

## **The 7 Laws of the Harvest: Part Three – We Reap in a Different Season than When We Sow**

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

<sup>1</sup>Brethren, 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. <sup>2</sup>Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. <sup>3</sup>For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. <sup>4</sup>But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. <sup>5</sup>For each one shall bear his own load.

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

<sup>7</sup>Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. <sup>10</sup>Therefore, 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.

So far we have discussed the first law which is "We can only reap what has been sown" and the second law which is "We reap the same in kind as we sow." Today we move on to the third law of the harvest which is "We Reap in a Different Season than When We Sow".

Foundation for this law

### **Genesis 8:20 through Genesis 8:22 (NKJV)**

<sup>20</sup>Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. <sup>21</sup>And the LORD smelled a soothing aroma. Then the LORD said in His heart, "I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart *is* evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done.

<sup>22</sup> "While the earth remains,  
Seedtime and harvest,  
Cold and heat,  
Winter and summer,

And day and night  
Shall not cease.”

God says he is going to provide seedtime and harvest as long as the world exists.

“*There will always be seedtime and harvest.*”

As long as there is a world and as long as we are living on it, there will be opportunities to sow seeds. But the opportunity to reap a harvest isn't during the same time. Seedtime and harvest are two different times. They bring about two different set of circumstances.

There are also multiple seedtimes. Some seeds have to be planted during a specific season because of the climate. The climate conditions provide the right amount of sun and water. The climate may even provide the right amount of cold, frost, or heat.

Without certain climate conditions our fruit would not mature for the harvest. We just have to be willing to wait.

Turn to Ecclesiastes 3:1 and let's talk about the benefit of waiting.

## **The Benefit of waiting**

### **Ecclesiastes 3:1 through Ecclesiastes 3:13 (NKJV)**

- <sup>1</sup> To everything *there is* a season,  
A time for every purpose under heaven:
- <sup>2</sup> A time to be born,  
And a time to die;  
A time to plant,  
And a time to pluck *what is* planted;
- <sup>3</sup> A time to kill,  
And a time to heal;  
A time to break down,  
And a time to build up;
- <sup>4</sup> A time to weep,  
And a time to laugh;  
A time to mourn,  
And a time to dance;
- <sup>5</sup> A time to cast away stones,  
And a time to gather stones;  
A time to embrace,

And a time to refrain from embracing;  
6 A time to gain,  
And a time to lose;  
A time to keep,  
And a time to throw away;  
7 A time to tear,  
And a time to sew;  
A time to keep silence,  
And a time to speak;  
8 A time to love,  
And a time to hate;  
A time of war,  
And a time of peace.

<sup>9</sup>What profit has the worker from that in which he labors? <sup>10</sup>I have seen the God-given task with which the sons of men are to be occupied. <sup>11</sup>He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.

<sup>12</sup>I know that nothing *is* better for them than to rejoice, and to do good in their lives, <sup>13</sup>and also that every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor—it *is* the gift of God.

Here Solomon asks a great question that I think we need to explore. He asks “what profit has the worker from that in which he labors?” He is basically saying “what is the benefit of laboring to sow seeds?” This also begs the question “what benefit is there in waiting for the harvest?”

Solomon addresses both of them.

He says the tasks we perform, the labor of “sowing”, is God-given. Why do the work? God has sown the seed of labor into our lives. God has ordained that mankind is to be occupied in the daily work of living.

This should not be a surprise to us as believers because he says in Ephesians ...

### **Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV)**

<sup>10</sup>For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

As believers we know that once we have come to Christ, God has certain good works that he has prepared in advance for us. We are to walk in or be occupied with those

works in our new lives in God. As we do the work of ministry and sowing and reaping, God gets the glory.

So why do we work to sow seeds? *“God has provided our life’s work for his glory.”*

Our good deeds will be made beautiful as God shows his goodness and mercy in our reaping. The bad deeds will be made beautiful as God is glorified as the Lord of wrath as he destroys those who have sown evil. Either way, God will receive the beauty of glory.

Solomon says that there is nothing better for us than for us to rejoice and do good in our lives. There is nothing better for us than for us to sow good deeds. We can only reap what has been sown. We will reap the same in kind as we have sown. So we might as well sow what is good.

We are to sow in good ground. We are to sow with good motives. We are to sow with good intentions. We are to sow good habits. We are to sow good values. We are to sow good deeds.

There is nothing better for us than sowing good things that bring a good harvest that brings God glory. On top of that, our goodness sown in good labor is also something we can enjoy. The ability to eat and drink the good of our labors is a gift from God. The blessing of the harvest is God’s glory and our joy.

