

The 7 Laws of the Harvest: Part Four – We Reap More than 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.

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." We have also discussed the third law of the harvest which is "We Reap in a Different Season than When We Sow". Today, we will examine the fourth law of the harvest which is "

Foundation for this law

Psalms 126:1 through Psalm 126:6 (NKJV)

¹ When the LORD brought back the captivity of Zion,
We were like those who dream.

² Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
And our tongue with singing.
Then they said among the nations,
"The LORD has done great things for them."

³ The LORD has done great things for us,
And we are glad.

⁴ Bring back our captivity, O LORD,

As the streams in the South.

⁵ Those who sow in tears
Shall reap in joy.

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

This law was easily understood by people in Bible times. These were people who lived off the land. Most of the significant moments in their lives naturally and spiritually surrounded the harvest.

Their feasts and special offerings were situated around harvest. Their laws concerning Jubilee were tied to the harvest. They marked time by the harvest. Their ability to survive from one season to another depended upon the harvest.

One thing they knew better than we do today is the fact that one seed, planted in the ground would always yield a plant that had multiple seeds. One wheat kernel planted and cultivated would bring about a harvest that was many times more than the original seed.

As the psalmist says in the King James Version of this passage “He that goeth forth and weepeth bearing **precious seed** shall doubtless come again with rejoicing”. He says the seed is precious. It is important. It is costly. It is valuable. It is a prized possession.

Let me deal with the seed for a minute.

Sometimes it's hard to sow the seeds. We get a harvest and begin to consume the seed with the fruit. Then when we have eaten all of the seed, we look around and try to figure out if there is anything left to sow.

What we should do is obey God's instructions and sow the first fruits. What do I mean? The first fruits are precious and prized. The fattest part of the harvest is usually the part we want to eat. Let's go deeper.

If God blesses you with \$500, don't eat it all up as soon as you get it. We eat it up when we commit the money to be consumed. We get \$500 and immediately try to find out what we want that costs around \$500.

We get the \$500 and spend as much as we want, then try to save the rest, but we end up spending it all because it's burning a hole in our pockets. We spend \$300 with the thought of saving \$200 but all it takes is one hour for us to find something to spend the \$200 on.

Here is another example. December rolls around and we get our W-2's or tax statements. We file as soon as we can and as soon as we know how much we are getting back, we commit the money to be consumed. It's spent before you even get it.

It's painful to give up the precious seed. But the psalmist says there is no doubt in this law. He said if we would break down and sow the precious seed there is no doubt, it's guaranteed, it's a sure thing that in another season, our seed will turn into sheaves.

That's positive and negative.

Exodus 20:4 through Exodus 20:6 (NKJV)

⁴“You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness *of anything* that *is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the water under the earth; ⁵you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth *generations* of those who hate Me, ⁶but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

God says if we sow a wicked life, we will reap much more than we have sown. He will visit the iniquity not only in our lives, but in the next three or four generations. So be careful what you sow. Hate, anger, sin, lies, and any other evil thing will reap a harvest that is more than was sown.

At the same time, he says if we sow a faithful life he will show mercy to thousands. Remember David said “I have never seen the righteous forsaken or his seed begging bread.” If we sow righteousness into the good ground of the generation to come, they won't lack because of what we have sown.

We reap more than we sow.

Sowing Strategically

Matthew 13:3 through Matthew 13:9 (NKJV)

³Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: “Behold, a sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some *seed* fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and

they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. ⁶But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. ⁷And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. ⁸But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

In this passage, Jesus is teaching about sowing the word of God into the hearts of hearers. He is also giving us a crash course on crop failure and a successful harvest.

Jesus reveals three things in nature that can cause our harvest to fail. I believe they tell us about three types of people who have difficulty sowing and reaping also. He also reveals the model for those who successfully reap more than they sow.

The first seed fell by the wayside: Jesus said when a person hears the word and doesn't understand it, the enemy snatches it up. Some people are by the wayside. They simply don't understand the concepts of sowing and reaping.

They don't realize we can only reap what has been sown. They don't understand we reap the same in kind as we sow. They can't comprehend how we reap in a different season than we sow. Because they don't understand sowing and reaping, they don't see the value of the seed.

For them, money, time, energy, and all other resources are only meant to be used up or spent. So every new thing that comes along that seeks to take their money does so with ease.

The second seed fell in stony places: Jesus said when a person hears the word in stony places they understand it and receive it with joy. But they lack the ability to endure to the end. They have no roots to go deep and ground them.

People who are in stony places understand sowing and reaping. It makes sense to them and it sounds like a good idea. They may give it a try by sowing. The only hang up they are facing is the fact that they don't have the discipline to see it through to the end.

They don't have any roots to ground them. They lack commitment. All it takes is for the heat to rise in some area of their lives and they will give up the seed.

All it takes is a little pressure and they will give up the seed.

All it takes is their negligence to care for their car and the seed will be eaten up trying to fix what should have been maintained.

All it takes is negligence to pay bills and late fees will eat up the seed.

A little pressure and a little heat is all it takes to get them to abandon the seed. People in stony places are unstable and can't bear to endure until harvest. So they never really reap.

The third seed fell among the thorns. Jesus said those among the thorns hear the word but the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches chokes the seed. People among the thorns have a serious lack of perspective. They have narrow vision.

