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How's Your Planting Going?

I am sure you are wondering what has happened to Dave. He's talking about planting at a time when we are looking forward to the Harvest Moon, baskets full of apples, and very soon Thanksgiving. Well, nothing is wrong with me. I haven't forgotten the time of year at all. In fact, we are getting into one of my favorite times of the year, those weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas. But I am still going to ask, how is your planting going? You see, we are planting seeds all the time. The question we need to continually ask ourselves is what kind of seeds are we planting?

I am sure you have heard it said more than once, "Whatever a man sows, that's what he reaps." All of us want to reap a bountiful harvest in our life. We all want to enjoy the "fruits of our labors," but if we sow bad seeds, we will reap bad results. Before we can talk about seeds, we need to ask ourselves what kind of fruit do we want to see growing in our lives? Once we have chosen the fruit, we can select the best seeds. Here are a few areas that we can focus on:

- **Personal & Professional Growth** – Are there changes you would like to make in your life to help you grow personally and professionally? I would hope that all of us would answer with a resounding YES to that question. Not one of us will be ready for tomorrow without planning to grow today. Change is inevitable, but growth is optional. Unless we are growing daily we are falling behind and eventually we will be obsolete. Take some time to think about your personal and professional life. What areas can you focus on for growth? It's actually quite simple. Pick an area of growth and start planting seeds. Do some research into that area and look for books, podcasts, or mentors that you can invest time in. I know you may think that you don't have time, but as Colonel Potter on MASH

would say HORSE HOCKEY! You do have time; you're just wasting it on others things. According to Global Web Index, the average time spent on social media has increased from 1.5 hours per day in 2012 to over 2 hours per day in 2016. Now I'm not saying that it is all bad. It depends on what you are looking at. How much television are you watching? In reality we do have time, we just need to reallocate some hours. How much time do you spend in the car? Why not listen to growth related podcasts or audio books as you drive?

- **Personal Relationship Growth** – How much time do you spend with loved ones. We all want great relationships, but we spend so little time planting the seeds that will grow into beautiful long-lasting relationships. It's like the man whose wife wanted him to say "I love you" more. His reply was "I told you I loved you when we got married, if that changes, I'll let you know." I can't imagine what fruits he is going to get from those seeds. Take some time and schedule quality time with those you want to build relationships with. When you are together, work to create experiences and memories. These will be the seeds that will bring wonderful fruit in the years to come.
- **Professional Relationship Growth** – How much time are you spending building relationships in your professional life? Are you intentional about asking great questions of those who are ahead of you in your professional development? Are you intentional in seeking mentoring opportunities where you can add value to others?
- **Community Relationship Growth** – So many people focus on their own personal success. What about the success of others? Are you taking the time to add value back into your community? I am sure that all of us wish our communities would improve. We all wish our schools would get better, but what are we doing to help them get better?

So, let me ask the question again, how is your planting going? If you plant well, your harvest will be plentiful.