

You Reap What You Sow

It's a concept we have grown up with and know well, even if we don't fully understand it. *What we sow, we will reap*. This is true in the athletic world, where the focus is on physical achievements, and in the scholastic world when choosing an area of study. Additionally, those who sow anger should expect to reap what anger naturally produces. Those who sow bad things will reap bad things. **Job 4:8**: *"As I have observed, those who plow evil and those who sow trouble reap it."* Thankfully, God shows mercy, and we don't always reap what we sow. God reserves the right to show mercy to whomever He chooses. The world operates under the law of cause and effect. There is no way around it: every time we choose an action, we also choose its potential outcome or consequences. Paul tells us in **Galatians 6:7-8**: *"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a person sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will reap destruction from the flesh, but the one who sows to the Spirit will reap eternal life from the Spirit."* People fail to recognize that God has established absolute principles that operate in every area of life. While simple, they are profound; they are God-ordained and cannot be violated without the violator suffering a penalty. These overarching principles in God's Word govern the sustaining of His work in the world and are written into all of life, operating in every sphere of life: moral, physical, or spiritual, no matter what area we study. That principle inevitably yields a harvest to the sower based on what has been sown. If a farmer wants a good crop, he must sow good seed, and if he wants a large crop, he must sow many seeds. **2**

Corinthians 9:6: *"Now I say this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows generously will also reap generously."* So it is with Christian giving: it is not a matter of receiving back exactly what one has given, but of receiving far more than the proportion of the gift. Of course, the return is not so much in money as in spiritual blessings. When the Word of God is sown into our hearts at church, we reap spiritually, and we are to sow back into the life of the church. Yet it's common to hear: *"I can't afford to give"*; *"I need to be better off financially before I can give"*; *"I've got too many bills and not enough income."* The problem is that we can't get the harvest we hope for until we sow seed. It's a cycle. If you won't sow seed until you get a harvest, you end up in a stalemate with God and with yourself. So how do we change this? We break the cycle by beginning to sow. We also break Satan's lie that we are unable. This deception is common across Christian ministries. We may try to rationalize giving, but we deceive ourselves. Understand, we can't mock God, as cited in **Galatians** above. Faith in Jesus and the pursuit of godliness are "sowing to the Spirit." Sowing to the flesh means relying on ourselves and our ability to find our own way without God's help; it yields nothing but a dead end. But when we place our trust in Christ, we reap eternal life. So consider this: if we can take God at His Word for personal salvation and for personal help and protection, why not trust Him in His principle of sowing and reaping? The joy of investing in eternity awaits you.