

PATCHOGUE CHURCH OF CHRIST

4th Annual Ladies' Day

(Virtual Event)

August 15, 2020

10:00 a.m. - 12 Noon

PROGRAM

Speaker:

Sister Felicia Florence

Central Church of Christ

Rochester, NY



Theme:

**Growing In The Lord In
Turbulent Times:**

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Matthew 13:3-9

For questions contact:

Paulette Watson

785-375-6905 (Cell)

Or pauletwat@hotmail.com

www.patchoguechurchofchrist.org

295 Sunrise SVC Rd. N,
Patchogue, NY 11772
631-475-6558



Patchogue Church of Christ, Patchogue NY

Fourth Annual Ladies Day 2020 (Virtual)

Growing In The Lord In Turbulent Times: How Does Your Garden Grow?

Matthew 13:3-9

Program

Introductory Music & Pictures

Song *Marvelous Things*

Welcome *Paulette Watson*

Opening Prayer *Jackie Dowdy*

Scripture Reading *Jayda Colson*
Savannah Bullinger

Song *Seek Ye First*

Reading: Sowing & Reaping *Madelyne Jackson*

Song *Faithful Love*

Scripture *Marissa DeJesus* *Matthew 13:3-9*

Introduction of Speaker *Sara Ann Higdon*

Keynote Speaker *Felicia Florence*

Stretching - Recorded Video (Introduced by Adrienne Peterson)

Song *What a Fellowship*

Speaker

Felicia Florence

Song

Ready

Positive Affirmations Activity

Paulette Watson

Song

What a Fellowship

Acknowledgements

Adrienne Peterson

Acknowledgement of Singers

Valerie Steadman

Closing Prayer

Catherine Bullinger

Closing song

Marvelous Things



Grow Step by Step

Felicia J. Florence

Read By Sara Ann Higdon, a member of the North Greece Road Church of Christ.



Felicia Florence is a native of New Bern, North Carolina where she was introduced to Jesus Christ at an early age by her grandmother and great-grandmother. Felicia has been a member of the Church of Christ for 43 years, serving those years as a faithful member of the body, at the Central Church of Christ in Rochester, NY. Service in the Lord's vineyard has been experienced through participation on various committees and ministries. To date, she has served as a teacher in Christian Education, served people in need through the People's Pantry, one of the church's three meal programs, sang in the church choral group and served as an usher.

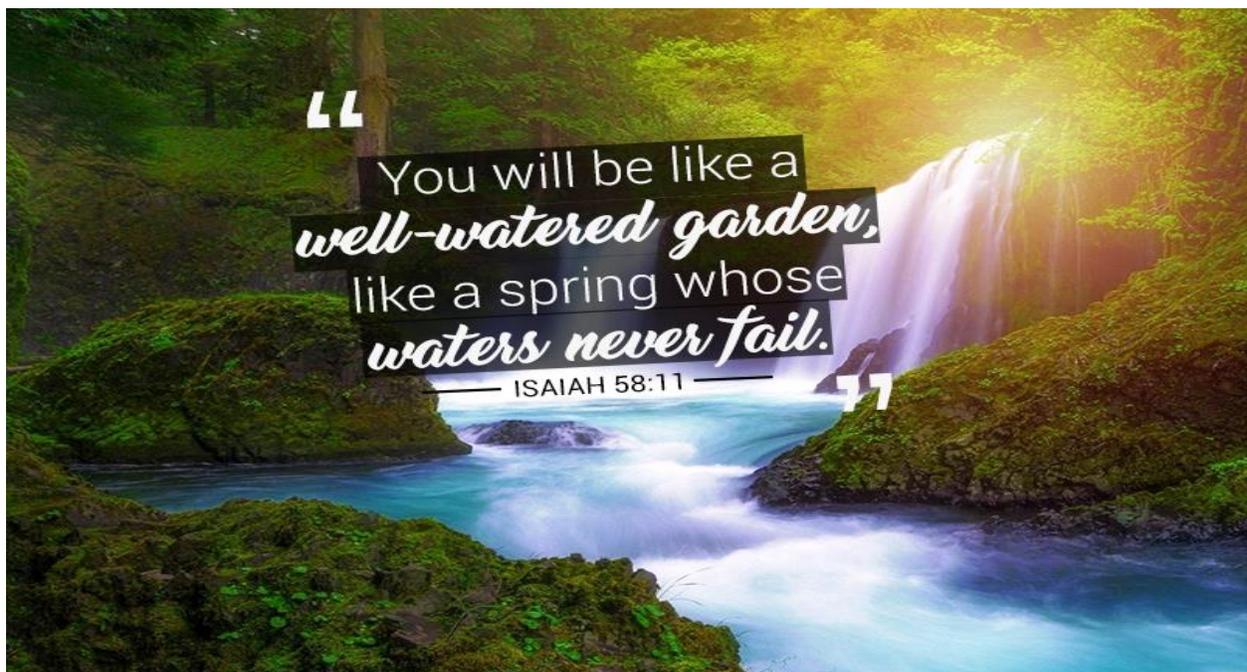
Felicia has been married to Minister Clifford Florence for 40 years. They have four children: Clianda, Francesca, Clifford, Jr. and Frederick. They also have four grandchildren: Brianda, Ian, Malachi and Melanie.

