

**Law 5:**

**We Reap In Proportion as We Sow (Spiritual Stewardship) Scripture: Galatians: 6:1-10**

**INTRODUCTION:**

**In this marvelous passage toward the end of the very first book written (49A.D.) of the 27 books comprising the NT canon, the apostle Paul gives us much good advice regarding interpersonal relationships. We are to restore one another, bear one another's burdens, display a spirit of gentleness, and "do good to all men, especially to those of the household of faith (vs. 10). Placed within these very positive admonitions are references to the *Principle of Reciprocity*—"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man sows, this he will also reap (vs.7). Do you want good done to you? Then do good to others. When you slip and fall, do you want others to help lift you up? Then help lift them up. Do you want to be shown love and mercy and gentleness? Then show the same toward others. Reciprocity.**

**Many times in life we lose sight of the fact that much of what we are facing is a result of our own doing—the decisions we make and the seeds we have sown. It is easy to get caught up in asking God why things aren't changing, or why we are not experiencing a breakthrough in a particular area, all the while, what we are experiencing is not a lack of God working, but rather, it is a harvest of the seeds we have been sowing for quite some time. And whether you know it or not, the seeds you are sowing today, whether good or bad, are eventually *going to bring a harvest into your life for good or for bad.***

**The promise and warning of Scripture is that we reap what we sow. This means that life's choices are filled with consequences both good and bad—*temporal and eternal.* Reaping what we sow means we reap only what has been sown, we reap in kind as we sow, we reap in a different season than we sow, we reap more than we sow, but we also reap in proportion as we sow. If one does not sow, he does not reap. If he sows sparingly, he reaps sparingly. *If he wants to reap a bountiful harvest, he must sow in a bountiful way. For example, if a farmer only cultivate one acre, he can only reap what one acre can produce. However, if he has one hundred acres under cultivation, his harvest can be one hundred times greater.***

**While the last two laws are related, there is a very important difference that needs to be observed between this principle and the previous one which stated we always reap more than we sow. Both are true at the same time; yet this principle that we reap in proportion as we sow in no way affects the fact that we also reap more than we sow. Both laws deal with quantity and amount, but the previous law where the seed sown multiplied many fold has to do with God's**

part, **but** this one with **ours—with human responsibility**. It has to do with **living** by faith, **with** being **faithful**, bold, *courageous, and venturesome*.

**In essence**, the laws of sowing and reaping mean, “**As now, So then.**” Not “someday, and **then I’ll get started.**” Why is this? Because **today we are becoming what we will be the rest of our lives!!**

**Let us ask** ourselves a question: “*How many burglars of **faith and sowing** do we allow to break through the **doors and windows of our lives and rob us of the challenge of sowing to the fullest!?!?***”

God’s part is that **whatever seed** is sown is **multiplied many fold**. Our part is **to sow all the good that we can, to all we can, while we can, and leave the results to God**. “Cast thy bread upon the waters: *for thou shall find it after many days. Give a portion to seven, and also eight; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth...V6-In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand; for you know not which shall prosper, either this or that, or whether both alike shall be good (Ecclesiastes 11:1, 2 6).*

**I. Declaration of This Principle---** (2Cor.9:6). **Now this I say**, he who sows sparingly **shall reap sparingly**; and he who sows bountifully **shall also reap bountifully**.

**Paul states this law clearly** as he devotes two whole **chapters in his Second letter** to the Corinthians to the subject of giving. **This is the way things are, and there is no getting around it.**

“**If you want to be rich.....GIVE!**  
**If you want to be poor.....GRASP!**  
If you want abundance.....**SCATTER!**  
**If you want to be needy..... HOARD!”**

