

## No. 12      **Keep Sowing to the Spirit (Symposium)** —“Do Not Let Your Hand Rest” (Local elder)

### *Note to speaker:*

This is the third talk of a three-part symposium. Emphasize that the preaching work must take priority in our lives. This talk includes interviews

### **‘SOW YOUR SEED FROM MORNING UNTIL EVENING’ (3 min.)**

Our ministry is urgent because lives are involved

We show faith in Jehovah by using every opportunity to sow Kingdom seed **[Read Ecclesiastes 11:6]**

If a garden is to produce well, more is required than a random scattering of seeds (*w93 3/1 22-23*)

Likewise, the more thoroughly we proclaim the Kingdom, the more people we can help

The results are in Jehovah’s hands, but we will reap more disciples if we ‘do not let our hands rest’

Many have adjusted their circumstances in order to increase their share in the ministry

### **THE APOSTLE PAUL DID NOT LET HIS HAND REST (8 min.)**

Paul spread the Bible’s message wherever he could find people **[Read Acts 17:17]**

Likewise, we endeavor to reach people wherever they can be found

We witness publicly, from house to house, informally, and by telephone and letter

Paul adjusted his schedule so that his ministry met the needs of the people in the community

We make efforts to reach people at their homes at times when we are most likely to find them

When he was under house arrest, Paul preached to all his visitors (*Ac 28:23, 30, 31*)

If our mobility is limited, we can still give priority to the preaching work (*w07 1/15 32*)

Paul gave a witness “every day”

We will have a productive ministry and abundant joy if we maintain a regular schedule of preaching

Paul discerned the circumstances and background of those to whom he preached (*1Co 9:19-23*)

Although a farmer may plant the same type of seed in different fields, he may need to vary the methods he uses to prepare the soil (*bt 98 ¶15*)

We need to consider the backgrounds of those to whom we preach and then adjust the way we present the Kingdom message accordingly

Doing so will help us to reach the hearts of our listeners (*w05 12/1 29-30 ¶12-14*)

Paul was willing to sacrifice everything, including his life, to fulfill his ministry **[Read Acts 20:24]**

He refused to let any circumstance prevent him from completing his assignment; he relied on holy spirit for strength and courage

Likewise today, Christians endure a variety of negative circumstances, but they still loyally accomplish their ministry

In whatever circumstances we find ourselves, we display steadfastness

Like Paul, we are determined “to bear thorough witness to the good news”

### **INTERVIEWS (6 min.)**

[Interview several publishers, including a single person and a married couple, who have expanded their ministry. Ask them to relate the challenges they have overcome and the blessings they have experienced. Invite them to share positive field ministry experiences briefly]

### **KEEP SOWING WITH A VIEW TO THE SPIRIT (2 min.)**

Sowing with a view to the spirit requires much effort but brings fine results

Spending time in personal and family study will strengthen us and deepen our spirituality

Learning and applying Bible principles will help us to live according to Jehovah’s high standards

Keeping the Kingdom-preaching and disciple-making work foremost will save lives

**Review question: How can we sow with a view to the spirit?**

**Answer: Galatians 6:8; we can sow with a view to the spirit by (1) developing good study habits; (2) using Bible principles to guide our lives; and (3) giving the preaching work priority, not letting our hands rest**

(Speaker does not need to read or comment on every cited text)