith to plant that seed NOW!

About the Author

Prophetess Juanita Bynum is the president and founder of Juanita Bynum Ministries in Waycross, Georgia. Her anointed messages of healing and deliverance are demanding a global spotlight that is transcending cultural and denominational boundaries. She flows under a powerful threefold prophetic, evangelistic and psalmist anointing which manifests spiritual breakthrough throughout America and other countries around the world. She has also appeared as a guest speaker on multiple television and radio programs. Prophetess Bynum is the host of the successful annual "Women: Weapons of Power" conference.

Juanita Bynum's
Cassettes, Videos and Books

Cassettes

No More Sheets!
My Inheritance
Don't Get Off the Train
Integrity
Never Mess with a Man Who Came Out of a Cave
A Place Called There
Singles, It's Your Time
Second Decision
I Apologize
Praise & Worship

Videos

The Spirit of Isaac
Loosing the Anointing
No More Sheets!
Morning Glory I & II

Books

The Planted Seed
Don't Get Off the Train
No More Sheets!

OTHER BOOKS FROM *Pneuma Life Publishing*

Don't Get Off the Train

En Route to Your Divine Destiny

by Juanita Bynum

If we are not careful, we can become tragically set off the tracks of the express train leading to our future fulfillment. Have you gotten off the train before arriving at your purpose? This book will guide you to your place of destination from start to finish. It will energize you with an extraordinary ability to persist through life's most difficult journeys. This book will pick you up, put you in high gear, and set your wheels spinning in motion to your ultimate destiny.

No More Sheets!

Wholeness through Holiness

by Juanita Bynum

There has never been a more needed message to reach people who have suffered with their ability to maintain virtuous relationships. Many sincere, well-meaning Christians secretly wrestle with their sexuality and lust. This personal issue has trapped many of us, but God longs to heal what we've been afraid to reveal. Juanita Bynum pulls the covers off this powerful struggle. This message is your breakthrough to wholeness and holiness.

Anointing Fall on Me

Accessing the Power of the Holy Spirit

by T. D. Jakes

This new book clearly depicts and graphically defines how to unlock the pharmaceutical powers of the Holy Spirit to the Church. If you have ever been hurting, needed someone to understand, guide, and direct you, this book will introduce the Holy Spirit to you in a fresh and life-changing way. T. D. Jakes teaches, in great detail, the powerful truths that are given to us who seek a more intimate relationship with Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Why? Because You Are Anointed

by T. D. Jakes

Like the eternal nature of ocean tides, the question, why?, always comes back. There seem to be as many reasons to ask why as there are grains of sand on the beach. And yet, like the tide, God brings the answers and washes our questions away. *Workbook also available.*

The Harvest

by T. D. Jakes

God's heart beats for lost and dying humanity. The Church, however, has a tremendous shortage of sold-out, unselfish Christians committed to the salvation and discipleship of the lost. Allow God to set you ablaze. Seize the opportunity of a lifetime and become an end-time laborer in the Church's finest hour! *Workbook also available.*

Help Me! I've Fallen

by T. D. Jakes

"Help! I've fallen, and I can't get up." This cry, made popular by a familiar television commercial, points out the problem faced by many Christians today. Have you ever stumbled and fallen with no hope of getting up? The cause of the fall is not as important as what we do while we're down. T. D. Jakes explains how—and Whom—to ask for help. In a struggle to regain your balance, this book is going to be your manual to recovery! Don't panic. This is just a test!

The Believer's Topical Bible

by Derwin Stewart

The Believer's Topical Bible covers every aspect of a Christian's relationship with God and man, providing biblical answers and solutions for many challenges. It is a quick, convenient, and thorough reference Bible that has been designed for use in personal devotions and group Bible studies. With over 3,800 verses systematically organized under 240 topics, it is the largest devotional-topical Bible available in the NIV and the King James Version.

Single Life

by Earl D. Johnson

A book that candidly addresses the spiritual and physical dimensions of the single life is finally here. *Single Life* shows the reader how to make their singleness a celebration rather than a burden. This positive approach to singles uses enlightening examples from Apostle Paul, himself a single, to beautifully portray the dynamic aspects of the single life. The book gives fresh insight on practical issues such as coping with sexual desires, loneliness, and preparation for your future mate. Written in a lively style, the author admonishes singles to seek first the kingdom of God and rest assured in God's promise to supply their needs—including a life partner!

Available at your local bookstore

"The Planted Seed" contains remarkable insights about the most valuable gems you possess — your seed. Do you realize the potential impact your seed has to produce extraordinary results in the realm of the spirit and the magnitude of responsibility you have as a sower of your seed?

THE PLANTED SEED

Allow the powerful truth of this book to penetrate deep into your heart to bring you to a higher level of understanding of the unique biblical principle of sowing and reaping.

In this book, you will learn how to:

- Identify and activate the seed of God planted in you
- Protect and go to war for your seed
- Harvest the full yield your seed produces
- Use your seed to destroy the works of the enemy for good



About the Author

Prophetess Juanita Bynum is the president and founder of Juanita Bynum Ministries. Her anointed messages of healing and deliverance are attracting a global spotlight transcending cultural and denominational barriers.



ISBN 1-56229-122-X



9 781562 291228