



# **Lights and Perfection, Inc.**

**Go and make disciples!**

E-votional 101

## **Sowing to the Spirit**

Galatians 6:8 (ESV)

*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.*

You know, immediately upon reading this passage of Scripture it becomes clear of the comparison with it and that of common agriculture. You see the patient farmer plants a seed into the ground and at some point reaps a harvest. The sowing and the reaping never happen at the same time, hence the term patient farmer. It is an interesting thing how God constantly uses His creation to give us spiritual truth and practical application. This case is no different.

Here we have the Apostle Paul giving us examples. One is sowing to the flesh and the other is sowing to the Spirit. It is here that he lays out the idea that we have a choice. The choice is that we can either sow to the flesh or the Spirit. The other part of the example as mentioned with agriculture is the reaping. If one sows to the flesh they will inevitably reap corruption. And if the one chooses to sow to the Spirit they will reap everlasting life. Here the options are made clear to us. However, as we know already the sowing and the reaping do not happen at the same time nor do they happen anywhere near the same time. Hence again the term patient farmer. The term patient farmer or rather the idea is elsewhere noted in a way in James 5:7 (ESV),

*Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it until it receives the early and the late rains.*

I love the connection here of being patient until the coming of the Lord. We know that His coming will be like a thief in the night. In other words, we really do not know the day nor the hour. So the importance of patience can be found to be two-fold. On the one hand, we are patient because we just don't know when He will come. And also patient in context with Galatians 6:8 because sowing to

the flesh or the Spirit is not immediately recognized. This is true because of the time it takes for the sown seed to mature into whatever it will be. Nevertheless, we must be like patient farmers yes, but also farmers that sow the right seeds so that after patience pays off we will reap a good harvest.

I would like to add to this by moving to the next verse of Galatians 6:9 (ESV),

*And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.*

Ah yes, weariness. The need to be like a patient farmer while doing good or rather sowing to the Spirit is needful because there is a definite opportunity to grow weary. I firmly believe that weariness is a topic in and of itself. The reason being is that the weary sojourner in this journey will at some point want to divert from the path to take a less painful path. This can be directly illustrative and indicative of the one who through weariness begins to sow to the flesh rather than the Spirit. As we learned there will be a harvest of one or the other, either corruption or everlasting life. We may not immediately think or even realize that each decision we make in Christ has a consequence of sorts. Either we will sow to the flesh and sometime later reap corruption or we will sow to the Spirit and at sometime later reap everlasting life. Again brothers and sisters sometimes at the present it is not so clear or apparent because the harvest of such sowing is not immediate but rather takes time to come into fruition.

So it is with every godly or ungodly choice we make in this life. We may not see immediate results. And further, we may not understand the implications of what we are doing at the moment. However, the importance of not allowing weariness to choke the life of Christ out of us is ever-present due to the weakness of our flesh. Let's take a closer look at the flesh and the Spirit in Romans 8:1-8 (ESV)

*There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

So here it is, Jesus condemned sin in the flesh so that the flesh will always be sinful and thus dangerous to obey or sow into. And the Spirit of God Himself is righteous as He is righteous and is always the best option to sow into. I shared this passage of Scripture primarily to show the finer details of the flesh and the Spirit. It really comes down to the flesh being sinful and the Spirit being righteous. For this very reason, no one living to or sowing to the flesh can please God. And also the very reason why no one truly walking in or sowing to the Spirit can consistently and habitually walk in sin. If they did they would continually be sowing to the flesh which as we learned would cause a harvest of corruption. And further, since we are still in this weak and sinful flesh there will always be an opportunity to take the easy way out and sow to it rather than to the Spirit. Hence again why Paul said, '*do not grow weary while doing good.*' We must therefore be like the patient farmer brothers and sisters.

I will share something very honest with you, I have on many occasions been extremely tempted to sow to the flesh when the situations get dire and confusing (it happens a lot). I have also had to be reminded of this very fact when it seemed unpopular. There have been times recently when I wanted to quit or give up. Amid this moment of weakness and frustration and downright confusion, I had a choice to make. Do I give in to the flesh and sow to it or do I sow in faith to the Spirit? The answer is obvious and the one I chose was to continue on in faith sowing to the Spirit. Since doing this, I have not gleaned an immediate harvest of any kind. And further, at the time of writing this, I have yet to see the harvest of the good, but I also have been given just enough of God's all-sufficient grace to carry on in His love, peace, and joy. To God be the glory!

The child of God must rely on the supply of the Spirit to get through these trying times remembering that it may not seem apparent while we are sowing to the Spirit and doing good what will come of it. The same goes if we have moments of weakness and sow to the flesh, we may not immediately see the harvest of our bad choices but like the farmer who waits patiently and long for the harvest, it will come. For this very reason, we must be diligent and continue to sow to the Spirit in faith and patience

Brothers and sisters, we love you and pray that the fulness of God would invade your life equipping you with every good thing to do His will in your life and to accomplish the work that He has for you to do. Please, do not grow weary in your sowing to the Spirit, carry on in the faith, hope, and love that are in Christ Jesus. No matter how large or small the task He has for you, He is faithful and will keep you if you trust in Him and believe His promises. The Lord bless you all in Jesus name!

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