



Planting & Harvesting

So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building. -1 Corinthians 3:7-9

Retired Naval officer and maritime professor, Robert Ballard, was quoted, “Great is the person who plants a tree knowing he will never sit under it.” That is so true. Unless you’re Jack, from Jack and the Beanstalk, no tree grows into one overnight. You plant either a seed or seedling, spend years watering and nurturing preparing it to grow into a mighty tree. But the truth is that your time under the tree will be minimal or non-existent. You grow trees for those who come after you.

Let’s change the word “tree” to the “Church”. There are many similarities between what we should do for a tree and a church. We should always be planting seeds of faith and salvation that bring people to Jesus. We should water and nurture our brothers and sisters that we all continue to grow (mature) in our relationship with our Savior. We must always be preparing this steeple-home to always be a shade of grace for years, decades and even centuries to come.

As you study church history, you will see that there was a bigger focus in our distant past to help the church continue beyond you. The greatest pride was watching your children and grandchildren continue in their faith with Jesus through the church. Yet as I look around, the struggle for our children, young and older, to remain in church is more difficult. I’m not throwing shame on anyone as I am in the same boat. But look into your own family. Look to your children and grandchildren. Are they continuing in their faith and church? If not, have you ever asked, “Why?”

Please don’t stop reading. I am not placing blame. Our children, especially our grown children, must make their own decisions. But I do believe some of it falls on us because we didn’t plant “trees”. Most Christian churches I’ve been to in the Oklahoma City area look and act just like they did 20-30 years ago. Worse yet, they are fighting to remain in those days by criticizing and undermining ways seeds are being planted for meeting needs of young people and families. Don’t get me wrong, you love these people. But it is a problem we must face if we are to be obedient to Jesus and the Great Commission.

Are you planting seeds for future saints?

From My Heart,

Billy