

TC Ministries

Equipping the Church for the Work of Ministry

Seedtime & Harvest ... Changing Your Future

What Christians Believe Series

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The divine law of
Seedtime and Harvest



How can I Guarantee
an Abundant Harvest?



What does it mean
to Sow your Best Seed?



Are you Seed-conscious
or Need-conscious?



If you want to know more
about this topic, or have any
questions about the Christian faith:

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CHANGING YOUR FUTURE

“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease” (Gen 8:22)

Four things in the earth will never change. They are immutable, unstoppable, irrefutable and will remain so as long as the earth remains:

- ◆ Seedtime and harvest
- ◆ Summer and winter
- ◆ Cold and heat
- ◆ Day and night

These laws, or spiritual principles, are embedded in our daily lives, impacting every area of our being.

We Control Only One Law

“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap” (Gal 6:7)

We only have control over the seedtime and harvest law from Gen 8:22. We cannot control the other three. Cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night are beyond our control.

Seedtime and harvest is the only thing we are given control over that can limit chaos and bring order into our lives.

Seedtime and harvest is in our hands because we can choose the seed we sow into our relationships, into our finances, into our careers, into our lives.

No one on earth can escape the principle of seedtime and harvest. We will see this law in operation as long as the earth remains. It impacts everybody, regardless of race, age, gender, IQ, attitude or belief system. While you are on this planet you are being affected by the laws governing seedtime and harvest.

Now, while many things change in this world, seedtime and harvest never changes. God has placed powerful spiritual principles at our disposal that allow us to have dramatic and far-reaching influence over the direction, quality and productivity of our lives on many levels, both natural and spiritual.

Understanding the principles behind **seedtime and harvest** will change our future. Why don't we see more of the kind of harvests we all desire? Why do we so often experience harvests of consequence that we don't expect, weren't believing for, and don't particularly want! One reason is that we sow, but we don't always sow our best seed!

“... I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the intent of man's heart is evil from his youth; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done” (Gen 8:21)

Let me suggest that according to this verse prior to Gen 8:22 and similar verses, at least to a certain degree, God removed the curse He had placed on the ground in Gen 3:17-19 and offered a solution for those who are able to catch and follow the principle of sowing seed according to the harvest they desire to reap.

Limiting Chaos

Order and form came because God created the heavens and the earth, creating Man in his own image and likeness (Gen 1:26-28), commanding him to be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and subdue it (or maintain dominion over it). This principle still applies today, especially as a believer in Christ. But to gain benefit from it we need to see it, understand it and believe it.

Sin brought chaos into the world. The law, or principle, of seedtime and harvest is God's way of providing us with the tools, post the fall, that we need to command our lives and subdue the earth. Wherever Man has understood and practiced this law positively it has produced amazing results.

God's desire, and Man's, is to maintain order and limit chaos. When left to his own ungodly devices Man slips easily into chaos and violence. Evidence of this can be seen everywhere, every day! The law of seedtime and harvest is given to us by God to enable us to subdue the earth, limit chaos and produce a harvest for the kingdom. It is a God-ordained principle that will remain as long as the earth remains, and which we will be subject to as long as we remain on this planet. When we leave this planet it no longer applies. Seedtime and harvest cease and only judgement and eternity remains. There is nothing to fear in this for the believer who is born again by the Spirit of God. We have a hope for the future that transcends this life and all its troubles.

Sow your Best Seed

What we sometimes fail to realise is that we will reap a harvest according to the kind of seed we sow. We cannot sow discord and expect harmony. We cannot sow anger and expect peace. We cannot sow meanness and expect generosity to spring forth. We cannot sow nothing and expect to reap something. In fact, if we sow nothing we actually are sowing something, and will reap accordingly.

"Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me! But you say, 'How have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you!" (Malachi 3:8-9)

Tithes and Offerings

I am reluctant to mention finances only because this law is about so much more than material possessions, but it is hard to escape the obvious. We are a poor people, and will remain a poor people, if we attempt to rob God and not expect to reap a correspondingly poor harvest in return.

Sowing financially into the kingdom, being generous and honest in all our dealings with others, being obedient to God and acting wisely in all matters financial means sowing your best seed. That means your first fruits, not your leftovers.

You will note in Malachi 3:8 that the curse God mentions is related to both **tithes** and **offerings**. A fact often overlooked and worthy of mention when dealing with a topic such as seedtime and harvest.

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows" (Mal 3:10)

If you want a good crop you need to sow your best seed. If you want 100-fold return sow your best seed. When you go to work or school tomorrow sow your best seed. "But my boss doesn't appreciate me" So what? Your boss isn't in charge of seedtime and harvest. He cannot stop it. It is immutable. The only ones in charge are you and God. It is between you and God. Sow your best seed! This principle will work for anyone who practices it. Sow your best seed!

If we look at our circumstances, if we wait for perfect conditions, we will never get anything done. *"When I get more money I'll give more". "When I get more time I'll commit more to my church, to my family"*. If you don't sow, you will not reap what you need.

