

Sowing and Reaping Principles

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I. Introductory Remarks.

The focus of this lesson will be on the law of sowing and reaping in relationship to our walk with the Lord. I believe it is having an understanding and walking in the law of sowing and reaping that enables us to fulfill all that God has called us to do in faith, purpose and character.

2 Corinthians 9:6-11 *But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully...⁸And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, have an abundance for every good work.⁹As it is written: "He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness remains forever."¹⁰Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness,¹¹while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.*

- Sowing and Reaping **applies** to every area of our lives.

The above scripture says that God wants to multiply the fruits of our righteousness being enriched in everything. As Christians, we often limit the principle of sowing and reaping to that of giving and evangelism. This principle in all actuality applies to every area of our lives. There are many areas in our walk with God in which He desires for us to produce fruit.

Our ability to understand this principle and apply it to our lives helps to determine how successful and fruitful we will be in Christian calling.

II. Three Major Areas Affected by Sowing and Reaping.

The purpose of this lesson is to simply introduce you to these three major areas and then focus on the principles of the law of sowing and reaping as it affects all of these areas. These areas consist of our faith, character and spiritual work and ministry. These are the major areas we must sow seed into to grow and mature.

1. Our **Faith** and **Trust** in God.

Luke 17:5-6 *And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." So the Lord said, "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be*

pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

If we are to grow in our faith and trust in God, we must learn to plant the seeds of faith. In order to have faith for answered prayer, provision, protection, health, endurance and other areas that are covered in our salvation, we must sow seeds of faith in these areas.

2. Our Growth and **Transformation** in the Lord.

2 Corinthians 3:18 *But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

Our goal as Christians is to be transformed into the likeness of Christ. This doesn't happen by osmosis. We must sow seeds of growth and change if we are to be transformed into His image.

Proverbs 11:18 *The wicked man does deceptive work, but to him who sows righteousness will be a sure reward.*

Galatians 6:8 *For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.*

3. Spiritual **Work** and **Evangelism**.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 *But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully... and God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, have an abundance for every good work.*

Psalms 126:6 *He who continually goes forth weeping, Bearing seed for sowing, Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.*

A part of our calling as Christians is to be ambassadors of the kingdom, going forth spreading the seeds of the gospel so that the kingdom will grow. God also has a spiritual work and calling for each of us to be involved in. Unless we begin sowing seeds into these areas, we will miss out on the wonderful purpose God has for each of us.

III. Principles of Sowing and Reaping.

As stated earlier, these are principles that will apply to each of these areas I just mentioned. In the lessons to follow I will cover each of these areas in more

detail and show you how the law of sowing and reaping applies to each area. In this lesson I want to lay the foundation of these principles so that we can refer back to them as we go on.

1. Sowing and Reaping is a **Spiritual Process** in which **Spiritual Guidelines Must be Followed.**

What we have to realize is that when we were born into the kingdom of God, we came under a new set of governing rules for our lives. In the world, we were governed by the natural and beggarly elements of the world. Now we are being governed by God's laws, which are much different. What may have worked for us in the world will no longer work for us in the kingdom.

- **The Law of Sowing and Reaping must be **dedicated** to God's Purpose.**

Sowing and reaping in the kingdom is different than in the world. God's sovereignty now applies where it didn't before. Sowing and reaping must be done in relationship to God and His purpose or it comes to nothing. It is simply just noise.

Isaiah 17:10-12 *Because you have forgotten the God of your salvation, and have not been mindful of the Rock of your stronghold, therefore you will plant pleasant plants and set out foreign seedlings;¹⁰ in the day you will make your plant to grow, and in the morning you will make your seed to flourish; but the harvest will be a heap of ruins in the day of grief and desperate sorrow.*
¹¹*Woe to the multitude of many people who make a noise like the roar of the seas, and to the rushing of nations that make a rushing like the rushing of mighty waters!*

The law of sowing and reaping is much more than spiritual hype, metaphysics or mental gymnastics. The law of sowing and reaping must be dedicated to God's purpose. As it says, "*in the morning you will make your seed to flourish; but the harvest will be a heap of ruins*". Sowing much does not necessarily guarantee spiritual gain unless it is sown in accordance with God's purpose.