*“The blessing of the harvest is God’s glory and our joy.”*

We just have to wait on it. Solomon said everything is made beautiful or ripe in its time. Remember, to every thing there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven. There is a due season for everything we sow.

That means our God has purposed a season of waiting. He has ordained that we can’t sow a seed in this season and reap it in the same season. We just need to know when it’s due season.

So when is due season? I’m glad you asked.

### **Due Season**

Due season is when all of the pieces of God’s plan are in place. Notice that I didn’t say our plans. On our way to our harvest, we may have to take some detours or add some days because God isn’t done working in us just yet.

When we sow and reap, we are working in our ground. But all along, God is working in his ground which is our lives.

Turn to ...

**Isaiah 5:1 through Isaiah 5:10 (NKJV)**

<sup>1</sup>Now let me sing to my Well-beloved

A song of my Beloved regarding His vineyard:

My Well-beloved has a vineyard

On a very fruitful hill.

<sup>2</sup> He dug it up and cleared out its stones,

And planted it with the choicest vine.

He built a tower in its midst,

And also made a winepress in it;

So He expected *it* to bring forth *good* grapes,

But it brought forth wild grapes.

<sup>3</sup> “And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah,

Judge, please, between Me and My vineyard.

<sup>4</sup> What more could have been done to My vineyard

That I have not done in it?

Why then, when I expected *it* to bring forth *good* grapes,

Did it bring forth wild grapes?

<sup>5</sup> And now, please let Me tell you what I will do to My vineyard:

I will take away its hedge, and it shall be burned;

*And* break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down.

<sup>6</sup> I will lay it waste;

It shall not be pruned or dug,

But there shall come up briars and thorns.

I will also command the clouds

That they rain no rain on it.”

<sup>7</sup> For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts *is* the house of Israel,

And the men of Judah are His pleasant plant.

He looked for justice, but behold, oppression;

For righteousness, but behold, a cry *for help*.

<sup>8</sup> Woe to those who join house to house;

They add field to field,

Till *there is* no place

Where they may dwell alone in the midst of the land!

<sup>9</sup> In my hearing the LORD of hosts *said*,

“Truly, many houses shall be desolate,

Great and beautiful ones, without inhabitant.  
<sup>10</sup> For ten acres of vineyard shall yield one bath,  
And a homer of seed shall yield one ephah.”

God reveals how he is working in his people. He is working his land. He is digging out the stones that restrict our roots from growing. He is building a tower to watch over and protect his choice vine. He is putting walls around us to secure us. He is planting us in fruitful hills. And he has built a wine press because he is expecting us to produce fruit in our lives that he can press out in our world.

God is sowing and expecting a harvest. If he is digging and pruning and building and working the land, we must do it too. We must dig some stones out of our fields. We must remove the weeds that try to choke our seeds. We must build towers and watch over our seeds. We have to work the land to bring it to maturity.

And he says trying to hoard more fields without doing the spiritual work is useless. If we can't be faithful to work what we have, why should we expect a greater harvest if we had more land?

Let's look at something else. Turn to ...

**Leviticus 26:3 through Leviticus 26:5 (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup> 'If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them,  
<sup>4</sup> then I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.  
<sup>5</sup> Your threshing shall last till the time of vintage, and the vintage shall last till the time of sowing;  
you shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely.

God has declared to his people that their obedience to his will has an effect on their production. Sowing and reaping is not a task that we can accomplish without God. If God doesn't step in and provide only what he can provide, we won't have an abundant harvest.

God gives the seed to the sower. God gives the fertile ground to plant the seed. Once it is planted, God gives the rain at the right time, in the right amounts to cause the seed to sprout. God gives the sunlight to cause the sprout to grow and mature.

Due season is when all of the pieces of God's plan come together to create a harvest. God didn't send Jesus until the fullness of time, when all the pieces were put together.

Due season is when the conditions are right for the harvest to not be destroyed. We don't want the harvest to come to maturity in the snow because it will die. Let me explain.

There are some great things God wants to do in our lives that need to be put on hold. If God blessed us with our harvest under the wrong conditions it could be destroyed by those around us, or by the environment we are in.

If God blessed us with a promotion at the wrong time, under the wrong manager, we could get fired.

If God blessed us with the house under the wrong market conditions, we could end up in foreclosure.

If God blessed us with a spouse when we are not mature enough to honor the covenant of marriage we would be divorced quickly.

If we tried to reap the benefits of being adults by growing up too fast, we could create unnecessary struggles in our lives.

