

The 7 Laws of the Harvest: Part Two – We Reap the Same in Kind as We Sow

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.

Foundation for this law:

This law is absolute.

Genesis 1:11 through Genesis 1:12 (NKJV)

¹¹Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb *that* yields seed, *and* the fruit tree *that* yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed *is* in itself, on the earth"; and it was so. ¹²And the earth brought forth grass, the herb *that* yields seed according to its kind, and the tree *that* yields fruit, whose seed *is* in itself according to its kind. And God saw that *it was* good.

God set up a system where everything reproduces after its kind. It doesn't really matter how hard we try, we can never plant apple seeds and get collard greens. We can't sow hatred and reap love. Sin will never cause us to reap righteousness.

We can't sow distrust in our relationships and reap intimacy. We can't sow greed and reap stewardship.

Remember our scripture today says ...

Galatians 6:8 (NKJV)

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.

Because of this principle, we must be careful about what we sow. Last week we learned that we can only reap what has been sown. This week, we need to understand how having control of what is sown can help us.

Garden Vision Example:

Close your eyes. Now imagine yourself in a t-shirt and overalls standing in an open field. You have on a hat to shade you from the sun. You have gardening tools sitting nearby. Close your hands. You are holding two large baskets in each hand. The field has beautiful, fertile soil that is capable of unlocking the potential of any seed we plant. The basket in your left hand is full of seeds from the natural world and the flesh. You can plant investments, selfishness, greed, laziness, popularity, and much more. In the basket in your right hand, there are spiritual seeds. For some of you I have bad news. If you don't have a relationship with God, the basket in your right hand is empty. But if you are saved and have seeds in the basket you will find things like love, peace, joy, stewardship, obedience, accountability, faith, self control, all of God's promises, and all of God's covenants, and all of his spiritual blessings in heavenly places. Look out at your field and you will see neat rows that have already been plowed. One row has a sign in front of it that says "Family". Another row says "Finance". There is a row for "Fitness". There is a row for your "Faith" and a row for "Friends". Open your eyes.

Consider this thought. In our lives, we will reap the same in kind as we sow. We may not reap the exact same thing, but it will be the same in kind. For example, if you sow dishonesty by lying on someone, it doesn't mean that person will lie on you. But as you continue to sow dishonesty, you will eventually surround yourself with dishonest people. You may create dishonest people by showing them how through your example.

So it's important that we know what kind we are about to sow in our life garden.

What kind are you sowing?

Are the things we are sowing in our lives from the basket in the left hand or the right hand? Are we sowing things that are physical or spiritual? Are they natural or supernatural? If we are not aware, we may be working hard and sowing but getting a different harvest than we planned.

Here is an example:

Isaiah 29:13 (NKJV)

¹³Therefore the Lord said:

“Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths
And honor Me with their lips,
But have removed their hearts far from Me,
And their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men,

God is speaking through Isaiah and says his people are doing the deeds but missing the point. They are sowing and plowing but getting the wrong harvest. Going through the motions doesn't mean we are going to reap blessings by default.

We can come to church and be here every week, doing the stuff and still fail to sow in the spirit. We can sing songs but if they are not in spirit and truth God won't bless it. We can pray prayers but if they are not sincere they won't make it pass the ceiling.

Some of us are only sowing rituals and can therefore only reap the benefits of ritual. This is why people can come to church and get nothing out of it. They didn't put anything in their faith. They didn't sow anything of spiritual value. They changed their Sunday habits but they didn't change their hearts.

We see this in the natural world all the time.

Students can have perfect physical attendance and still fail because they didn't have perfect mental attendance. Their minds just weren't on the material. Families can have Fathers or Mothers who are always at home but are still absent emotionally. They can't reap closeness and intimacy when they are disengaged.

When it's time for the tithes and offering, many believers sow in guilt. Some sow indifference. Some sow grudgingly. We sow sparingly by giving God the scraps after we have squandered his resources. Over time, we begin to wonder if tithing even works because we haven't received any blessings.

