

# CHRISTIAN MONEY \$ENSE

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## We Have Pumpkins!

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My wife and I purchased a home last April. My daughters were especially excited because it had a larger yard to play in than our last home and it had "climbing trees." One of our new neighbors enjoys gardening and gave my oldest daughter Rebecca some pumpkin seeds. She instructed Rebecca that if she would plant the seeds and makes sure they receive adequate sun and water, she would have pumpkins this fall.

Good news - we have pumpkins! We had planted the pumpkins in the backyard so we could watch them grow from our kitchen window. For the longest time nothing happened. After many months a few sprouts formed but they were small and green. Just recently, after I had given up hope, the pumpkins got bigger and turned orange. My daughters are thrilled.

This is a good lesson in patience, but it is also a good lesson in harvesting. We only planted a few pumpkin seeds, so we only got a few pumpkins. That concept is true in many areas of life including finances. "He who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully. Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor 9:6-7, NASB).

God promises to bless giving. He gives to us so that we can give to others and give praise God. When we give a little, God receives a little praise. When we give abundantly, people see that we believe in a big God, and He receives a lot of praise.

Each pumpkin seed we planted produced more than one pumpkin. In gardening, the name of the game is multiplication, not addition. God uses that same principle in terms of our giving. We may think that God will add blessing to us when we give. In fact, He has promised to multiply our blessings. "Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food, will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness" (2 Cor 9:10, NASB).

Have you ever planted a garden? Have you noticed the multiplication principle? Think about your giving to ministry. Have you noticed God's multiplication principle there too? Many would testify that you can't out give God. I'm experiencing that principle this year with my pumpkins and my giving.

Whoever thought that pumpkins could teach us so much? I have a feeling we will be planting many more pumpkin seeds next spring because we want to have lots of pumpkins next fall. What about your giving? If you are experiencing slim blessings, you may not be planting enough giving seeds. Why not make a special gift this Christmas to a ministry that is important to you? You will receive more than you give. Remember, God promises to bless giving.

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BBC Foundation has been ministering to churches and individuals regarding biblical stewardship since 1992. Send your questions on finances and stewardship to: BBC Foundation, 538 Venard Rd., Clarks Summit, PA 18411. Phone: (800) 451-8668, website: [bbcfoundation.org](http://bbcfoundation.org); e-mail: [info@bbcfoundation.org](mailto:info@bbcfoundation.org)