

The 7 Laws of the Harvest: Part One – We Can Only Reap What is Sown

Galatians 6:1 through Galatians 6:10 (NKJV)

¹Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who *are* spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. ²Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. ³For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. ⁵For each one shall bear his own load.

⁶Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.

⁷Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. ⁸For 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. ⁹And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. ¹⁰Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

The laws of the harvest are important because they reveal truth about how God made the world to work. If the Bible is our basic instruction before leaving earth, then we need to know what it says about every area of life.

If God set up a system for the kingdom we need to know how it works.

To sow means to take an object that has potential and deposit it in an environment where it can be catalyzed or stimulated to unleash the potential.

The first law is: We can only reap what is sown.

Literally everything we have ever received or reaped has been sown by someone, sometime, somewhere, somehow. This law is both positive and negative. What we reap was planted either naturally or purposely, either by God or by man, and for either positive or for negative results.

There are three primary sources of sowing that we need to understand: Our God, others, and ourselves. We will examine these three sources, give some action steps, and conclude for the day.

Our God

Acts 17:24 through Acts 17:28 (NKJV)

²⁴God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. ²⁵Nor is He worshiped with men's hands,

as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.

²⁶And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, ²⁷so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; ²⁸for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'

Matthew 5:45 (NKJV)

⁴⁵that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.

We all reap God's common grace. Because we are alive, we reap the blessings of God that are given to every man. According to Paul God gives us: life, breath, all things, an earth to dwell on, pre-appointed times, boundaries for our dwellings, movement, mental faculties to have our being, and his attributes.

So God has sown into our lives the environments where we live. God has sown into our lives the families and communities we were born into. God has sown our country of origin and our race. God has sown our physical capabilities. God has sown our mental and emotional awareness.

These are givens for every person on the face of the earth. They are not all identical, but they are givens. Each one of these seeds sown in our lives has a certain amount of potential to help us reap a harvest. If we take the fruit that sprouts up from these attributes and deliberately sow them again, we can reap a greater harvest.

Depending on where we are, at any given point of time, these given attributes of God can be used to take advantage of another gift from God which is opportunity. You see there may be a man born with the mental capabilities of a genius somewhere in this world who may never be discovered because he doesn't have the opportunity.

Somewhere in this world there is a woman who blessed with so much natural ability that she could be the fastest woman in the world. But in her remote village, there may be no way for her to be found and represent her country in the Olympics.

Some of us here today may have had great talents or abilities in particular areas but were not able to reap the benefits due to our lack of opportunity. So it is important that we know what God has given us and that we know what opportunities there are for us.

Others

John 4:35 through John 4:38 (NKJV)

³⁵Do you not say, 'There are still four months and *then* comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! ³⁶And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. ³⁷For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors."

In times past before all of our machinery and mechanized farming, it took a lot of people to farm the land. Picture in your mind a field that is ready to be sown. It has been cleared, the ground is broken up, and nice neat rows are ready to receive their seeds.

It doesn't take a lot of people to sow the land. A few folks with bags of seeds could walk each row and sow them easily. But when harvest time comes and the field is full of crops, it takes a many people to collect the harvest before it rots. So in many cases one would sow, but more would reap.

Jesus says the reapers reap what they have not labored to sow or cultivate. They enter into the labors of others. We are no different. Each of us has people in our lives that have sown into us positively and negatively. Because of our relationships to these people, we reap whatever they have sown. Here are some examples:

Adam and Eve: we are still reaping the effects of their fall from grace. They have sown sin and we are all born in sin because of them. We have to work to survive because of their sin. Women have pain in childbirth because of their sin.

Our Parents: some of us have parents who have sown opportunities into our lives. They may have sown benefits such as a good name in the community or a stable household. They may have also sown bad habits or instability. They could have sown bad money habits also.

Our neighbors: if they do well and take care of their property, our property values go up. If they allow houses to become run down they drive our property values down. The company they keep could affect our neighborhoods for either good or bad.

Banks and businesses: if banks are doing well and lending fairly, we can all benefit from new development in our communities. If businesses are thriving and offering good products and services we can all reap the benefits of their efforts.

Our Leaders: community or city leaders have done great things like bring electricity to our homes, provide for schools to educate our children, bring businesses to our area, and create laws to protect us. We reap those benefits. But they also bring corruption from time to time. They can drive away businesses and opportunities. Or they steer the community away from Godly values and cause a decline in morals for our city.

These are just some examples. The bottom line is we need to recognize who is pouring into us, how they are pouring into us, and if what they have to offer is good or bad. This is especially true when it comes to finances.

Ourselves

Ephesians 5:15 through Ephesians 5:17 (NKJV)

¹⁵See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, ¹⁶redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

¹⁷Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord *is*.

God has given us seed and he has given us the ability to acquire seed. What have we sown with it? When it was planting time did we sow that we might reap? Sometimes the ground is hard and we have to dig deeper but the payoff is worth it.

We made choices that got us to this place in life. We need to look carefully at every decision because they have consequences.

Whatever you sow you will reap. We are the sum total of decisions or choices we have made in our lives. That is a harsh reality to face but we are where we are in large part because of the twists and turns we have made for ourselves in life.