

Sowing and reaping 2

Galatians 6:6-10

6. 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 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 in doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not loose heart.
10. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

What you sow is what you reap.

1. Modern Day Sowing and Reaping

Sowing and reaping could be interpreted in modern terminology - Investment and return.

Sowing = investment
Reaping = profit.

Around the world today we often here the term investment. People invest in all sorts of business ventures, pleasure activities, entertainment, housing, and even the environment. I believe wants the church of the 21st century to gain a bigger picture of our world we live in. In this year of fruitfulness I believe that God wants to open our eyes to see greater possibilities in our world. Investment needs to be spoken about in the church. We need to understand biblical principles of investment and return.

Some people may get frightened by talking about such things in the church but we should never loose sight that our God invented investment.

Margaret Wilson.

Investing is done everyday in lots of different ways. Every time we come to church, give an offering, bring a tithe, give to the building fund we are investing in the present and future of the local church. Our investments will pay dividends. What you sow you will reap. Over the last couple of years we have made some significant changes to our church both internally and externally. As people have given towards these changes they have invested into the life of the church. Today they can reap the benefits of having a nice foyer and comfortable lounges.

Giving in church is sowing into an eternal kingdom. It is making a secure investment in a kingdom that has no end. That wins. Something many business investors would love to know before they invest. Guaranteed success. How good is our investment. Your returns, your reaping is guaranteed in God. God has promised so much. It's the year of fruitfulness. Your returns will come to you this year.

2. Sowing and reaping is personal.

It's individual. It concerns a person and his or her passion.

People have different calls that may require different levels or types of sowing/investment. Your place of sowing may be different to mine. It's individual. **It's is based on the calling** of the person involved. Let me explain. Some people today have tremendous ability to preach the word. They are not necessarily called to make millions of dollars. Others are called to be kings in this world. They are there to make money so that the word of God can continue to be preached with greater effectiveness. But there exists a third group - A new group who have the ability to preach and to make money. The bible has terminology for these groups of people.

1. Ministers = Elijah's/Priests
2. Kings = Business people
3. Ministers and Kings = Elisha (a double portion)

I believe today that we have an increasing group of people who can do **both or have influence in both sectors**. God has made us both kings and priests. Revelations 1:6

No Limitations

People of one ilk can easily limit people of another ilk through control or perception.

The Pharisees always put limitations on people. Jesus called them hypocrites. They would place heavy burdens around people's lives. Matthew 23:2-4 These burdens in themselves would be to do with the law. In others words what was not allowed. One person who tries to say that this is the only way for you to sow, limits what God will do in any given situation.

There are various places that God wants us to sow into

- a. the local church
- b. your family
- c. your future financial situation

Neglecting the future is like buying a ticket to the Titanic when you know its future. God wants us to build financial security so that we can build the kingdom of God.

3. Everyone sows and reaps.

This may seem obvious but it is a truth. Everyone sows or invests every day of there lives. People invest the money, time or efforts into different things every day. Since every one sows or invests some further truths can be seen.

- a. Where you invest is where you get a return.

Investing in the kingdom of God will bring a return on your life. Malachi chapter talks about tithing. Most church giving research says that less than 10% of people tithe. It is little wonder why we have churches dying, pastors leaving the ministry and people church hopping. If you want to get something you got to sow something. You can't expect to continually get something if you are willing to sow or invest in the local church. I thank God that we have within this church a good portion of givers.

3. Its active not passive.

Faith is all about action and passion. We believe and act on that belief. Something happens. Things change. Things happen. The truth doesn't change. What you sow is what you reap.

Sometimes life causes a crop to be lost by a farmer. Does that mean he stops sowing and reaping. No. He continues to sow and reap regardless of the past. The past mistakes should never stop us from sowing and reaping.

One of the biggest areas that people fail to see is that we need others around us who challenge us and build us up. **WE need advisors in our lives.** We need people who are willing to help us with the areas of our sowing and reaping.

Within life some people feel that they will get it right by themselves. But God has placed people in our lives so that we can have counselors who have the wisdom and desire to help us. We need to listen to those people. God has placed people in your lives and you have put yourself under someone's leadership. Those people are there not to rubber stamp your desires or dreams. They aren't there to just agree with your plans for the future. They are there to help you make wiser decisions.

Making Major decisions re any of the following you need to get advice.

- ◆ Geographical moves
- ◆ Financial investments
- ◆ House purchases
- ◆ Relationship choices/breakups

It is rather foolish to make any decisions without other people in your life.

Another area when sowing and reaping can have adverse consequences is when change has just occurred in your life.

E.g.

- ◆ Major grief events
- ◆ End of season events e.g. end of school, contract at work has just finished.

God wants us to seek out people who can help us with our decisions. Proverbs says in the multitude of counselors there is wisdom.

Investing and getting returns is part of life. Lets make wise steps and seek out the help that God has placed in the world for us to use.

How do you know what is the best way for you to sow and reap in your life.

Story of Zacchaeus – Luke 19:1-10

- a) Ask others
- b) Do some homework.

Zach heard that Jesus was passing by and climbed a tree so he could see what all the fuss was about. He positioned himself to reap from his actions. When we

do things in life we need to learn to position ourselves to take advantage of any situation.

How did Zach know about Jesus. He obviously heard about him. If you want to know about opportunities or situations you need to surround yourself or come in contact with people who know such things. We ignore these people at our own peril.

c) Find someone who is successful and spend some time with them.

The effects of spending time with Jesus are amazing. But he did not make the decision to pay back to people. He did not make the decision to invest back into people's lives without first getting to know Jesus. The same principle applies to our walk concerning sowing and reaping.

Jesus comes along and asks Zach to get down because he wants to spend time at his house. This is great, and shows God's heart to reach out into people's lives and change them. Another principle exists. Ask and you shall receive. If you want help, don't expect people to know what's happening or someone to come into your world and be the savior. God wants us to ask for help. Something I just love about the CCC movement of churches is there constant encouragement to ask for help and communicate.

During the week I received an email from a pastor in CCC encouraging me concerning the church. I then sent a thank you back to him and asked him if he and his wife would be interested in coming to the church and speak. He said yes. WE JUST NEED TO ASK.

d) Start small build big.

You can't have it all now, so don't try or even dream about it. God always takes what we invest and multiplies it. He is the God of Multiplication.

e) Use what you have.

Zach was a small man and he couldn't see so climbed a tree. He did not let the world dictate to him how things should be done for him. He found a way to see.

The same goes for sowing and reaping. We ask, spend time and **get help to find a way to sow.**

f) The way we start is not the way we finish.

Its not the starting point that is the problem it's the finishing point. Many people get confused and wonder why things aren't changing. Most of the time they are wanting the finishing line in front of them when they have just started.

When Donald Trump went bankrupt after the Dot com crash of the early nineties, many people thought he would never rise again. But that is not always the case. God wants to build again.

Maybe in your life you have stepped out before and had it come all crashing down. Well let me inform you God is in the business of picking up the lost causes and

building again. He is in the business of just getting started. He wants to help you. He is ready to help you. To change your life so that you become what you are meant to be.