**The world’s philosophy that of man’s wisdom is typically just the opposite.** It can be described

As: **GET ALL YOU CAN**  
**CAN ALL YOU GET**  
**THEN, SIT ON THE CAN**

**This law that “we reap in proportion as we sow,”** like all the laws of the **harvest**, operates **negatively and positively**. The more one sows to the flesh, the more he will reap the corruption which the **flesh alone can produce**. But equally true, the more one sows to the **Spirit, the more we reaps the blessings of a righteous harvest**. “**The fruit of righteousness is sown in peace** of them that make **peace**” (James 3:18). **This principle can be illustrated** again by the **life of David**. Had David merely sinned in the episode with **Bathsheba, his sin** would be **grave enough**. But since he

**never stopped sowing** to the flesh **but went on and on until** he had killed Bathsheba's husband, he was to reap all the more from his actions because he had sown **all the more wickedness. However, the primary motivation and emphasis** of this principle and promise in the **Bible is toward the good.** Now it may be said for all of us: "There is not a just man upon the earth, that doeth good, and Sinneth not" (Ecclesiastes 7:20). **But as Christians and believers,** we who know the **Lord need to stop the moment** we have sinned **and confess our sin.** *The moment we do this, we stop the process of sowing to the flesh.* Then God is able to be faithful toward us and **righteous toward Himself** on the basis of the **work of Christ on the Cross and** forgive us our sin and **cleanse us from all unrighteousness 1John 1:9).** However, it is always better **to practice** preventive medicine than **Emergency surgery, and therefore,** we need to learn to **walk in the Spirit, and when we do,** we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh (Galatians 5:16). **It is possible** to learn so to walk, or the command is without significance. **Walking in the Spirit** produces in our lives the fruit of the **Spirit** that gives us nothing of which we may be ashamed.

## **POSITIVE SOWING**

**Stating the principle positively,** as believers we are to be "Zealous of good works" (Titus 2:14), "ready to every good work" (Titus 3:1), and "careful to maintain good works" (Titus 3:8).

**In other words, we are to be a people who sow bountifully or generously of our lives, of our talents, time, treasure, and truth.**

**.It is a spiritual law of life that is inherent** in the nature of God, but one that is contrary to the nature of man. So **God encourages us through** a number of passages to live **as children of God** according to this principle and promises that **our generosity will not be forgotten.**

In our Lord's Sermon on the Plain, He declared, "**Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, they will pour into your lap. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return (Luke 6:38).** The same truth is expressed in the Old Testament as well. "**The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered himself**" (Proverb 11:25). "**He that has pity on the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he has given will He pay him again**" (Pr.19:17) Conversely, "**he who shuts his ears to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be answered**" (Prov.21:13).

## **Foundations for This Principle:**

### **A. God's Character**

God's divine essence, His character, forms the foundation and motivation for operating by this principle in life. We need to remember who God is, what He is like, and what He has promised. **Not only is He omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, and sovereign, but He is a loving, kind, gracious, and a giving God.** It is God's nature to bless and give. **The gift of His Son is the Supreme illustration of this.**

Since this is the case, we can expect God to be generous with us when we echo His character through our walk with Him (cf. Rom.8:32). **He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall he not with Him freely give us all things?**

**Ephesians 3:20 is a case in point:**

**Ephesians 3:20** *Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us.*

Notice carefully what our Lord wants to do for us (1) **“what we ask”** and even what we “think” But **He wants and is able to do (2) “all that we ask or think.”** Yet **He is such a great God** that He wants to bless us (3) **“above all that we ask or think.”** But still we should never limit **His blessings To this**, for it is His desire to bless us (4) **“abundantly above all that we ask or think.”** However, this Even yet not the extent of His blessings to us; for He **purposes in accordance** with the laws of the **harvest to bless us (5) “exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think all we have to do is meet the condition for blessing.**

### **B. The Condition for Blessing**

**What is the condition?** Whether we want to face the issue or not, it has to do with our **relationship to material possessions.** Every offering that is spoken of in the **New Testament** is an offering for the poor or those in need. **While the Bible refers to prayer about 500 times, to faith less than 500 times, it refers to material possessions about a 1000 times.** Nearly one-half of the parables of **our Lord** have to do with stewardship of **material possessions.** Why is this so?

Because **money and possessions** affects us greatly whether we want to admit it or not.