2. The Seed that is Sown Must Experience **Death.**

The most vivid example we have of this principle is the example Jesus gave us of His own life. He was the divine seed of God that was planted into humanity so that humanity could be redeemed and brought into the glorious kingdom as children of God. He said the seed had to die in order to produce and multiply a harvest.

John 12:23-24 *But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. ²⁴"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.*

Haggai 1:6-9 *"You have sown much, and bring in little; you eat, but do not have enough; you drink, but you are not filled with drink; you clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; and he who earns wages, earns wages to put into a bag with holes." ⁷Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Consider your ways! ⁸"Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified," says the LORD. ⁹"You looked for much, but indeed it came to little; and when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why?" says the LORD of hosts. "Because of My house that is in ruins, while every one of you runs to his own house.*

- **Sowing for selfish gain is a fruitless effort.**

What we have to understand is this – Sowing for selfish gain is a fruitless effort. It produces nothing in our lives for the kingdom and only makes us more miserable than we were before. The seed must die.

John 12:25 *"He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.*

Examples: In giving there must be a sacrifice. When there is no sacrifice there is no death to the seed. You want your seed to multiply, give out of poverty rather than abundance. In faith and trust and when you are hurting, give of yourself to someone else. Our true character is formed in those times when we experience hurt, disappointment etc.

3. We Must Be Willing to Sow in all Seasons.

Ecclesiastes 11:4-6 *He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap. ⁵As you do not know what is the way of the wind, or how the bones grow in the womb of her who is with child, so you do not know the works of God who makes all things. ⁶In the morning sow your seed, and in the evening do not withhold your hand; for you do not know which will prosper, either this or that, or whether both alike will be good.*

There are some seasons in our lives when we do not feel like sowing the seed that brings forth growth and maturity, but it is in these seasons when it is needed the most. If we are focused on the conditions around us we will not sow. Our sense of focus must change. eg. in above areas.

4. Realize God's **Sovereignty** in the Sowing and Reaping Process.

2 Corinthians 9:10 *Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness.*

1 Corinthians 3:5-8 *Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? ⁶I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. ⁷So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. ⁸Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.*

Don't be surprised when God sends someone to water the seed you are trying to grow. Maybe you have just planted some new seed for growth in a particular area. Don't be surprised if God sends someone to water it. If the seed is being planted in conjunction with the purpose of God, expect these things to happen. This is what causes it to grow.

5. We Must Sow **Bountifully** to Prosper and Do Well.

Proverbs 11:25 *The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself.*

2 Corinthians 9:6 *But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.*

6. Sow With **Purpose**.

Hosea 8:7 *"They sow the wind, and reap the whirlwind. The stalk has no bud; it shall never produce meal. If it should produce, aliens would swallow it up.*

The reason some of our lives are so messed up is that we have sown with no purpose in mind. Let us be strategic as we sow seeds of faith in all the areas of our lives in the same way that a farmer sows seeds in a field and how he must work the field after the seeds are sown. He must water, weed and fertilize if he is to reap.

IV. Concluding Remarks.

Here are some questions you should ask yourself:

- "Do you want your faith to grow in the areas God has given to you in salvation? Then begin to sow the seeds of faith in these areas.
- Do you want to grow in personal holiness and character being transformed into the image of Christ? Then begin to sow seeds in the areas God desires to change in your life?
- Do you want to grow in your personal calling and spiritual work? Then begin to sow seeds in these areas. If you do you will reap if you faint not.

Galatians 6:9 *And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall [reap] if we do not lose heart.*

Journal Notes

- 1. What was the primary truth you received from this lesson?**
- 2. How will this truth be applied to your life?**
- 3. Which area in your life needs the most sowing and reaping? Why?**
- 3. What is the death God wants you to experience in that area?**

Journal Notes