

# **THE SECRET OF SERVING THE LORD AS A SEED**

**By Titus Chu**

## **MESSAGE ONE: THE SECRET OF BEING A SEED FOR AN EFFECTIVE OPERATION**

If we want to serve the Lord effectively and have a proper operation before Him, there are secrets we must learn. The first, most crucial, and most basic of these secrets is the secret of being a seed. This may seem very simple, and we may think that we know it already. Still, we must ask, what does it really mean to be a seed? If someone considers us to be a coworker, a full-timer, a leader, or an elder, that makes us feel very good. To be a pillar in our locality, or to be an operative blessing to the churches, appears to be quite glorious. In contrast, a seed is not seen or appreciated; there is no glory, and there is no manifestation. Nonetheless, if we desire to serve the Lord effectively, we must be a seed.

As we shall see, there are three basic principles for being a seed. First, a seed is hidden. Second, a seed is full of life. Finally, a seed is ready to grow and bear fruit. If we want to be a seed, we must learn to live according to these three principles.

### **Being Hidden**

Every seed, when it is in the right place, is hidden. This does not mean that it is merely put aside; it means that it is buried and ready to die. If you are a seed in a certain place, then you are buried there. You are prepared to die so that your outward shell can be broken and the life inside of you can come out. This is the first secret which everyone one who desires to serve the Lord must learn.

You must be saturated with this realization. “I am here as a seed. My future is just to die. My fate is just to die. I am to be

hidden, and I am to go through the process of death and burial.” Everything else may be easy, but to be a seed in this way is very difficult for all of us.

Many times we consider that to serve the Lord, we must work in the same way as if we had taken a worldly job or career. Suppose you are a very bright person, you are knowledgeable in a certain field, and you are also a hard worker. When you choose a career, these characteristics will combine to help you succeed. When your person, your knowledge, and your energy work together, you will produce something in your field, and eventually you will become successful in your career.

Unfortunately, many times we bring this same mentality directly into the Lord’s recovery. When a young brother in the recovery desires to serve the Lord, he may declare, “Lord, I’m here! Look at me!” The brother thinks the Lord is so blessed because he loves Him. This brother is bright, charming, and capable, and now he is willing to serve the Lord. Isn’t that a blessing to God? However, this brother is operating according to the principle of the world. With every career, and with every field, your talent, ability, and energy are useful; only when it comes to serving the Lord is the principle of service different. In fact, serving the Lord is totally different from everything else on this earth.

If you desire to serve the Lord, then you must be a seed. If you are ready and willing to serve Him, then the first thing the Lord will say to you is, “Are you really willing to serve Me? Are you prepared? If so, I am digging the hole for you right now, so that I can bury you. You are a good seed, so I’m going to dig very deep. Are you ready? Then jump in! From now on there is no more ‘you.’”

What is this? This is to serve the Lord. If you want to know the secret of how to serve the Lord effectively, then this is the first thing. You must be ready to disappear; you must be ready to die; and you must be ready to be buried.

As a seed, we must be hidden, which means that we must be buried. If we want to serve the Lord effectively, He will tell us, “I was a grain of wheat. I buried Myself and died. Eventually, I bore much fruit. A servant is not greater than his master. Do you want to serve Me? Then the path I took is the path you must

take. The way I followed the Father is the way that you must follow Me.” This is the first secret of serving the Lord with an effective operation.

We must learn to say, “I am a seed. I am hidden. I am ready to be buried underground. No one will see me. No one will even know me. I am just a seed.” This is a secret which we all must learn.

If we serve the Lord as if it were a worldly career, then we won’t allow ourselves to be buried. Instead, there will still be some part of us that we will try to keep alive, because for some reason we just cannot go through this first step.

Again, the first step in serving the Lord effectively is this: “Lord, I am a seed. I want to be hidden. I want to be buried. I want to die.” This is completely different from picking up a career in the world. If someone is serving a worldly institution, then his desire, talent, ability, and energy are all useful. But once a person decides to serve the Lord, he must realize, “My talent needs to die. My ability needs to die. My zealotness needs to die. My energy needs to die. Everything I have, everything I am, everything I can do, it all has to die. I must be a proper seed; I must die, and then I can grow.” This is the first prerequisite for serving the Lord.

### **Being Full of Life**

After we have learned the first principle of being a seed—that of dying and being hidden, even buried—we must go on and learn the next principle, which is that we must be full of life. Any seed which is healthy must be full of life. This is true even when there is no manifestation. On the one hand we have to say, “Lord, I want to die. I want to be hidden. I want to be buried.” On the other hand, we have to say, “Lord, I want to be filled with life.” How will this life come out? How will this life operate and manifest itself? We don’t know. But we do know that each of us must be a person who is filled with life.

