

Galatians 6:6-10, Part B

Gal 6:6 (NKJV) Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches. ⁷ Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. ⁸ 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. ⁹ And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. ¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

PRINCIPLE 1: WE REAP ONLY WHAT WE SOW.

PRINCIPLE 2: WE REAP IN THE SAME KIND AS WE SOW.

PRINCIPLE 3: WE REAP IN A DIFFERENT SEASON THAN WE SOW.

PRINCIPLE 4: WE REAP MORE THAN WE SOW.

PRINCIPLE 5: WE REAP IN PROPORTION TO WHAT WE SOW.

PRINCIPLE 6: WE REAP THE FULL HARVEST OF THE GOOD ONLY IF WE PERSEVERE. THE EVIL COMES TO HARVEST ON ITS OWN.

PRINCIPLE 7: WE CANNOT DO ANYTHING ABOUT LAST YEAR'S HARVEST, BUT WE CAN ABOUT THIS YEARS HARVEST.

What we know is that the law of sowing and reaping was initiated before Adam and Eve were even created. [Genesis 1:11-12](#) states what God did on the third day of creation. He created seed to be sown.

Ge 1:11 (NKJV) Then 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. ¹² And 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.

So, this whole concept of sowing and reaping is a law that is clearly seen in the natural world, as well as in the spiritual world. It is an axiom of life that men, lost or saved, always reap what they sow, good or bad. I want to make a very general observation that I believe impacts how many people view and understand this verse. It is almost as if people seem to think that this is a kind of spiritual threat when it states that God is not mocked and we will reap whatever we sow. They think that if you try and get away with something that you should not be doing that God is going to kind of “get you”. He is going to do whatever is necessary to make sure that you get busted. However, I personally do not believe that is the case at all. I do not believe that God operates that way or thinks that way. If God operated that way, then in all likelihood, we would all probably be dead by now. We have examples in the Old Testament that God warned Israel that if they chose to forsake Him and to pursue the worship of idols that the law of sowing and reaping would be suspended as far as His blessings were concerned and in that reality that their crops would fail. He did discipline Israel and Judah and maybe some of this kind of thinking comes from verses like the following. Speaking to Judah, [Jeremiah 12:13](#) says,

Jer 12:13 (NKJV) They have sown wheat but reaped thorns; They have put themselves to pain *but* do not profit. *but* be ashamed of your harvest because of the fierce anger of the LORD."

Micah 6:15 says,

Mic 6:15 (NKJV) "You shall sow, but not reap; You shall tread the olives, but not anoint yourselves with oil; and *make* sweet wine, but not drink wine.

However, what I believe to be the proper New Testament view of **Galatians 6** is that God has simply instituted a principle and a law that works in all areas of His creation. It operates all the time, just as gravity operates all the time. It operates when we are good and it operates when we are not good. It is simply a spiritual law, or the way that God has designed life to operate and we do not have the power to change that spiritual reality. So, God does not have some kind of big stick that He is going to hit us up beside the head with, but He is not going to always be supernaturally intervening to change the results of our decisions, and especially our bad decisions and choices.

Now, having stated all of that, we want to begin by looking at Principle 3 which is that we reap in a different season than we sow. It should be obvious that all of the teaching on this subject is directly related to what happens in agriculture. What a farmer sows in their fields is what they will later reap in the harvest. What a person sows in their life, they will eventually reap in their life. What is important about these seven principles is simply the fact that they are the way that God has designed life to function. They are what we have defined as spiritual laws, and because God has eternally established the laws of sowing and reaping, we will not be able to just casually circumvent them. I have often heard it stated that people seem to think that they can sow bad seeds all week long and then on Sunday pray for a crop failure. It simply does not work that way, nor will it ever work that way. As was mentioned in the last study under Principle 2, if we really want to see some significant changes in our personal lives, then it becomes imperative that we sow some different seeds. It is the old adage that if we always do what we have always done, then we will always get what we have always got. So, because of that, it is imperative that we sow different things in our life. I cannot keep doing what I have always done and hope that somehow I am going to get different results. That is actually the definition of insanity – doing what I have always done, but expecting different results.

From a very positive view point, this particular aspect of sowing and reaping is one that requires some level of patience on the one who is doing the sowing. Nothing good grows overnight – nothing. So, the farmer had to be patient if he was going to be able to see the results of his labors. There are no automatic or instant results in agriculture, and generally when we sow good things, there are no automatic or instant spiritual results, so the believer has to exercise a high degree of patience in the same way that the farmer has to wait for what he has planted to produce a good crop. For instance, **James 5:7** states it this way,

Jas 5:7 (NKJV) Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See *how* the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.

It should be evident that much of what is taking place in people's lives today is very often a harvest of that they sowed previously in their life. Because they did not appreciate this principle that they reap later than when they sowed, they may now be experiencing some level of disappointment. If we are ever going to reap a harvest of really good things in our life, then it is imperative that we develop the faith and patience to wait for that harvest to mature and materialize in our life. When we sow to the Spirit,

when we sow good things in our life, it is incredibly rare that we immediately reap what we have sown. That may happen, but it is not normative and happens very seldom.

