

“Calling All Angels”
2 Corinthians 9:6-15

This most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more than extravagant with you. He gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God.

I’ve decided today to put our book “We Make the Road by Walking” aside and focus on All Saints Day. This is the day we remember the people who have touched us and helped shape who we are as faithful people who love one another and love God. However, this week’s chapter is excellent and is about the 10 commandments, so I do recommend you take some time to read and reflect.

The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, but the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. What have you been sowing these days? What seeds have you planted? What will you reap tomorrow, or what might your sons and daughters reap from the seeds that you have scattered?

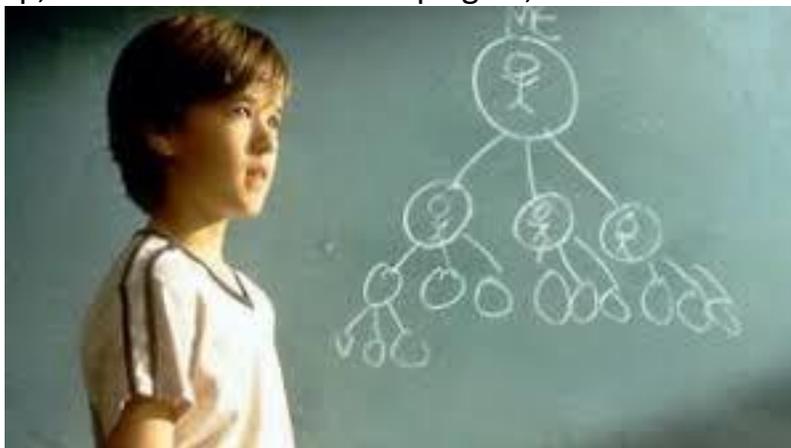
Paul is a master of analogies, and the metaphor of a farmer sowing and reaping, teaches his listeners about how we might live our lives. It all begins with the unending grace that God has given you and me. Those before us and those yet to come. This is an indescribable gift, these seeds, meant to be planted, this grace meant to be sown. So, what are these seeds? What is this grace?

Grace is a quality of utter compassion. It is a divine gift that transforms relationships. Relationships between people and the relationship we have with God. To live a life filled with grace is to live with compassion, forgiveness and love. Amazing grace is amazing because it cannot come from humans, it must come from God. And God is amazing.

One of my favorite movies is *Pay It Forward*. This is a movie about a seventh grader's ingenious plan to make a difference in the world. On the first day of school, Trevor McKinney and his classmates are challenged by their social studies teacher, the challenge reads: "Think of an idea to change our world—and put it into action."

The first thing Trevor does as a response to this assignment is that he invites a homeless man to come and sleep in his garage. Trevor's mother is unaware of this

arrangement until she awakens one evening to find the man working on her broken-down pickup. Holding the man at gunpoint, she asks him to explain himself. He starts the truck to show her that he has successfully repaired it and tells her about Trevor's kindness. He says, "Somebody comes along like your son and gives me a leg up, I'll take it. I can't mess up again, or I'll be dead. I'm just



paying it forward."

The next day Trevor explains to his class his amazing plan of paying it forward. To explain his plan, he draws a circle and explains, "That's me." Underneath it, he draws three other circles, saying, "That's three other people. I'm going to help them, but it has to be something really big—something they can't do for themselves. So, I do it for them, and they do it for three people. That's nine people." And 9 lives turn into 27. As the movie proceeds, "paying it forward" changes the lives of the rich, the poor, the homeless, and even a prisoner.

This movie is one of my favorite movies of all time. Trevor, this young boy, planted three seeds of grace. He didn't realize that these seeds would sprout, in fact there were times when he thought he failed, but he sowed the seed of grace and it took hold like a virus. Amazing Grace changed lives, one person at a time, and Trevor changed the world with the gift of grace.

Trevor sowed seeds that he did not get to see flourish because he was killed. Many times, I think we aren't aware of the difference we make in peoples' lives; either negative or positive.

Today we celebrate All Saints' Day. This is a day where we give thanks to all those individuals who have accepted the gift of grace and did something with it. This is a day where we lift up the people from our past, who have planted in us the gift of grace and have enabled us to pass it on to others. These people are what we now refer to as saints.

Simeon, a theologian born out of the early church wrote “The saints in each generation are joined to those who have gone before, and filled like them with light to become a golden chain in which each saint is a separate link, united to the next by faith, works and love. So, in the one God they form a single chain which cannot quickly be broken.”

Imagine yourself, linked to the one before you, by a golden light. One who has come before you who planted a seed of grace somewhere, somehow in this world. Think of a saint in your past, dancing in heaven, and think of what they sowed in you. What do you enjoy because of them? What quality or lesson will you pass on because of your loved one? How are you able to sow for another this gift of grace?

We are linked to those from the past and we are linked to those in the future. It is our responsibility to be grateful to those who have come before us and respectful to those who come after us.

Here’s the closing clip from the movie “Paying it Forward.” This is the result of sowing grace during your lifetime.

VIDEO..... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZOZ-I5blCnA>