Well, what kind did we sow? Did we sow obedience to the word and will of God. Did we sow cheerfully out of our love for God? Did we sow spiritually under the leading and guiding of the Holy Spirit? Did we sow understanding how our giving affected the ministry of God? Did we sow knowing that how we sow will affect our relationship with God?

Turn to ...

Malachi 3:8 through Malachi 3:12 (NKJV)

⁸ “Will a man rob God? “Relationship”

God wants us to be in his family. So everything we do for him is done out of the relationship we have with him.

Yet you have robbed Me!

But you say,

‘In what way have we robbed You?’

In tithes and offerings. **“Obedience, Love, and Thanksgiving.”**

Tithing is our basic requirement of obedience. Offerings are giving out of our love and thanksgiving for what God has done. Every time we give and sow into the lives of others on God’s behalf, it is an offering. Every time we willingly serve the Lord, it is an offering.

⁹ You are cursed with a curse, **“We reap the same in kind as we sow”**.
If what we sow is not life, it is death. If we fail to sow in the spirit it is carnal. If we fail to sow in blessings then it is a curse. So if our tithes are offerings are not in the spirit, then it is cursed.

For you have robbed Me,

Even this whole nation.

¹⁰ Bring all the tithes into the storehouse,
That there may be food in My house, **“Ministry”**.

The tithes of the people were used to provide for the ministry. The tithe of the people went to the Levites to provide for them because they didn’t have an inheritance in the land. Then the Levites would tithe and their tithe went to the priests so they could be free to do ministry. Here is where we go wrong. Many people believe when they put money in the offering, they are just giving money to the preacher. What they are actually doing is giving money to the ministry. The preacher or pastor is the minister who conducts the ministry. Faith comes by hearing. How can we hear without a preacher. In order to do ministry we need a place, we need a vehicle, we need books, we need materials. Ministry uses resources and God wants resources in his house.

And try Me now in this,”

Says the LORD of hosts,

“If I will not open for you the windows of heaven

And pour out for you *such* blessing

That *there will* not be room enough to receive it. **“Promise”**.

God is making us a promise. If we would engage with him in the spirit, he would release his blessings. If we were to sow with him in the spirit, we would reap

spiritual blessings. If we would unlock the windows of heaven by sowing our faith, he would pour out the resources of heaven.

¹¹ “And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes,
So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground,
Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,”
Says the LORD of hosts; **“Covenant”**.

Because we are in covenant with God and his laws are absolute, he will protect our seed. God guarantees that we will reap the same in kind as we sow. We won't sow love and reap hate. We won't sow joy and reap anger. We won't sow faithfulness and reap negligence. Whatever we put on the vine will come to pass. Whatever we sow in the ground of our lives in God will be harvested.

¹² And all nations will call you blessed,
For you will be a delightful land,”
Says the LORD of hosts. **“Purpose”**.

Don't miss this. Some of us get stuck on verses 10 and 11 and think tithing is about us and our blessings. Tithing has a greater purpose. That purpose is our witness to the world. God says if we sow spiritually in tithes and offerings through our relationship with him, the nations would see the blessings in our lives and call us blessed. The people of God would be a delightful land. We would be an example of the goodness of God. We would be the place people would want to live.

As believers we have power to decide what is sown in our lives. With every decision we make in life we can reach in the basket and have complete control over our harvest. So if we are going to reap in kind as we have sown and we have the power to decide what will be sown, then the question is “what kind do we want?”

What kind do you want?

I have shared this story with you some time ago but I need to share it again because I believe it illustrates a point.

Jordan Contract Story

Several years ago I saw a documentary by Nike about the career of Michael Jordan. They talked about his basketball skills and his marketability. But they also told the story of their contract negotiations. Jordan originally wanted to sign with Addidas because that was the shoe he wore in college. Nike made him a great offer and brought him in to negotiate the contract. After a few days, they didn't have the agreement because Jordan insisted that the contract include a red sports car.

Finally, in one of the meetings he brought up the sports car again and an executive from Nike pulled out a toy red sports car and rolled it across the table to Jordan. He basically said there is your sports car. The documentary said Jordan didn't realize the contract they were offering him was so large he could buy as many sports cars as he wanted.

