

# BAMBOO: SOWING AND GROWING

## Botany Lesson 1.1

### INTELLIGENT DESIGN

“If you were a farmer and you planted corn or beans, you would see tiny sprouts popping through the dirt in a very short time. When we see the result of our hard work it makes us feel accomplished doesn't it? When we see that our work has given us rewards we seem to work harder, and appreciate the work when we see what our labor has done for us. But what would happen if we worked very hard and we didn't see any plants peeking above the soil until 2 to 4 years later? I wonder if we would keep looking after even a month.

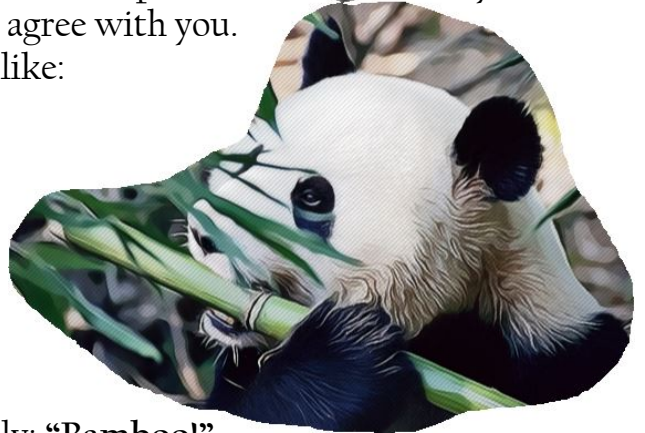
But what plant takes so very long to show any signs of sprouting?

Secretly under the soil is a hard working plant called the bamboo plant. For 2-4 years it looks like nothing is happening at all! Just a mound of empty dirt. To look at it from above the ground, you would think: “Wow nothing is going on with this plant. I have wasted my time planting this thing!” and most people would probably agree with you.

But there are a few people who ask you questions like:

- Did you water it?
- Were the seeds any good?
- Did you plant it deep enough?
- Did you plant it too deep?

But one person might ask you: “What did you plant?”



## THE BAMBOO PLANT

Takes 5 years to mature,  
and show very little  
"above ground" activity  
during the first 2-4 years.

You reply: “Bamboo!”

Then the surprise comes when the Botanist replies: “If you planted Bamboo it takes up to 5 years to see any results!”

Wow! Why does it take so long?

It seems that before that nothing was happening at all but if you could travel under the soil you would see that bamboo roots grow very deep into the soil before shooting up out of the ground! It was growing the entire time but you would never know it!

The bamboo is the **fastest** growing plant on earth because it is nourished by years of activity that we cannot see!

By year 5, the bamboo plant shoots stalks rocketing toward the sky at a shocking rate of 3 feet per day!



Some species can grow as tall as 98 feet, as thick as 10 to 12 inches



Bamboo is hollow on the inside:



# What we learn from the bamboo plant:

## QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF:

- Have you ever been kind to someone and they are not kind in return?
- Have you ever given something to be generous, and it seems no one gives to you?
- Does it seem that you work hard to be good and no one notices?

## SUMMARY:

Sometimes when we are serving the Lord we don't really see the impact on others, or the good that we do as result, and that can cause us to want to stop being good or serving God because we think it is not doing any visible good.

The reason we don't always see what God does with our good deeds, is because then we would always be good and serve God for the wrong reasons. God wants us to love others and love Him and when we serve and plant seeds of kindness, we should do it not to see results but rather because we love.



Galatians 6 says whatever we sow we will reap if we don't faint, and then it says that we should not grow weary in doing good things because in the right season, we will reap if we don't faint. This word faint makes us think about growing impatient and giving up. And we should not give up being good and serving God because we don't think we are getting anything back.

If we always received recognition, praise, a slap on the back or reward for being good and doing what we are supposed to, then we would serve out of pride, and wanting something in return. This would mean that we would no longer serve God by faith. And we would forget who we are serving and focus more on what we would get out of it.

Sadly a lot of Christians serve God with the mentality that they will get something, and the Bible does tell us to lay up treasures in Heaven, and that we will get rewards, and we do see good out of what we do for others. However, the point of the lesson is that so many times we don't really see the good of our actions come back to us as fast as what we would hope so we must be patient and serve God out of humble willing hearts of love.

**"Be not deceived God is not mocked, whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap."**

**Galatians 6:7**

## Applicable scriptures to look up and read:

- Galatians 6:7 We will reap what we sow
- Matthew 6:1 God will not reward us if we are doing things just to get noticed
- Matthew 5:16 God wants our good works to cause others to glorify God.
- Galatians 6:9 We will reap good things if we work and we do not faint and get impatient.
- When we give God gives back to us.
- Luke 6:38 When we give God gives us a promise he will give back.
- 2 Corinthians 9:6 What we sow and how much tells us how much we will receive back.
- Matthew 6:20-21 Where your treasure is there your heart is