



DON'T DISREGARD THE SEED

Establishing Personal and Communal
Resilience Before the Harvest

Insights from John Davis Perry, II

THE ILLUSION

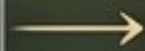
Life throws us into unexpected demand, and we assume we will simply manufacture the capacity to rise to the occasion in that exact moment.

THE REALITY

The moment of demand does not create capacity. It reveals the capacity we have already developed.

THE LAW OF RESILIENCE

Financial Pressure



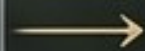
Reveals established discipline.

Emotional Pressure



Reveals established maturity.

Spiritual Adversity



Reveals established depth.

Resilience requires us to become response-able—capable of supplying an appropriate response because we managed the prior season effectively.

How Resilience is Quietly Lost

The 4 stages of disregarding the present season (Proverbs 20:4)

Step 1: Responsibility Avoided

"The sluggard will not plow"

Action is postponed. Irresponsibility is often not destructive action, but simply failing to do what the season requires (James 4:17).

Step 2: Faulty Reasoning

"By reason of the cold"

Conditions overrule responsibility. Present discomfort is granted authority over future necessity.

Step 3: Deceptive Delay

"Therefore..."

Consequences do not arrive immediately. The absence of immediate collapse creates the illusion that the pattern is sustainable. Delay does not erase reality.

Step 4: Diminished Response

"Shall he beg in harvest"

Demand arrives. The required capacity was never developed. The individual becomes dependent on others because they lost response ability.

The Deception of the Present

Why we prioritize the feeling of now over the necessity of later.

	The Seed (Planting Season)	The Harvest (Demand Season)
Appearance	Small & Insignificant	Visible & Abundant
Nature	Pure Potential (Requires John 12:24 surrender)	Complete Realization
Requirement	Patience & Uncomfortable Labor	Reward & Provision
Proximity	Consequence is Distant	Consequence is Immediate

Teaching Principle: Wisdom recognizes future value before future value becomes visible.

Solitude: Protecting Devotion from Demand

The Tension

Constant availability is often confused with faithfulness. When demands rise, we risk remaining attentive to everyone while becoming inattentive to God (Luke 5:15-16).

The Practice

Spiritual Solitude is the intentional withdrawal from ordinary demands to give undivided attention to God.

The Function of Withdrawal

1. Examine

Reveals if our identity has become overly dependent on "being needed."

2. Realign

Places our responsibility firmly back under the authority of God.

3. Cultivate

This is the quiet soil where spiritual capacity is built before the harvest requires it.

The Architecture of Biblical Stewardship

Integrating action and withdrawal to forge lasting resilience.

1

Steward the Season

Recognize what today requires. You cannot develop tomorrow's capacity while continually neglecting today's responsibility.

2

Endure the Cold

Do not allow present discomfort to override future necessity. True resilience requires the maturity to embrace necessary discipline.

3

Defend the Silence

Do not let the urgency of others outrank your obedience to God.

Withdraw intentionally to commune, examine motives, and recalibrate.

The Governing Question

Tomorrow's demand may require capacity that can only be developed today.

“What are you doing today with what may be necessary for tomorrow?”

Don't disregard the seed. Cultivate the capacity. Endure the season.