These are people who want the things around them more than they want the harvest. Then if they get a harvest, they want the fruit more than the seed. What they fail to understand is the harvest gives us more seed to be sown again to get more fruit and more seed.

For them, harvest is when they can get the things they want. They want a car more than they want a harvest. So they try to buy the car without any seeds. They really can't afford the new house, but they work hard to get it and live house poor because they have no seed.

All it takes is a sale at Dillard's to choke the seed out of their wallets. All it takes is the 4th of July holiday and they will use the seed to get an outfit. All it takes is a concert, a movie, or a road trip and they will give up the seed.

These are often the victims of get rich quick schemes or get famous quick schemes.

Apple example:

Here are some apple seeds. Let's say that I wanted an apple really badly so I took it over to the university and found some scientists who could produce one for me in about a day. Perhaps they can coat it in chemicals, over fertilize it, inject it with steroids, expose it to a little bit of radiation, and grow an apple for me in an incubator. Do I really want to eat that apple? After all of that, do I even know how to grow an apple?

That's what get rich quick schemes are selling. They advertise how you can make a lot of money in a few weeks. They tell you how you can get some apples but they don't tell you how to own the orchard that makes the apples. They ask you to get seeds from all of your friends and neighbors. Then they take the seeds in a back room to turn one of them into an apple while they keep the rest.

When they give us the apple, we are so happy. “I got my cousin to sign up and for \$100 and they gave me \$50. Yeah! I got an apple.”

“I got my friend to sign up with my cell phone company and they gave me a \$20 referral.” Okay but they are going to make \$200 from that new account in the first six months.

“I won \$100,000 and a new contract on American Idol.” That’s a large apple, but you still lost. It costs more than \$100,000 to show one 30 second commercial. If they showed 10 in one night, they made \$1 million dollars. You were on the show for eight weeks so the network made \$8 million in commercial money. They only gave you \$100,000. You got an apple.

Let me ask you this: which would you rather be: the person with the apple or the person how has the seeds and the knowledge of how to grow the seeds? Now here is where the law comes in. We reap more than we sow. Jesus said some of the seed fell on good ground and brought a harvest of 100, 60, or 30 times the original seed.

Good ground: A person who sows in good ground hears the word. This means they are not like the seed that fell by the wayside. They know how to sow and reap and they understand the value of their efforts.

They are not like the seed in stony places. People in good ground have the discipline to see the seed through to the harvest. They can stick with it and cultivate it instead of giving up or being pressured to eat the seed.

People in good ground are not like the seeds that fell among thorns. They haven’t got themselves caught up in so many schemes that they don’t know how to bear fruit. They don’t just eat fruit. They bear fruit.

A person who sows in good ground is strategic. This person has complete comprehension. They have heard, understand, are committed, and have the right perspective. They are uniquely positioned to reap 30, 60, or 100 times the original seed. We reap more than we sow.

Reaping more than we sow spiritually.

Philippians 4:15 through Philippians 4:20 (NKJV)

¹⁵Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. ¹⁶For even in Thessalonica you sent *aid* once and again for my necessities. ¹⁷Not

that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. ¹⁸Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things *sent* from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. ¹⁹And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. ²⁰Now to our God and Father *be* glory forever and ever. Amen.

If we are going to reap an abundant harvest with God, we have to be willing to sacrifice some seed. The church at Philippi was told this promise of God supplying all their need because they had sown into the ministry of God.

Paul said they had given time and again to meet his needs which gave him the ability to do the work of God. He goes on to say that their giving gave him motivation to produce more fruit to honor their sacrifice.

Ministry is more than ministers. It is the work of God in our world. We can sow into each other.

For example: Our ushers are involved in the ministry of this church. They will tell you that each time you sow obedience to their instructions, they are blessed and motivated to continue with their service. A kind word to them and a word of thanks is a blessing too.

They sacrifice for us so we can enjoy the worship experience but we need to be sowing into them.

When was the last time you encouraged one of our choir members? When was the last time you poured into one of our deacons? When was the last time you acknowledged our deaconess?

When we fail to sow into the ministry of God among us, we set up a condition where this scripture promise doesn't apply to us. Sowing in ministry is the sure way that we can know that our God shall supply all of our need according to his riches in glory.

Let me put it another way that you have heard it before. Take care of God's business and he will take care of your business.

One seed results in **all** their need being met. They were able to reap much more than they had sown. I believe we should do likewise.

Action steps:

1. Sow your precious seed. Sow the first fruits. That means, don't spend the money until you have a plan. That plan must begin with sowing and not end with sowing. Commit the seed to your harvest before you commit the seed to yourself. That also means sow the precious seed for everything. Our time, talents, attention, gifts, fruit; all need to be sown in the best way.
2. Be strategic. Don't scatter, plant. Identify the areas where you are weak. If you lack understanding, then learn more. If you lack the discipline, then humble yourself. If you are too caught up in the world, then disconnect yourself from it. We must all become good ground if we want to see a harvest that is more than we have sown.
3. Sow into the work of God. God has promised he would provide all of our needs if we sacrificed for him. With our needs met, we can then focus on the desires of our hearts. We can't get ahead if all of our seed is being consumed with our daily needs. Sowing into ministry will allow God the opportunity to teach us the value of true needs. We will get in line with what he wants.

How many of you are living paycheck to paycheck? What do you think would happen if you were to cut out the wasteful areas of your life and sow into God's work?

You will reap more than you sow.