

**Kingdom Truths:** *Biblical truths that powerfully and consistently apply to our lives.*

### **Sowing and Reaping – Planting and Harvesting** – Galatians 6:7-10

**1. Law of Sowing and Reaping** - *Don't be fooled into believing that your actions are without consequence, God is not ridiculed or derided. Whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. v.7*

- In these Galatians verses - Two areas of potential 'sowing' → 'flesh' and 'Spirit'
  1. If we sow to the 'Flesh' → then the result is 'corruption' – *If you sow for our own lower nature our harvest will be the decay and death of our own nature. - JPP*
  2. If we sow to the 'Spirit' → then the result is 'eternal life' – *But if you sow for the Spirit you will reap the harvest of everlasting life by the Spirit. – JPP*
- Contrast between the 'works of the flesh' – (Gal 5:19-21) and the 'Fruit of the Spirit' (Gal. 5:22-23)
- Added encouragement in v.9 - *And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. ~ Galatians 6:9*

### **2. Principles and Applications**

- **You always reap what you sow.** It is true in gardening... it is true in life. We will harvest what we plant.
  1. *My experience shows that those who plant trouble & cultivate evil will harvest the same. ~ Job 4:8*
  2. *Sow righteousness for yourselves, reap the fruit of unfailing love ~ Hosea 10:12*
- **All sowing is human activity, with natural & spiritual ramifications** -Priorities, actions, attitudes, words
  1. The 'Golden Rule' is an example: *Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets. ~ Matthew 7:12*
  2. Applicable in all life relationships: What you 'plant,' you will 'harvest.'
    - In marriage: Kindness, respect, honor, patience...
    - In other relationships: Honesty, integrity, compassion, kindness...
    - In judgments and attitudes: *For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. ~ Matthew 7:2*
    - In giving: *He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. ~ 2Corinthians 9:6-7*
- **You reap in multiples of what you sow.**
  1. As in the natural... also in other things: *But other seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ~ Matthew 13:8*
  2. Remember this: *Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ~ 2Corinthians 9:6*
- **You always reap in a different season than when you sow.**
  1. The cycles of life can make the seasons difficult to see.
    - The tendency can be to quit when you don't see immediate results... the principles of God's Word must be lived out and applied consistently in faith.
    - *And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. ~ Galatians 6:9*
    - Some crops sprout up fast, some very slow.
- **You can only change what you are reaping by changing what you are sowing.**
  1. Sow the seed for the crop you want to reap.
  2. What do you want to reap in your marriage and family relationships, business dealings...?
  3. In areas where change is necessary, begin to sow to the Spirit instead of the flesh... *and of the Spirit you will reap everlasting life.*

Galatians 5:19-23 - Description of living for the flesh... and living our lives God's way... Flesh/Spirit

*It is obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the time: repetitive, loveless, cheap sex; a stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage; frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness; trinket gods; magic-show religion; paranoid loneliness; cutthroat competition; all-consuming-yet-never-satisfied wants; a brutal temper; an impotence to love or be loved; divided homes and divided lives; small-minded and lopsided pursuits; the vicious habit of depersonalizing everyone into a rival; uncontrolled and uncontrollable addictions; ugly parodies of community. I could go on.*

*This isn't the first time I have warned you, you know. If you use your freedom this way, you will not inherit God's kingdom.*

*But what happens when we live God's way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely. Legalism is helpless in bringing this about; it only gets in the way.*

Galatians 5:19-23 The Message: Eugene Peterson