It is possible to cross over a very fine line so that no longer do we possess things, but things possess us. **The question is asked, how much will it take to satisfy a greedy person?** He is never satisfied; for when he has 100,000, he wants 200,000, then half a million; but still he is not satisfied. **Neither does one million or 10 million satisfy.** “He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase” (Ecclesiastes 5:10). **The cravings of man** are Never satisfied by the empty things of this life.

“The folks who spend their days

In buying cars and clothes and rings  
Don't seem to know that empty lives  
Are just as empty filled with things!"

### C. Stewards for God

**While we might** never bow before idols of wood and stone, yet there are the idols of the heart that are just as real and just as destructive to the **Spiritual life. For this reason the Lord admonished His disciples:** “Lay not up for yourselves treasure upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: **for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also**” (Matthew 6:19-21). The last statement here is the key to it all. Only as we are making **heaven** the place of our reward are we going to use **money and material possessions wisely in the light of eternity.**

**Paul instructs Timothy:** Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living **God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good**, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; laying up for themselves a good foundation against the time to come...”(1Timothy 6:17-19).

Bountiful sowing is always to be the result or the outworking of biblical insight, values, commitment, and the Spirit-filled life.

Why does God want to bless those **who sow the seed of faith and obedience to the fullest?** This statement from **the apostle Peter** will help us to understand.

**1Peter 2:9-10** “**but you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people**, that they may proclaim **the praises of Him who** called you of **darkness** into His **marvelous light**; who once was not a people **but are now** the people of **God**, who had not obtained Mercy **but now have obtained mercy.**(KJV)

**Matthew 5:16**—“**let your light** so shine before **men, that they** may see your good **works and glorify your Father in heaven.**”

God's greatest desire is to bring **glory to Himself.** He wants to broadcast the glory **of who He is through His people** to the world and to the **authorities in the spiritual realms.** God's purposes are far greater than whether or **not you are able to** pay your bills or buy that **car you have always dreamed** about owning. His purposes **extended into the spiritual world and throughout history in such a way what we could never truly comprehend what's at stake at each opportunity to**

**walk in faith.** We should trust that **God knows far more than** we do and that **He is committed to His glory**, therefore He is **fully committed to bless those** who sow the seed of faith. **Because it brings Him glory, He surely won't fail to reward our obedience.**

. **Understanding that we reap bountifully if we sow bountifully**, you would think we would be sowing above what we usually do. **Unfortunately, in most instances this is not the case.** So we need to be reminded that we shouldn't expect to receive a **harvest beyond what we have sown.** **The main point behind whether you are clinging to your money or freely giving as you see** opportunity comes down to what you are really trusting in. If you hoard it, then you are trusting in money to take care of you; if you are freely giving it when the opportunity presents itself, then you are not trusting in money. God desires us to trust fully in Him, knowing that money is not the answer, **He is.** You will go much farther and live a much more blessed life if you choose now to **fully trust God and to be a cheerfully free giver.**

**The** Department of Transportation has set aside \$200 million dollars for research and testing of an Automated Highway System. This system would purportedly relieve traffic woes with "super cruise control" in heavily congested cities.

Special magnets imbedded in the asphalt every four feet would signal between vehicle and main computer system. Steering, acceleration and braking would be controlled by sensors, computer navigation systems and cameras along the side of the road. Control would be returned to drivers at their specific exit.

Researchers and government officials claim they have the technological capability to address any potential problem. The one challenge they have yet to address?

Says Mike Doble, Buick's technology manager,

"The only thing we can't do yet is to get people to comfortably trust the system. It is not a technology issue. Would you drive, closely spaced, at high speeds, through San Diego?"

Trust is always the question. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not on your own understanding: in all thine ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your path." (Proverb 3:5-6

Matthew 19:29 "And every one that has forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father. Or mother, or wife, or children or lands for my sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life. Receiving a hundredfold is a 10,000 per cent dividend return on one's investment. This is what kind of repayment God gives. ). We reap in proportion as we sow!!  
Amen.