

*Principles
Of
Biblical Stewardship*

*Can God Trust Me With More
Part V*

Last Week....

Everything Belongs To God

Tithing Involves THANKSGIVING

Tithing Involves TESTING

Tithing Involves TRUSTING

Don't View Giving As An Obligation, but An Opportunity

Attitude Is More Important Than The Amount

Just Because Jesus Didn't Mention Tithing... Doesn't Mean He Does Not Monitor It

Over the Past Few Weeks, We Have Examined...

✓ *Treasure Is Connected To Your HEART*

✓ *Riches Can Lead Us Astray*

✓ *Everything We Have Belongs To God*

✓ *Attitude is More Important Than Amount*

Sowing And Reaping Is A Permanent Principle

Understand The Benefits of Good Stewardship

Return Is Greater Than Your Investment

Expect God To Fulfill His Promises

Principle #5

Sowing and Reaping Is A Permanent Principle

Genesis 8:22 (NIV)

22 "As long as the earth endures, SEEDTIME AND HARVEST, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, WILL NEVER CEASE."

Galatians 6:7-9 (NIV)

7 DO NOT BE DECEIVED: God cannot be mocked. A MAN REAPS WHAT HE SOWS 8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. 9 Let us not become weary in doing good, FOR AT THE PROPER TIME WE WILL REAP A HARVEST if we do not give up.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 (NIV)

6 Remember this: WHOEVER SOWS SPARINGLY WILL ALSO REAP SPARINGLY, and WHOEVER SOWS GENEROUSLY WILL ALSO REAP GENEROUSLY. 7 Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, YOU WILL ABOUND IN EVERY GOOD WORK.

Sowing And Reaping Is A Permanent Principle

Introduction

Throughout scripture, **SOWING** is used as a metaphor for **ONE'S ACTIONS** and **REAPING FOR THE RESULTS OF SUCH ACTIONS**. Sowing and Reaping are essentially about **BLESSINGS** and **CONSEQUENCES**.
YOU WILL ONLY GET OUT WHAT YOU PUT IN.

Life is filled with CHOICES, choices that affect us on a DAILY BASIS...

Our choices AFFECT US AND OTHERS in dramatic ways whether we see it IMMEDIATELY or not. LIFE IS ABOUT SOWING AND REAPING. It is about SEEDS. What kind of SEEDS ARE YOU SOWING? Your life is like a field, or a garden, and every day you are sowing seeds in that field, whether or not you realize it.

God has established A BIBLICAL LAW OF SOWING AND REAPING that is explained for us throughout Scripture.

Often this LAW is ONLY applied to money... "Sow Your SEED MENTALITY"

However, these principles apply to nearly EVERY AREA OF LIFE IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

From the very beginning, God shows the VALUE OF SEED AND FRUIT BEARING

Genesis 1:11 (NLT)

11 Then God said, "Let the land sprout with vegetation—every sort of seed-bearing plant, and trees that grow seed-bearing fruit. These seeds will then produce the kinds of plants and trees from which they came."

Jesus understood the importance of sowing and reaping...Therefore many of his parables involved this principle.

Principle #5

Sowing And Reaping Is A Permanent Principle

Introduction

The World Understands This LAW... But They Label it “KARMA”

While it sounds like the phrase, “What goes around comes around,” it is not KARMA. Karma’s origins are in the Buddhist and Hindu traditions. It is believed the sum of a person’s actions, IN THIS LIFE, decides the fate of their future. This is not the concept of sowing and reaping.

The Danger of This Connection

The World Does Not Understand DIVINE PROVIDENCE ~ Don’t Always Assume The Harvest

Sometimes, what LOOKS LIKE A HARVEST is not one. When Job was suffering, his friends considered the trouble as a JUST PUNISHMENT FROM GOD for some secret sin. Job’s friend Eliphaz said: “As I have observed, those who plow evil and those who sow trouble reap it” (Job 4:8). But Eliphaz was wrong.

Job was not reaping what he had sown. The HARVEST HAD NOT COME YET—and it would not come until the end of the book. Experiencing negative circumstances does not necessarily mean we have sown negative things. The principle of Sowing and Reaping is generally true, but not always in every situation ~ THE WAY WE EXPECT.

Example ~ The Disciples in John 9 ~ Who Sinned?