Felicia is a graduate of Nazareth College of Rochester, NY where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and a Masters of Education, with Dual Certification in General Education and Special Education. Presently, she serves as a Special Education Teacher, for the Rochester City School District, teaching young people in the P-Tech Program at Edison Career and Technology High School. Felicia also served as a Teacher Coordinator of Special Education, administering over teachers and service providers for children receiving special education services and 504 Plans. She was also afforded opportunities to train teachers within the City School District and teachers among area churches of Christ in Rochester, NY.

Felicia has learned to trust God through a number of trials in her life, the most recent being three battles with cancer. Those diagnoses occurred in

May 2009, breast cancer, October 2012, ovarian cancer and October 2015, triple negative breast cancer. Remembering how Christ trusted Abba Father as He prepared for His most difficult challenge and the victory that was His because of His love of God, she has persevered. Recalling, by the help of the Holy Spirit, that the LORD had provided all that she needed for the healing and nourishing of her body she embraced a holistic lifestyle that was integrated with traditional medical treatments and, by God's grace, now witness of His precious promises. Her continual mantra is to be a blessing to others, as the Father has blessed her.

Felicia has a deep love for sharing the gospel with people in every situation that God permits her to witness for Him. Her compassion for others is constantly manifested in service to people, especially those who are confronted with situations that seem unsurmountable. Philippians 4:13, her "power" verse, keeps her mindful of always living introspectively, to repent when sin is present in her life, ensuring that all she does is within the will of God. Like the cracked clay pots sometimes found in her gardens, Felicia is always mindful of how Christ is still working on her.



Sowing and Reaping

Read by Madelyne Jackson



Sowing and reaping are two necessary parts of the gardening process. Sowing and reaping are also one of the simplest, yet most ignored concepts of life. Anything we put our time, energy, money, or focus on is an act of sowing. Reaping is the result of what we've sown. The expectation of our reaping depends on the amount of effort and time we put into the sowing. The Bible gives very clear teaching on this reality that can influence our eternal rewards. Let's take a look at 7 Bible verses about sowing and reaping and what they teach us:

Sow in Tears...Reap in Joy (Psalm 126:5)

"Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy"

Many times we experience grief on this earth whether due to tragedies, disappointments, or sickness. Yet for those who put their trust in the Lord, there can still be peace and joy in the midst of it—not because we don't hurt, but

because God is with us. He becomes our refuge and hope to get through the difficult days.

Sow Righteousness...Reap Reward (*Proverbs 11:18*)

"A wicked person earns deceptive wages, but the one who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward".

Doing the right thing doesn't always make us look good or feel appreciated. Sometimes doing the righteous thing will make other people hate us. Our choice is about God—His glory and honor is evident in our right decisions. There's reward in this lifetime and the next when we press ourselves to sow righteousness.

Sow Injustice...Reap Calamity (*Proverbs 22:8*)

"Whoever sows injustice reaps calamity, and the rod they wield in fury will be broken".