Do Not Observe Winds Or Clouds

“Cast your bread on the surface of the waters, for you will find it after many days ... He who watches the wind will not sow and he who looks at the clouds will not reap ... Sow your seed in the morning, and do not be idle in the evening, for you do not know whether morning or evening sowing will succeed, or whether both of them alike will be good.” (Eccl 11:1-6)

We sow but we don't sow our best seed. We reap according to the kind of seed we sow. Remember, if you don't sow, you will not reap what you need. You will reap – but your return will often be a harvest of chaos.

Chaos is coming your way. Chaos is coming to your family, your finances, your job, your life. The only thing that stands between you and chaos is seedtime and harvest! Make no mistake. The law of seedtime and harvest is the only effective antidote to the chaos of this world and its system.

If you want to reap good health you need to sow good eating and sleep habits. If you want to reap a fit body you will have to sow exercise. If you want to live a long and healthy life, you'll need to plant the right seed.

Multiplication In Your Life

The only way to get multiplication in your life is seedtime and harvest. Farmers would be out of business if they didn't get multiplication from their seed sowing. They would also reap a poor harvest if they sowed sparingly, and deservedly so. To reap bountifully we must sow bountifully.

“The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly” (John 10:10)

How is this abundance achieved? Through seedtime and harvest! Sowing and reaping is both a natural and a spiritual law.

Most of us are very conscious when things are happening in our lives – both good and bad – because they tend to get our attention. But what we are not so conscious of are the principles which we may have applied yesterday, or last week, or last month, or last year, which have brought us to this place of receiving.

A farmer plants his seed in one season, and reaps his harvest in another. There are seasons of sowing and seasons of harvest. Sometimes they are specific seasons – at other times they overlap so that if we are constantly sowing good seed we will be constantly reaping a good harvest.

Consistently Sow Good Seed

For example, you may be sowing good seed in your life now regarding your confession, your giving of finances or gifts, your desire to help others or be encouraging. But you may be experiencing some bad things in the present because you have only recently begun sowing good seed, or you have mixed good seed with bad. At times like this you need encouragement to persevere, purify your good seed and keep sowing, because in due season you will receive that which was promised.

“For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised” (Hebrews 10:36)

However, the same principle applies in reverse. If we are constantly sowing bad seed – we will tend to reap a consistently disappointing harvest!

When this happens, both good and bad, it is important to understand that the reaping of today is connected to the sowing of yesterday, not necessarily to what you are doing now.

So, if you find yourself in a good season because at some stage you have been sowing the right seed and you are having a good time in God, but then you fall into sin or negativity, or become slack in your sowing, your good season may not last. You will reap a harvest of bad experiences sooner or later because your sin will eventually catch you out.

“But if you will not do so, behold, you have sinned against the Lord, and be sure your sin will find you out” (Numbers 32:23)

This principle applies equally well to our home life, our work, school or college, our personal walk with the Lord or any other area where it is possible to plant seed and have it watered.

Be open to the Holy Spirit and listen to what He has to say. He will speak to you about your circumstances, and assist you in finding the right seed to sow so that you might be an overcomer in this life and not one of society's many victims.

FEAR RESTRAINS US

“For I was afraid of you, because you are an exacting man; you take up what you did not lay down, and reap what you did not sow” (Luke 19:21)

Fear came into the human race when Adam sinned. Fear is the fruit of chaos. If you allow fear to access your heart, chaos will eventually be the fruit.

“For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind” (2 Timothy 1:7)

Franklin D. Roosevelt said, *“The only thing we have to fear is fear itself”*.

Many believe the best way to overcome fear is to face it. Here are some other famous sayings on the subject of fear and how it is best handled and overcome:

“Do what you fear and fear disappears” (David Joseph Schwartz)

***“Do the thing we fear, and the death of fear is certain”
(Ralph Waldo Emerson)***

“Do what you fear most, and you control fear” (Tom Hopkins)

“Fear is met and destroyed with courage” (James F. Bell)

All destructive and negative types of fear are learned fears, and can be unlearned through education, healing and by the application of the power of God's love.

“You were not given a spirit of fear (or timidity), but of love, power and sound thinking (or self-control)” (2 Tim 1:7)

Only two fears are brought with you into this world. These are the fear of falling, and the fear of loud noises. All other fears are learned and conditioned responses to what has been done and said to you throughout your life, especially when you were a child.

It is often said that faith is the answer to fear, because faith and fear are opposites, and to some this is true. The one who walks in faith, believes God and is an overcomer will know no fear!

Romans 10:17 declares, ***“Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of Christ.”*** It also says quite clearly in 1 John 4:18 that, ***“Perfect love casts out all fear”***.

Perfect Love

Let's have a closer at that last passage in context:

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love” (1 John 4:18)

Now, this puts a different spin on the idea that faith and fear are the exact opposites, because the Bible indicates that love and fear have a similar connection and are, in fact, more directly related and intimately tied together in the overall scheme of things.