Job 42:10 (NKJV)

*10 And the LORD restored Job's losses when he prayed for his friends.
Indeed the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.*

Law #1 ~ You Will Reap ONLY WHAT YOU SOW

Galatians 6:7 (NIV)

7 DO NOT BE DECEIVED: God cannot be mocked. A MAN REAPS WHAT HE SOWS...

We must understand, no man will mock God by changing these LAWS OF THE HARVEST.

Too many BELIEVERS are sowing wild oats throughout the week and then going to church on Sunday and praying and expecting a “plentiful and prosperous crop.” They hope their life-style won’t catch up with them, but of course, it ALWAYS DOES. This verse reminds us that God will not be mocked by man.

No man can turn up his nose at God’s laws and get away with it.

SOONER OR LATER our CHOICES WILL RETURN to us. WISE BELIEVERS will take heed to their own lives and take steps to ensure they LIVE ACCORDING TO THIS PRINCIPLE. Let no one entertain the idea that he or she is THE EXCEPTION TO THE RULE. God searches the heart and knows every circumstance, and HIS DECREE that THE HARVEST WILL MATCH THE PLANTING WILL NOT BE SET ASIDE.

Don’t miss the key point. You can’t sow to the flesh all day long and then complain when you reap a harvest of corruption in your life. WHAT DID YOU EXPECT? Did you think you could be angry and bitter and grouchy and irritable and bossy and rude and quick-tempered and confrontational and then cancel it all with A QUICK PRAYER asking for God’s blessing? IT DOESN’T WORK THAT WAY.

Don’t Fool Yourself!!!!

What Did You Put In The Ground....

Law #1 ~ You Will Reap ONLY WHAT YOU SOW

Galatians 6:8 (NASB)

8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

Picture an estate with two large fields. One is labeled FLESH, the other is labeled SPIRIT. Every day we have hundreds of chances to sow in one field or the other. In fact, I think everything we do is either sowing to the flesh or sowing to the Spirit. There is no third alternative. Every word we speak, every step we take, every conversation, even the smallest decision leads us in one direction or the other....

When we are selfish, proud, unjust, sinful, and trusting in our own ability or worth to save us, we are “sowing to the flesh,” and destruction awaits. You can pretend and lie about your seed, but THE HARVEST WILL TELL THE STORY...

Galatians 5:19-21 (NASB)

*19 Now THE DEEDS OF THE FLESH ARE EVIDENT, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality,
20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,
21 envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these....*

But when we are selfless, generous, kind, and depending on God’s provision and salvation, we are “sowing to the Spirit” and will reap eternal life.

Galatians 5:22-23 (NASB)

*22 But the FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

I Don’t Need To Judge You...Just Examine The Fruit

Law #1 ~You Will Reap ONLYWHAT YOU SOW

God Gives Consistent Warnings To Monitor What We Sow

Proverbs 22:8 (NLT)

8 Those who plant injustice will harvest disaster, and their reign of terror will come to an end.

Jeremiah 12:13 (NLT)

13 My people have planted wheat but are harvesting thorns. They have worn themselves out, but it has done them no good. They will harvest a crop of shame because of the fierce anger of the LORD.”

Hosea 8:7 (NLT)

7 “They have planted the wind and will harvest the whirlwind. The stalks of grain wither and produce nothing to eat. And even if there is any grain, foreigners will eat it.

Hosea 10:13 (NIV)

13 But you have planted wickedness, you have reaped evil, you have eaten the fruit of deception. Because you have depended on your own strength and on your many warriors...

Proverbs 1:31 (NIV)

31 they will eat the fruit of their ways and be filled with the fruit of their schemes.

Proverbs 11:18 (NKJV)

18 The wicked man does deceptive work, But he who sows righteousness will have a SURE REWARD.

Law #2 ~ You Will Reap ONLY AFTER YOU SOW

Galatians 6:7 (NIV)

7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows...

REAPING ALWAYS FOLLOWS SOWING....

What we sow, we reap, but the thing that is SO DECEPTIVE is that WE REAP IN A DIFFERENT SEASON.

Ecclesiastes 3:2A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted;

The harvest never comes immediately after planting..

There are SEASONS TO LIFE and THE HARVEST NEVER COMES IMMEDIATELY.

Plants don't grow overnight. Athletes don't become strong or proficient in a week. Children aren't born overnight.

Wisdom isn't gained overnight....There may be a significant lapse of time between the sowing and reaping.

Because we do not see THE IMMEDIATE RESULTS, we often think we have gotten away with something or can,

BUT WE NEVER DO. Many of us are REAPING THE RESULTS of a choice/seed planted years ago...