Nothing we do is hidden from the Lord. When we choose to act in an unjust manner towards others, we will reap calamity or pain from it eventually. Many of us don't recognize that sometimes we are suffering indirectly for things we've done wrong. The Lord is patient and wants each of His children to grow to the place of dealing with injustice in our hearts before putting it into action.

Sow to the Flesh/Spirit... Reap Destruction/Eternal Life (*Galatians 6:7-8*)

"Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life."

We can deceive ourselves into believing that we won't pay the price for sowing to please our flesh. However, God knows and He will render due justice to each person on the earth. Destruction and eternal life are complete opposites—if we want eternal life and we need to take the correct actions of making the investment into spiritual decisions and disciplines.

Sow Sparingly... Reap Sparingly/Sow Generously... Reap Generously (2 Corinthians 9:6)

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously"

Stinginess and hoarding should never be a part of a Christian's walk. We are called to hold lightly to material things for essential life necessities. However many of us are guilty for sowing our money sparingly towards God's work, but generously towards our needs and/or wants. God pours out blessings on the faithful generous believers that are far more expansive than just money. He blesses with His presence filled with joy and peace in incredible generosity.

Sow Nothing...Reap Nothing (Luke 19:20-21)

"Then another servant came and said, 'Sir, here is your mina; I have kept it laid away in a piece of cloth. I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow'"

At the judgment seat of Christ, there will be tears of regret for many believers. They will make it into heaven because of their faith in Jesus, yet they will suffer loss because they

sowed nothing with what God gave them. We are saved by Christ to do good works for the kingdom. Believers must use their gifts given to them from God to affect change in their families and communities.

Sow in good soil...Reap a Crop (Matthew 13:24)

"Jesus told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field.'"

The man sowing is Jesus and the good seed are those who belong to the kingdom of God. The Lord has planted His people specifically where He can use their lives for God's glory. We are meant to shine out of the worldly darkness with the light of Jesus Christ. Our words, actions, and attitudes reflect the beautiful transformation of knowing God and being known by Him.

What are you sowing today?

It's not a matter if you think you are sowing or not. Step out of the deception and recognize that your life is one big field waiting for the right seeds to be planted. It's best to take out a little time to do an inventory of your life. You can start with a small seed of determination to make a change and one day reap a huge dividend of eternal reward from God.

Written by Crystal McDowell

<https://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/top-7-bible-verses-about-sowing-and-reaping/>

POSITIVE BIBLICAL AFFIRMATIONS ACTIVITY

Positive Biblical Affirmations are positive statements from the Bible that help us to challenge and overcome negative thoughts.

EXAMPLES OF POSITIVE BIBLICAL AFFIRMATIONS

1. **I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.** Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)
2. **I will praise You because I have been remarkably and wonderfully made.** Psalm 139:14 (HCSB)
3. **[I will] not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, [I will] present [my] requests to God.** Philippians 4:6 (NIV)
4. **The joy of the LORD is [my] strength.** Nehemiah 8:10 (NIV)
5. ***If God is for [me], who can be against [me]?*** Romans 8:31(NIV)
6. **And my God will supply all [my] needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.** Philippians 4:19 (HCSB)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Make a copy of the chart below – by hand or print it if convenient.
2. Select a Biblical affirmation from the list below or choose one of your own that you think will help you change a negative thought you have sometimes.
3. Say the affirmation out loud.
4. Write it down in the middle column – under “Positive Biblical Affirmation.”
5. In the column on the left, write 1 or 2 negative feelings or thoughts that you may have had in the past relevant to the affirmation.
6. In the column on the right, write 1 or more positive feelings or thoughts or behaviors that will replace the negative in column 1.
7. Return to Column 1 and draw a line through the negative feelings or thoughts and then recite the positive affirmation twice.
8. Promise yourself to be able to say this verse by heart by a specific date and write this down..
9. Promise yourself to say this affirmation at least 3 times daily and whenever you have these negative thoughts.
10. Repeat the process for each affirmation.

POSITIVE BIBLICAL AFFIRMATIONS CHART

Negative Thoughts & Feelings	Positive Biblical Affirmation	Positive Thoughts, Feelings & Actions

