

2 Corinthians 9:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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;)

Analysis

Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food (ὁ δὲ ἐπιχορηγῶν σπόρον τῷ σπεύροντι καὶ ἄρτον εἰς βρῶσιν χορηγήσει)—The verb *epichorēgeō* (ἐπιχορηγέω, "supply, provide abundantly") appears twice in different forms. God supplies both **seed** (*sporos*, σπόρος) for planting and **bread** (*artos*, ἄρτος) for eating. The distinction is crucial: God doesn't give only for consumption but also for reproduction. Some provision is meant to be planted, not hoarded.

And multiply your seed sown (καὶ πληθυνεῖ τὸν σπόρον ὑμῶν)—*plēthynō* (πληθύνω, "increase, multiply") echoes God's creation blessing (Gen 1:28) and covenant promise to Abraham (Gen 17:2). God supernaturally increases seed committed to Him. This isn't mere arithmetic but miraculous multiplication (like the feeding of 5,000).

And increase the fruits of your righteousness (καὶ αὐξήσει τὰ γενήματα τῆς δικαιοσύνης ὑμῶν)—*auxanō* (αὐξάνω, "cause to grow, increase") promises both quantitative growth (more fruit) and qualitative growth (greater righteousness). The **fruits of righteousness** include both the tangible results of generosity (people helped, kingdom advanced) and the spiritual fruit in the giver (Christlikeness, faith, joy). God grows both.

Historical Context

This verse alludes to Isaiah 55:10—God's word accomplishing His purpose like rain making earth fruitful. Ancient farmers understood the principle: keep all seed and you'll eventually starve (having nothing to plant); sow seed and you'll harvest abundance. Paul applies this agricultural wisdom spiritually: give generously and God multiplies both your resources and your righteousness. The early church's dramatic generosity (Acts 4:34, "neither was there any among them that lacked") demonstrated this principle's supernatural reality.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do you distinguish between resources God gives for consumption versus resources He provides as 'seed' for sowing into His kingdom?
2. What evidence of God multiplying 'seed sown' and increasing 'fruits of righteousness' have you witnessed in your life or others'?
3. How does trust in God as the One who 'supplies seed' affect your willingness to give sacrificially?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	δὲ	ἐπιχορηγῶν	σπέρμα	τῷ	σπεύροντι	καὶ	ἄρτον
G3588	Now	he that ministereth	seed	G3588	to the sower	and	bread
G1161		G2023	G4690		G4687	G2532	G740
εἰς	βρῶσιν	χορηγήσαι	καὶ	πληθυναῖ	τὸν	σπόρον	ὑμῶν·
for	your food	minister	and	multiply	G3588	seed sown	of your
G1519	G1035	G5524	G2532	G4129		G4703	G5216
καὶ	αὐξήσαι	τὰ	γεννήματα	τῆς	δικαιοσύνης	ὑμῶν·	
and	increase	G3588	the fruits	G3588	righteousness	of your	
G2532	G837		G1081		G1343	G5216	

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 55:10 (Parallel theme): For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

2 Corinthians 9:6 (Parallel theme): But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

Hosea 10:12 (Righteousness): Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.

Ecclesiastes 11:6 (Parallel theme): In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both shall be alike good.

1 Thessalonians 3:12 (Parallel theme): And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you:

Proverbs 11:18 (Righteousness): The wicked worketh a deceitful work: but to him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward.

Matthew 6:1 (Parallel theme): Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.

Philippians 4:17 (Parallel theme): Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.

Philippians 1:11 (Righteousness): Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

Genesis 47:19 (Parallel theme): Wherefore shall we die before thine eyes, both we and our land? buy us and our land for bread, and we and our land will be servants unto Pharaoh: and give us seed, that we may live, and not die, that the land be not desolate.

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