We don't sit around and WAIT on the HARVEST... we faithfully continue to labor in the field...knowing that

IN DUE SEASON WE WILL REAP...

What If I Know I Will Have A Bad Harvest....

There Will Be Mercy and Grace Involved

*In other words, the principle that whatever a man sows that he also reaps teaches both **GOD'S JUSTICE AND HIS MERCY**. While there is the real spiritual principle at work that, if we sow bad things, we will reap bad things, **THERE IS ALSO MERCY**. Graciously, **WE DO NOT ALWAYS REAP WHAT WE SOW**. It is because of the mercy and compassion of God that we can have a home in heaven, despite our sin. We sowed iniquity and corruption, and Jesus reaped our punishment on the cross.*

God reserves the right to show mercy on whomever He will,

Romans 9:15

*15 For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy **on whomever I will have mercy**, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion."*

WARNING... Some think they are getting away with **PLANTING SEEDS OF SIN...**

*Don't make the mistake of thinking you can violate anything God says in His word and **NOT EVENTUALLY REAP THE CONSEQUENCES**. **GOD IS NOT BLESSING YOU IN YOUR SIN**—He might be blessing you **in spite of your sin** because He wants His continued goodness and blessing in your life **TO BRING YOU TO REPENTANCE**.*

*You can shoot an arrow into the sky and repent while it is in the air, but that won't stop the arrow from hitting the ground. **REPENTANCE PARDONS YOUR SIN** but **IT DOES NOT CANCEL ITS CONSEQUENCES**.*

2 Peter 3:9 (NLT)

9 The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.

God's Law of Sowing and Reaping Includes Unmatched Mercy and Grace.

Psalm 126:5-6 (NKJV)

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.

God can even **PRODUCE JOY** with our negative choices too....even terrible and tragic events.

Biblical Example

2 Samuel 12:7-14

7 The LORD, the God of Israel, says: I anointed you king of Israel and saved you from the power of Saul. 8 I gave you your master's house and his wives and the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. And if that had not been enough, I would have given you much, much more. 9 **Why, then, have you despised the word of the LORD and done this horrible deed? For you have murdered Uriah the Hittite with the sword of the Ammonites and stolen his wife.** 10 **From this time on, your family will live by the sword because you have despised me by taking Uriah's wife to be your own.** 11 "This is what the LORD says: Because of what you have done, I will cause your own household to rebel against you. I will give your wives to another man before your very eyes, and he will go to bed with them in public view. 12 **You did it secretly, but I will make this happen to you openly in the sight of all Israel.**"

13 **Then David confessed to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."**

Nathan replied, **"YES, BUT THE LORD HAS FORGIVEN YOU, AND YOU WON'T DIE FOR THIS SIN.** 14 **Nevertheless, because you have shown utter contempt for the LORD by doing this, YOUR CHILD WILL DIE."**

Principle #5

Law #3 ~You Will Reap MORE THAN YOU SOW

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (NKJV)

6 But this I say: *He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.* 7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

If you plant *one apple seed* you will get *an entire apple tree with many apples on it each containing many seeds.*

If you plant *one grain of wheat* you will get *a whole stalk containing many grains of wheat.*

In fact Jesus Himself said in John 12:24—

“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, **IT PRODUCES MUCH GRAIN.**”

Jesus here is using a farming metaphor to teach a spiritual truth—that if we live our lives for ourselves we will not produce any fruit for the Kingdom; but if we **die to self and live for God we will produce much fruit for the**

Kingdom. *One small deed can be a blessing for a LIFETIME...*

The size of the seed does not determine the size of the harvest.

Biblical Example

The little boy who gave his ‘sack lunch’ of 5 barley loaves and 2 small fish to Jesus who then multiplied it and fed over 5,000 men, women and children... And Had Leftovers!!!

The One Who Reaps Is Not Always The Same One Who Sows...

We Are The Beneficiaries of Generational Sowers...

Principle #5

Sowing and Reaping Is A Permanent Principle

Essentially it comes down to this...

Sow a thought, *Reap* an act;

Sow an act, *Reap* a habit;

Sow a habit, *Reap* a character;

Sow a character, *Reap* a destiny.

Remember These Key Principles/Laws of Sowing and Reaping...

*You Will Reap **ONLY WHAT YOU SOW***

*You Will Reap **ONLY AFTER YOU SOW***

*You Will Reap **MORE THAN YOU SOW***



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