

We have miracles all around us—and many people are unaware. Every springtime the farmers in our area plant little dried seeds into the ground. And throughout the spring and summer months these seeds germinate, sprout, grow, and come September acres of corn and soy beans are ready for harvesting—and feed only God knows how many people.

People who have studied agriculture may be able to explain the chemical reactions that are involved in the germination and growth process, but we can still be amazed at the number of variables that consistently must occur in order for the seed to sprout and grow. And, think of one ear of corn. How many more ears of corn are contained in one kernel of corn? Only God knows.

A seed contains a force, which is difficult to label or describe. But when that force is released, when the seed is planted, that force accomplishes its purpose, the seed becomes a plant, and the plant bears fruit.

Jesus said “*the kingdom of God is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land.*” The seed of God’s Kingdom will germinate, sprout, and grow—and finally yield a harvest pleasing to the Lord—if the proper conditions are present.

Plants do not just grow by themselves. They need the soil to give nutrients and to grow in, the rain to water, the sun to ripen and the night to rest in. The farmer has no power over when it grows. Whether he is awake or asleep it continues to grow.

Jesus is telling us that there is a seed within us which was planted there by God. Unlike the seed sown by the farmer which, when it has fully grown, provides food for the body, this seed, when fully grown, provides food for the soul, and for the growth of others. As the sheaves of corn declare the food there for the taking, so we show the love of God that is there for the taking.

There is an extreme caution: while the farmer cannot make the plant grow, he can stop it from growing by not caring for it. The good farmer would do all he can to protect his harvest and help it grow. But if the farmer does not protect his young plants from what could destroy them there will be no rich harvest.

There are many different *poisons* that could be used to kill the plants. Some can be seen easily. Some kill quickly. Others cannot be seen, and take a long time to effect or stop the plant from reaching its full potential.

You and I have the seeds of God’s Kingdom planted in us. These seeds can grow if we protect and nurture them, but there are many *poisons* in our culture trying to kill or pervert our growth. Just like the farmer, we must protect the seeds of God’s Kingdom that are within us from the *poisons* of our culture.

The miracles of God’s Kingdom are all around us—though many people are unaware. Wherever people are working for peace and justice, truth and compassion, forgiveness and reconciliation, God’s Kingdom is sprouting and growing.

How many riches of God’s Kingdom are contained in one Christian? Only God knows.