

## Sowing and Reaping

### Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-11

Sowing and reaping applies to every area of our lives.--not just our finances. The above scripture says that God wants to multiply the fruits of our righteousness being enriched in **everything**. This principle applies to every area of our lives.

Just as the farmer sows watermelon seeds, he will reap watermelons; or if he sows tomato seeds, he will reap tomatoes. Whatever seed he sows, that is what he will reap. The same is true in the spiritual realm.

If we want to grow in our faith and trust in God, we must learn to plant the seeds of faith:

**Luke 17:5-6:** And the apostles said to the Lord, "increase our faith." So the Lord said, "if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mulberry tree, be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea, and it would obey you."

In order to have faith for answered prayer, provision, protection, health and other areas that are covered in our salvation, we must sow seeds of faith in those areas.

How do we sow seeds of faith? Take the word of God that speaks to that area, and speak it out and meditate on it. Exercise your faith by speaking it out and **expecting** what you say to come to pass. **Mark 11:23:** "Have faith in God, for truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, go throw yourself into the sea, and does not doubt in their heart, but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."

Our goal as Christians is to be transformed into the likeness of Christ. This doesn't happen by osmosis. We must sow seeds of growth and change if we are to be transformed into his image.

How? Take the word of God that shows the nature and character of God: love, joy, peace, faithfulness, gentleness, goodness, kindness, patience, self control and practice those attributes. Pray and seek God.

A part of our calling as Christians is to be ambassadors of the kingdom,, going forth spreading the seeds of the gospel so that the kingdom will grow. We need to begin sowing the seeds of the gospel; share the good news with others, and letting God show us where and what he wants us to do.

**When we sow, it must be dedicated to God's purpose.** It must be in relationship to God and His purpose or it comes to nothing. It is simply noise.

**Isaiah 17:10-12:** "Because you have forgotten the God of your salvation, and have not been mindful of the Rock of your stronghold, ... in the morning you will make your seed to flourish; but the harvest will be a heap of ruins."...

**We must sow in accordance with God's purpose.**

Sowing for selfish gain is a fruitless effort. It produces nothing in our lives for the kingdom and only makes us more miserable than we were before. God loves a cheerful giver; one who gives from the heart and not because of some law.

### **We must be willing to sow in all seasons:**

Sometimes we don't feel like sowing the seed of kindness or patience, or love or growth and maturity, but it is when we don't feel like it, is when it is needed the most. Our sense of focus must change. We must change our attitude, then give.

**Sow bountifully: 2 Corinthians 9:6:** But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully"

This goes for all the different kinds of seeds that you sow.

**Proverbs 11:25** says: "The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself."

When you sow the seeds, you will reap, and also those who come along and water those seeds will also reap.

### **Sow with a purpose:**

The reason some of our lives are so messed up is that we don't sow with a purpose. What are you sowing for? Be intent with what you desire to see in the harvest when you sow. Don't just scatter your seed all over with no purpose in mind of what you are sowing for.

When a farmer sows, he knows exactly what he wants to receive when he reaps. We must do the same. With purpose, sow your seeds, give with purpose expecting a bounty. If you need love,,,,, sow love, if you need friends, be a friend, if you need finances for something, sow what money you can with that specific purpose in mind to receive money for that bill or that vacation or whatever you need money for.

**Hosea 8:7** says : "They sow the wind, and reap the whirlwind. The stalk has no bud; it shall never produce meal. If it should produce, aliens would swallow it up."

So today, what are your needs? Sow what you can with a cheerful heart and give, expecting a bountiful harvest. Listen to what God is telling you to give and give that. Always go to God first and ask him, what shall I give? He will guide you and tell you. You may think it is not much that I can give; it doesn't matter as long as you ask the Lord first what shall I give? Because if you give thinking I have to give this certain amount and don't give with a cheerful heart, God is not pleased. Only give what the Lord is telling you to give, whatever the amount.

**Galatians 6:9:** "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."

