



God's Laws of Sowing and Reaping

God instituted a variety of laws that govern and control the universe. When we live in harmony with these laws, we live in blessing and freedom. But if we disbelieve or disobey these laws, we suffer frustration and failure.

Sowing and Reaping (11Corinthians 9:6-7)

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

Paul draws a direct tie between sowing and reaping, between the act and the result. In those agricultural days, the same farmer both planted and harvested his crop. He could see an explicit link between his efforts and rewards. Jesus and Paul both try to lead us from the physical laws to the spiritual principles involved.

Let us review some of these principles that govern the laws of sowing and reaping as they relate to the believer's walk with God:

You do not have to understand the law in order to benefit from it.

What you sow determines what you reap. If we sow kindness, mercy, love, and forgiveness, then we shall reap in like manner. And character wise – if we sow to the desires of the flesh, we shall reap the problems associated with those desires.

Sowing is an act of faith. Sowing represents taking a risk. What we give away is gone, released from our hands and from our control. It is the practical side of faith, where we believe it can do more good beyond our control than within our grasp. It is trusting God with the process, the progress, and the results.

You reap more than you sow. One seed of corn, for example, produces one stalk with several ears and hundreds of kernels. Any farmer knows the harvest is much greater than the amount of seed used. And even in the most severe drought, they know they will at least get their seed back. So why then do we think we are better off with our seed than with God's abundant harvest? Surely God knows how to give the best increase!

You reap in a later season than you sow The seeds of giving we sow may not produce an immediate harvest. They may even take months or years to produce fruit – but it will produce eventually. And that fruit will be worth the wait!

What you don't sow, you won't reap. Many people have never gotten in on the blessings and benefits of this law of sowing and reaping because they have never initiated the process by their giving. Always keep in mind that we can ask, and we can sow, but God will give the kind of increase and harvest that He sees is best for us. The issue is one of faith, not of obligation.

We, God's people, have been given the keys to God's miracle of sowing and reaping. We must start

the process. We must plant the seed. By faith and sacrifice, we must exhibit our confidence in God and His Word. We must give so we can receive, so we can give again. And as God multiplies our every gift, every need will be met. God's provisions will be in circulation, and God's work will go forth as never before.

The giving process can truly become a joy to our hearts when we settle the money issue with God, both the amount and the method.

Supplies and Sharing (11 Corinthians 9:8-11)

“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: ‘He has scattered abroad His gifts to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.’ Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”

God does not give us a good harvest (or riches) to simply splurge on ourselves. He does give to take care of our living expenses – “having all that you need” (verse 8), but He also has a higher purpose in mind – “you will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion.” Since God has put His money into our pockets, He depends upon us to write His checks.

God intends for us to use what measure of wealth we have (whether little or much) to help supply the needs of those around us. Whatever the amount of our income, it was never intended for totally private consumption. That is where the rich fool farmer went wrong. God gave him an abundant harvest, including a dramatic increase in his store of seed. Instead of recognizing the increased seed and the need to bless others with it, he decided he would hoard the harvest and use it all for his own pleasures. That night he died unexpectedly, and heard God say, “Thou fool, now whose shall all these things be?”

In every harvest there is an additional supply of seed, and the greater the harvest, the more the seed. We dare not let the seed stop with us, or to confiscate the seed to use as our harvest, for God intends for us to be “generous on every occasion.” Whenever we receive a harvest, whether it is a regular paycheck or an unexpected and extra amount, we must immediately set aside the seed, and look for ways and places to sow it. Only then can we regularly incorporate the principles of stewardship.

Praising and Praying (11 Corinthians 9:12-15)

“This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!”

Any good that is done for others is never wasted, whether they appreciate it or not. It produces a harvest of righteousness within those who gave it, and helps develop their character traits into true Christlikeness.

The ones who receive the most returned whatever ministry they could to their benefactors. They both prayed for them and gave them their heartfelt affection. The blessings of God are reciprocal – no one is to give all the time, and no one is to receive all the time. God intended that we each one have a way whereby we can bless others, whether it be by our giving or our praying, or something else.

It is important to put into practice these laws of Sowing and Reaping, being assured of God giving the increase.