



VOUS CREW

Planted Potential

Pastor Rich Wilkerson Jr.

Sunday, November 17, 2024

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 9:35-37

And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. 36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; 38 therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Additional Scripture References: Matthew 17:20; Jeremiah 17:8; Psalm 1:3; Psalm 92:12-14; Ephesians 3:14-21

MAIN IDEA

God is the ultimate Gardener, and our lives are His seeds, planted with purpose to grow and bear fruit for His glory. However, growth requires being rooted and committed, not just moving from place to place. Just as a gardener plants, waters, prunes, and tends to ensure a plant thrives, God does the same with us, cultivating us through seasons of joy and challenge. True flourishing happens when we stay planted—in His Word, His Church, and His purpose—because healthy growth is a process, not a quick fix.

We don't serve the God of seconds but of seasons.

1. Small Seed, Big Potential

Even the smallest seed holds incredible potential when placed in God's hands. In Matthew 17:20, Jesus compared faith to a mustard seed, emphasizing that even the tiniest amount of genuine faith can move mountains. Like seeds, our faith, dreams, or efforts may seem small and insignificant, but God specializes in taking what's small and multiplying it beyond what we can imagine.

Think of an oak tree. It starts as a tiny acorn but grows into a massive and strong tree over time. In the same way, God can take the little things, “the mustard seeds” in your life, and turn them into something exceedingly and abundantly more than you could ever imagine.

- Small steps of faith and obedience can multiply the fruit in you.

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- Growth is not just about getting bigger, growth is about getting better.
- Seeds don't grow overnight, faith involves trusting God through the dirt.

Growth happens over time, not overnight.

Q1: What "small seed" has God planted in your life that requires faith to trust Him with the growth?

Alternative Questions:

- *How can you intentionally nurture your "seed" (life, goals, or relationships) during seasons where visible progress is minimal?*
- *How have you seen God multiply small acts of faith in your life or the lives of others?*
- *How can we encourage others to remain faithful when the growth process feels slow or unseen?*
- *What's a small beginning that turned into a big blessing?*
- *What does growth look like in the Kingdom of God, how does it vary from the standard of the world?*
- *What "small seed" have you seen God grow in your life already and how can you nurture it to bear fruit?*
- *How can our crews help each other cultivate the "seeds" God has planted in our lives?*
- *Who in your life needs encouragement to trust God with their small seed?*

2. Planted not Potted

A potted tree can be moved around, uprooted, and limited, unable to grow to its full potential. It may look alive for a while but it lacks the stability to thrive long-term. On the other hand, a planted tree has roots that spread wide but also dig deep. As it draws nourishment from the dirt, it grows to bear fruit over time. God desires for us to be planted in His word, His purpose, and community through His Church. This means staying committed, even when it's uncomfortable or when growth feels slow. Uprooting ourselves whether through chasing new dreams, relationships, or places can stunt the growth God is trying to cultivate in us.

- Growth happens in community, within the context of consistent kingdom relationships.
- Uprooting too early compromises our potential and doesn't allow us to bear fruit.
- A planted tree grows deep roots and flourishes.

Every tree that bears fruit goes through a bare season.

Q2: How has being in a crew helped you apply the principles of remaining planted?



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Alternative Questions:

- *Are there areas in your life where you feel more “potted” than “planted”? What’s holding you back from being rooted?*
- *How can you embrace being planted to experience the growth God has in store for you?*
- *How can you remain “planted” in your current community, even when discomfort or fear tempts you to leave?*
- *Why do you think God values depth and rootedness over temporary comfort or mobility?*
- *How can you embrace the messiness of being planted in a community while maintaining a spirit of grace and humility?*
- *What does it mean to be truly planted in His house?*
- *Is your life marked by fruit, or marked by a trail of pots?*
- *Are you tempted to “move pots” when faced with discomfort or difficulty in your relationships or church community? Why?*
- *What habits or practices can help you stay rooted during “bare seasons” when it feels easier to give up?*
- *How committed are you to His bride, or are you easily discouraged by past hurts in the church?*
- *What do you do when you go through a dry or challenging season? Do you have a tendency to uproot and transplant?*