Those who have tried to leave school early and drop out can tell you years later how they regretted the decision. They forfeited their harvest.

The reaping occurs in due season. We must be willing to wait for due season to arrive.

In our world today, sowing and reaping are not natural to us. We have an instant lifestyle where we seem to get whatever we want when we want it, and how we want it.

We have instant coffee, and instant grits. We can buy food in the grocery store that is fully cooked. We use the microwave to cook faster. We go to restaurants and get fast food. We have instant music at our finger tips, downloading from our computers, cell phones, and ipods. We have instant entertainment with over 1000 channels to watch. We have satellite radio and You Tube. We have the internet to give us instant access to information. We have instant messaging and text messaging. We have almost instant degrees and diplomas. We can fly across the country in two hours instead of driving for two days. We have instant relationships through social networking. We have drive through weddings and one stop divorces.

And here is the worst part of it all. We are so accustomed to receiving without sowing that we miss the fact that the previous generation worked themselves down to the bone to provide for all that we enjoy today.

They sowed during their season with the hope that we would reap in ours. They didn't sow just for themselves. They worked so we could go to school and not have to work.

They labored to provide opportunities for us. They worked long hours and two or three jobs so we could reap nice clothes to wear. They stayed up late and got up early for us. They stood over hot stoves and bore burdens so we would have something better. They stood in front of fire hoses and dogs and strife just so we could have the opportunity to go to college.

People died to give us the right to sow in good fields that were forbidden to us. They didn't endure all of this so we could be lazy and live off of government assistance for three and four generations. They didn't struggle so we could sit back and wait on somebody to give us some kind of free handout. Don't forget you can only reap what has been sown. Somebody had to sow to give you the benefits.

What we fail to realize is sometimes we reach our due season and there is nothing to reap. We failed to sow and refused to wait. We gave up and wouldn't work the land so we have nothing to show for ourselves.

Due season is when we are faithful to fulfill our commitments to God. He is going to do his part. The dependent variable is us. The weak link in the chain is us. He told us that in due season we would reap the harvest if we didn't lose heart. That means we have to work the land and do the will of God until harvest.

We can't give out early.

Before I give you the tips to help you take advantage of this law, I would like to share with you a story.

In his book, *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership*, John Maxwell tells the story of Anne Sheiber. She worked for the IRS and retired in 1943. At that time she had never been promoted on her job and was making only \$3150 a year. She didn't have much so she didn't buy much. She never bought new furniture. She didn't subscribe to the newspaper. She basically had to struggle to survive. Once a week, she would walk to the public library and read the *Wall Street Journal*. This woman managed somehow to save \$5000 by the time she retired from the IRS at age 51. She invested the money and by 1950 she had made enough profit to buy 1000 shares of stock valued at \$10,000. It took time to reap that harvest. She didn't cash it out or spend the profits. Over time, sowing and reaping and sowing again, she didn't give up. When she died, after 50 years of sowing and reaping, this poor woman who had never been promoted on her job and who had lived with worn out furniture, left Yeshiva University in New York City \$22 million dollars.

It takes time and work to bring in the harvest. It takes faithfulness and commitment. It takes purpose of God, cultivating his plan in our lives. It takes the good ground of our hearts that receive the seed of the word of God. It takes the Son of God shining on us. It takes the Holy Spirit raining down on our seeds. It takes believers who are not hasty to reap out of season. It takes patience, which is the willingness to wait for the harvest. After all, we reap in a different season than we have sown.

So here are the tips to help us seize the blessing of this law of the harvest.

1. Sow in hope. Learn to get under hope and expectation instead of being anxious to get instant gratification. Allow yourself to envision the end result. Right now it's only one kernel of corn, but you have to envision your harvest.
2. Make a plan. Be realistic and know what it will take to reach the harvest. It will take some extra classes and commitment to reap a promotion on your job. It will take dedication to school to reap opportunities. It will take investing money and saving money to reap a fortune. But we need to plan the field first.
3. Work the land. Remove the rocks that will cause your plants to fail. Remove the habits that keep taking away from your harvest. If you constantly choke out your seed by withdrawing it out of the bank because your life is out of order, you need to fix that. Prune. Cut out the dead places. Work and make sacrifices. Build a tower and keep an eye on your seed. Don't allow it to be devoured.
4. Wait on the Lord. Due season will come as God works his land. He will work in us and our circumstances. He will also send us the rain in the right time. If we are faithful to him, he has promised that he will send what we need to make our seed sprout with life. He will make us to have an abundant harvest. We just have to be willing to see it through until he says its time to reap.