When a person first gets saved and begins to love the Lord, he may have no idea what it means to be an apostle, or a prophet, or an evangelist. These things are very distant, and he doesn’t

know how he will eventually be manifested. Nonetheless, every day he enjoys Christ. Every day he has the Lord's presence. Every day he tries to spend time before the Lord. Every day he can say that he has life, and that he even has life abundantly. He doesn't know how life operates. He doesn't know how great or how powerful this life is. He doesn't know how sufficient, rich, and fine this life is. He has no idea how glorious it will be when this life is manifested. Still, he is simply filled with life. Even if we have been following the Lord for a long time, we are in the same process as those who are newly saved. We don't know how life will manifest itself, and we don't know how life will operate. However, we should simply enjoy life and be filled with life. This is the second principle of being a seed.

We cannot lose sight of this principle. To be a seed means that we are full of life. We must be in life. Practically speaking, this means that if we want to be a seed, we must learn how to sing a song to the Lord; we must learn how to call upon His name; we must learn how to touch Him and abide in His presence; we must learn how to stay in the anointing, and let the anointing supply, nourish, encourage, regulate, and strengthen us. If the element of life, our experience of the Lord's life within us, is weak, then nothing works. To serve the Lord effectively we must be a healthy seed that is full of life. Then when the seed is buried life will operate in a greater way, and with a greater capacity.

### **Being Ready to Grow and Bear Fruit**

The third aspect of being a seed is to have a certain kind of readiness. First, the seed should be hidden, which means that it is buried. Second, the seed should be full of life. Finally, as we shall now consider, the seed should be ready to grow and bear fruit. The proper understanding of being a seed is to say, "God has dug a deep hole and buried me. But while I am hidden here, I will enjoy the riches of life, and then I will be ready to grow and bear fruit." The seed is always seeking the opportunity to grow and bear fruit.

When it comes to the matter of being a seed, we are often extreme. Suppose the Lord tells us, “I don’t want you to do anything. I just want you to be buried and die.” We may respond, “That’s fine; if you want me to go and die, I will go and die.” Then we lock ourselves in a room and cry, “Lord, I’m ready to die. I can do nothing but die. I’m hopeless.” However, when the Lord’s speaking comes to us again and the opportunity for growth comes, for some reason we are very numb; we don’t respond.

A seed doesn’t just stay hidden and then feel sorry for itself. A seed always takes the opportunity to grow. We may say that a little plant grows because the good soil and the weather cause it to grow. However, we may also say that the plant is taking the opportunity to respond to its environment. When the environment is right, it will take the opportunity to grow.

It is the same with us. When a person who is serving the Lord grows in a healthy way, on one hand it is the environment that causes him to grow. But on the other hand he grows because he sees the environment and he takes the opportunity.

The problem with us is that either we refuse to be buried or we insist on being buried. Either we think that we are so hopeful and useful, or we say, “I will just be a normal church-going member of the Body, because I’m supposed to be buried.”

To be a seed does not mean that we are passive; rather, we must be those who can respond to the opportunity for growth; we must be willing to invest ourselves into something that may help us to grow. We should not be slow in our responding. We may think, “My time of being buried is not over yet. I’m still in the dying process.” If we have such an attitude, then after the process of dying is over, we will be unable to produce anything.

We must learn, when the sun shines, to take advantage of it; when the good soil is there, take advantage of it. We must practice this for our whole life. Whenever we see the opportunity to learn or gain something, our response should be, “I am ready.”

This is the third aspect of being a seed. When the environment is in season, take advantage of it. Always be ready to grow, and always be ready to bear fruit. This is to serve the Lord as a seed.

If we have the understanding that we must always be ready to bear fruit, then we will realize that even to preach the gospel is different from what we typically think. To preach the gospel is simply to be ready to grow and bear fruit. However, we are either too focused on doing a work, or too focused on being buried. This means that either we kill others, or we kill ourselves. The secret is to be buried, and yet to also be full of life. Then we should have the readiness to grow and bear fruit.

If someone is always ready to bear fruit, they have a certain kind of sensitivity. Wherever they are, they are ready to beget. When they are in a store, or in a restaurant, or on a plane, they are able to sense that a certain person is ready to hear the gospel. Most of the time, however, we don't have this sensitivity. The Lord arranges the environment, but then we complain. When the Lord gives us riches, we become full and don't seek the opportunity to grow. We should be able to say, "Lord, I'm ready to grow, and I'm ready to bear fruit."

When we have the realization that we must always be ready to bear fruit, we will find that the door is open. We meet someone who is in need. We meet someone who is seeking the Lord. We meet someone who is ready to be saved. Actually, this is true all the time, but we don't sense it, because we are too occupied with what needs to be done and are not seeking to grow and beget. This is why, after we are buried and are full of life, we must still look for the opportunities that present themselves for us to grow and bear fruit and be exercised to reap the benefit.

### **A Review of the Three Aspects of Being a Seed**

A proper seed must have these three aspects. First, a seed is hidden. This is the hardest lesson of all for us to learn. We all like to be manifested. We all like to be appreciated. We all like to be somebody. But when the Lord came, He told us, "If you desire to follow Me, you must be as a grain of wheat. You must fall into the ground and die."

We must be a seed. We must be hidden. Then while we are hidden, day in and day out, we should learn to enjoy the

Lord's presence. And while we are enjoying the Lord's presence and are full of life, we should also say, "Lord, I'm ready to grow and to bear fruit." Every opportunity that comes, we take it. This is to be a seed.