SUMMARY

When we root ourselves in God’s Word and His Church, our lives become seeds that can bear real fruit for His glory. From the Garden of Eden to the Garden of Gethsemane, God reminds us that growth takes time—it happens over time, not overnight. Jesus, the true and better Adam, overcame temptation in a garden, breaking the curse of sin and giving us the promise of eternal life. Just like seeds, our faith, dreams, and lives often start small, but when we plant them in God’s soil, they can grow into something greater than we ever imagined. Stay planted—not potted—and trust God to water, prune, and grow you in every season.

CALL TO ACTION

Take a moment to evaluate where you’re planted. Are you rooted in God’s Word and His Church or are you moving from place to place, looking for the next best thing? As we end the year, and start planning for 2025, decide to stay planted. Commit to nurturing the seeds God has placed in your life, whether



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through serving at church, leading a crew, or stepping out in faith. Trust the process, even if growth feels slow. Remember when you stay planted, you bear fruit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Crew Leader Application

Do you have a crew leader or someone in your crew that is interested in leading a crew? Have them fill out this [Crew Leader Application](#) so they can be a part of a Crew Leader Interest meeting and learn more about how to become a crew leader

Crew Update Form (Crew Leaders Only)

As this SZN is coming to an end, our team is actively preparing for a great SZN 1 in 2025! If you have any changes or not, please fill out your [Crew Update Form](#) by Monday, December 2nd so we can best prepare for SZN 1 2025!

New VOUS Text Platform

All of you that are already in our database will receive a text this upcoming Thursday from our new text platform. It isn't spam, it's really us! This will become a primary way for us to resource, equip, and update you. We encourage you to save this number and opt in for more updates.

VOUS Junior High | Sunday Services

VOUS High is youth community of VOUS and we are creating a space for middle schoolers to gather for service every Sunday.

Students will start with worship in the main auditorium and then be dismissed to their junior high space. This will be a moment to connect with other students, hear a message, and then discuss in small groups.

For more information and to RSVP your student, click [here](#)

VOUS Thanksgiving Bash and VOUS Bowl 2024

Join us at the annual ILMC Thanksgiving Bash to distribute meal kits and turkeys. Also, bring a chair and cheer on your favorite team at our annual VOUS Bowl.

To serve, click [here](#)

Date: Saturday, November 23rd
Time: 9:00AM - 12:30PM



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Location: Charles Hadley Park
1350 NW 50th St
Miami, FL 33142

VOUS Turkey Trot

Ready to kick off Thanksgiving with a burst of energy and community? Join us bright and early at Peacock Park for the VOUS 10K Turkey Trot! Whether you're a runner, a walker, or somewhere in between, this is a chance to start your day with some fresh air, great friends, and all-around fun! See you at the starting line!

To sign up for the Turkey Trot, click [here](#)

Date: Thursday, November 28th
Time: 6:00AM
Location: Peacock Park
2820 McFarlane Rd.
Miami, FL 33133

VOUS Tree Lighting

On Sunday, December 1st we're bringing our annual Tree Lighting tradition to both our SoMi and Miami Gardens Locations! Sign up to serve and join us for a night of fun! Invite your friends and let's welcome the Christmas season together!

Please note: There will not be a 6PM service at VOUS City. Instead, join us at VOUS Miami Gardens for the 6PM service, followed by the tree lighting celebration.

Date: December 1st
Time: 7:30PM
Location:

VOUS Miami Gardens
17801 NW 2nd Ave
Miami, FL 33169

VOUS SoMi



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6767 Sunset Dr
South Miami, FL 33143

To serve, click [here](#)

Sundays at VOUS

VOUS SoMi

8:45AM / 10:30AM / 12:30PM / 6PM

VOUS City

10:30AM / 12:30PM / 6PM

VOUS Miami Gardens

10:30AM / 12:30PM


VOUS DD

10:30AM / 12:30PM

Church Online

10AM / 5PM Español

Growth Track



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After every service or join online at vouschurch.com/growthtrack