

## 08/05/10 - The Ability to Produce

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For several years when Joe was in grade school, his Dad was either unemployed or "under-employed," which made for financially difficult times. One summer, several families from church invited them to pick their fill of produce from their large gardens. Joe didn't have much, but at least they had green beans, pickles, and tomatoes!

Producing a crop like that on their own was impossible. Their subdivision's clay barely yielded grass! Besides, they didn't know much about gardening. Every part of that harvest was a gift.

That's not to say it didn't require effort from us. We worked as a family picking, snapping, and cleaning beans; peeling tomatoes; making pickles; and putting up extra produce for the future. A lot of work; still, it was a gift.

In much the same way, God gives us the ability to produce wealth. Everything I have is a gift from God! Therefore, I choose to live in such a way as to acknowledge His gift and act responsibly with what I have been given.