Why am I sharing this story? Because Jordan was thinking too small. He missed the big picture. We do the same thing. We sow and reap too small. We desire things that are too small. We want very little of what God has to offer.

Many times the kind we want is the kind we can consume. Our desires don't usually go beyond ourselves. That is part of the nature of the flesh. The flesh is self serving and only seeks its own gain and its own comfort. We bring that fleshly way of doing things into our relationship with God.

We desire to go out and pluck up harvest whenever we want it. We want what we want when we want it. But we don't desire to increase our capacity.

Think about the garden we imagined earlier. How big was it in your mind? Okay, what was around the garden? Did you have trees on either side? Did your garden have grass all around it? Was your garden fenced in? Who owns the land around your garden?

We need to change our thinking. We need to put our desires in check. We need to know what kind we want because that is going to tell us what kind of seed we need to sow. We need to know what kind we want because what we want needs to line up with what God wants. We are bought with a price. We are not our own. We are his. In fact, we need to not only know what God wants for us, we need to know what God wants to do in us and through us.

Turn to ...

Genesis 2:4 through Genesis 2:8 (NKJV)

⁴This *is* the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and *there was* no man to till the ground; ⁶but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground.

⁷And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

⁸The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.

Genesis 2:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

God gave you and I, mankind, the capacity to sow and reap. He set this thing up so that we could actually sow outside of ourselves and produce in his world. A man in the will of God can do more than just produce more of himself. He can manipulate the world around him, sow according to the will of God and produce what God wills.

You see, God has already ordained that wherever we are planted, we are to dress and keep it. We are to take possession of the land where we are and then sow in it.

Think about it, if Adam had only been selfish and cared for his own needs, the garden would not have been taken care of. God had already met his needs. So he was free to pursue the work of tilling the garden that was around him.

My garden was small when I did this exercise. It was cute and nice and neat. But outside of my garden, I saw empty land that was waiting to be seized and sown. My garden vision included the vision of what it could be. I saw my little garden expand to a farm with workers and tractors.

You see, when we go to work and sit at our desks, God wants us to realize we can sow into every piece of ground we can see. We can sow kindness into that mean office manager. We can sow faithfulness in the eyes and hearts of our co-workers. We don't just go to work for us. We go because God has planted us there. We need to dress and keep it.

We can dress and keep our neighborhood if we are willing. I know its outside of the fence of our own self-centeredness, but God placed us here to dress and keep the ground where he planted us. We can dress and keep the classrooms where we go to school by having a positive attitude and being good students. We can seize control of the ground around us spiritually and bring about abundance.

The people around us don't own the land. God does. God owns everything and we are his children. So we need to have command of whatever God gives us. The problem is we allow them to beat us at sowing. If the situation is bad, just get on your knees, pull up the weeds, and then sow what God wills for you to sow. We have to change our minds about what kind we want to sow because we sow too small.

Car Example

Some of us are asking God for a new car. There is nothing wrong with that. What I want to know is what kind are you really asking for?

Some of us envision ourselves riding around, looking good, and everybody can see us. We say we are asking God for a car, but we are really asking God to bless us with the pride of life. Some of us are asking God for a car but we are actually asking God to bless us with the lust of the eyes because we are coveting what someone else has.

We want more resources to which will make us a better steward, but we won't sow stewardship of what God has already given us.

When it comes to our finances we have to decide what we want to reap. If we are trying to reap things, we have missed the mark. We have to have the resources before we can get the things. That's why credit card companies are so dangerous. They make us believe we can have the things without the resources. Then we are supposed to just pay them back later more than the things are worth.

We need to sow stewardship. Then we can reap greater stewardship. Stewardship involves accountability with God.

We can't want the house. We can't want the car. We need to want the ability to command the resources to get the house or car. Think about it. What kind of car can you buy right now? For most people we can buy whatever kind the bank says we can afford. The bank has command of the resources. We don't. Well, what kind of car could you buy if you commanded the resources instead of the bank? Whatever kind your resources could command.

Now if you want command of the money, you are going to have to take command of the money you already have. Then you are going to have to sow it under the leading of the Holy Spirit. Next you will have to reap the blessings and then sow again.