I am personally convinced that the real problem and issue with any of the seven principles of sowing and reaping is that we seem to think that it is the rather big decisions we make that impact us the most, but I am not sure that is really the case. Most of our sowing is in the small decisions that we make every day that often times do not seem that important to us. The problem is that there is an accumulation effect. Our small choices, which are actually the ones that matter the most, accumulate over time and the harvest that we may reap from those very small choices made over a long period of time will generally produce much greater harvests LATER. These kind of choices that we reap later generally show up in our character and integrity, as well as in our relationships with the people who surround us.¹ For instance, Paul states in [Romans 6:19](#) that righteousness, or our conduct, leads to holiness.

Ro 6:19 (NKJV) I speak in human *terms* because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members *as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.*

Stated another way, if we really want to have a strong measure of holiness in our life, then we have to appreciate that that kind of character is developed one choice at a time. What most people seem to think is that our choices come from our character (and I am sure that is a credible position). However, the opposite is just as true that our character also comes from our choices simply because over time our choices bend and mold our character in a particular direction.² Our choices create what we could call a kind of “propensity” to do something – either good or bad. For instance, if we choose to lie, we will become a liar, but if we choose to always tell the truth, we will become an honest person. If we choose to be patient, then over time we will become a patient person. You cannot learn to be patient without being subjected to those moments when you want to be impatient. As [James 1:4](#) says,

Jas 1:4 (NKJV) But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

This verse is just another aspect of the principle that we reap what we sow later. I have to let patience develop in my life with small decisions not to be impatient with people when maybe I really want to be impatient with them. The way it was stated earlier is that if I want different results than I am getting in my life, then I have to plant different seeds, and then be patient in waiting for them to bear fruit. When I think about this subject, I understand that God does not change us in one big act, in one large moment in our life. He changes us by providing grace for us to respond to His Spirit and His Word day by day. We grow in grace, we grow in holiness, we grow in patience, we grow in love, we grow in wisdom. The attribute of obedience is not seen in a person’s life by just looking at one day of their life, but by looking at their life. Everytime that they are obedient to Christ, all they are doing is planting a seed that will later come to harvest. Everytime that they are disobedient to Christ, all they are doing is planting a seed that will later come to harvest.

¹ Snapp, ep.

² Snapp, ep.

One of the great aspects of this reality is that even if we do fail in some area of our life that we do not need to just wallow in condemnation about that failure or to be paralyzed by guilt over our failure. We have an Advocate who is interceding for us, and what He desires that we do is to simply plant some good seeds in our life knowing that “...in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.” ([Galatians 6:9](#)). Even when I fail, I can still reap some good things if I am willing to confess my sin and receive the cleansing and forgiveness that Christ offers to every one of us.

What this principle that “we reap in a different season than we sow” actually teaches us is that there is always an interval and a delay between the sowing and the reaping. There is a gap in time between what I sow and what I reap. My flesh is always prompting me to sow to the flesh – to say what I want to say, to react how I want to react, to ignore what I know I should be doing, and to simply do what I want to do. In those temptations, the flesh is always offering some kind of immediate gratification, and it is always promising us that there will not be any negative results. Nothing could be any further from the truth. However, the positive side of this principle never offers us immediate gratification for doing what is right. In fact, making the right choice may be difficult for us at times simply because of the pull of our flesh for instant gratification. I am always somewhat amazed at those believers who have some very unpleasant and unbecoming propensities in their life. We can call them a simple negligence of their Christian life, personality quirks, or temperament peculiarities that are not in alignment with what they know to be God’s perfect will for their life. I am personally convinced that by the grace of God that I can both change and overcome any negative quality that I may have in my life, but I have to plant the right spiritual seeds and I have to be patient to allow those seeds to take root and grow in my life. I cannot become discouraged with the process that change requires. What I should know is that if I sow the right choices in my life that eventually I will achieve the right results. That is exactly why Paul said this in [Galatians 6:9](#),

Gal 6:9 (NKJV) And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

Losing heart and growing impatient will not develop the harvest that I may be looking for in my life. There is always a delay between what I may want and when I can actually receive it, so I must guard against becoming discouraged with the process. I have to understand that the laws of sowing and reaping do not guarantee any kind of instantaneous results, nor should they. Here is what we know – there is a delay, but I will reap in due season, at the appropriate time. Let us just assume that you are someone who knows that you have sown some bad seeds in your life. You have made some terrible decisions, made some awful choices, and you are afraid of the consequences. Well, I have no magic spiritual wand to wave to make any of the results of those bad decisions go away, but what we do have to offer is hope. Just the gospel message alone is the greatest single hope that anyone can have for sowing seeds in their life that they now regret. The Scriptures and the promises of God and the grace of God frees us for living a life of regret. The sovereignty of God is a balm for my soul when I do fail and when I sow the wrong seeds and the harvest of those bad choices begin to develop in my life. [Joel 2:25](#) has this great verse that says,

Joel 2:25 (NKJV) "So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the crawling locust, the consuming locust, and the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you.

Our God is a great restorer who is able to navigate our lives through our failures and give us amazing hope in our lives – even when we have made wrong choices, and for that I am eternally grateful.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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