Some fears, such as not to stand in front of traffic on a busy road, or not exposing yourself to disease or danger, are learned responses that are positive, and create positive results. But there are many more fears that are subtle, even subliminal, that affect everything we do on a day-to-day basis, and these are far from positive. They can lead to stagnation, denial, avoidance, or even invoke outright terror!

Fear of the dark, fear of heights, fear of open spaces, fear of enclosed spaces, fear of flying, fear of spiders, fear of death, fear of sickness – are all common fears we would be aware of. But what of fear of success? Fear of failure? Fear of authority? Fear of being ripped off? Fear of intimacy? Fear of being vulnerable?

These are real fears which motivate many people subconsciously and fill them with insecurities and reactions which interfere with normal relationships; causing physical, emotional and spiritual problems to be perpetuated and not resolved. This allows barriers to be built around our lives to protect us from perceived threats which are mostly imagined, and when not are expressed in over reaction, especially when the real threat is long gone and will not return.

Fear often causes us to actually experience the very thing we are fearful of. Like a magnet attracts metal, so some types of fear attract the very thing we are trying desperately to avoid. Just look at how Job fared:

“For what I fear comes upon me, and what I dread befalls me. I am not at ease, nor am I quiet, and I am not at rest, but turmoil comes” (Job 3:25-26)

John Powell said, “We are all the product of those who’ve decided to love us, and those who’ve decided to not love us”.

If you could sum up your life in terms of these concepts, you could probably quickly discover what you tend to fear.

We often look at Scripture and assume that the first sin in the Bible was Adam and Eve’s eating of the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, but in the Bible the first sin was fear.

Remember, when the serpent first came to Eve in the Garden, he challenged Eve on what God had said, and immediately she fell prey to a specific fear, which we would call today the “*fear of insignificance*”.

The serpent told Eve she would be like God if she ate the fruit, but would be insignificant if she didn’t, and we all know what she decided to do. She could have refused, trusted God’s Word, remained obedient, and the serpent would probably have been destroyed. But she chose to respond to an impartation of fear, and mankind has been paying for it ever since.

Eve then passed this fear on to Adam, and on the basis of this shared fear, they both decided to defy God’s instructions.

What is fear?

Some people believe the acronym, **F.E.A.R.** stands for **False Evidence Appearing Real**. This is very true in one sense. Fear can be described simply as:

“The feeling or thought that you are in danger”

The Oxford dictionary defines fear as: **“a painful emotion, a state of alarm”**.

Our responses to these feelings or thoughts, real or imagined, often govern our lives and place very real boundaries and limitations as to what we can become, or achieve, and what or who we allow to influence us, both positively and negatively. **By sowing seeds of fear** we reap corresponding harvests of consequence that are very undesirable, and not according to our desired intentions at all!

The sense of danger we feel can lead to irrational attitudes, excessive or repressed behaviour or foolish decisions that bind us up like we're in prison.

Fears are funny things. We almost go out of our way to confirm them at times.

“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God” (Phil 4:6)

This is why the innocence of children, who have minimal fear and a trust that is hard to replicate as we grow older, is so attractive to God. He says we are to have faith like little children in order to enter into the kingdom of heaven (Matt 18:3).

Fear destroys relationships. Fear destroys dreams. Fear destroys potential. Fear can even destroy your very faith in God. It certainly neutralises our ability to flow in the positive aspects associated with seedtime and harvest.

Fear can dominate our lives if we let it without us even realising it. However, this is a study on seedtime and harvest, so we will leave the topic of fear here by saying that it is important to know and understand the love God has for His children, and the security that is available by being integrated and committed to a good church.

If fear is a problem for you, it may take some time to be fully delivered of its effects on your life and your decision-making processes. God is patient, and will not finish with you until He has completed what He started when you became a child of God.

“For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus” (Philippians 1:6)

‘Seed-time’ or ‘Need-time’

If all you ever see is the need - you're never going to sow the seed!

Robert Schuller says that **“within every problem (or need) are the seeds of its own solution”**. We need to change our thinking from ‘need’ to ‘seed’ in order to limit chaos and increase godly order into our lives.

Train yourself to start looking for seed opportunities. There is seed in your life for your health, marriage, relationships and financial welfare. God promised He would always provide, that abundance is to be expected, and that a way of escape will always be found when it is needed.

“Now this I say, he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully” (2 Cor 9:6)

Quantity as well as quality

Not only does the quality of your seed affect the quality of your harvest, but the quantity of your seed will also determine the quantity of your harvest.

“Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

Everybody wants to reap bountifully. All it takes is a good attitude and faith in the immutable principle of seedtime and harvest.

We have to work at it!

Sometimes we don't get more out of seedtime and harvest because we don't work at it.

“Those who sow in tears shall reap with joyful shouting. He who goes to and fro weeping, carrying his bag of seed, shall indeed come again with a shout of joy, bringing his sheaves with him” (Psalm 126:5-6)

Nowhere in the Bible does it promise us a non-suffering, tribulation free life as believers. Sometimes it's tough to sow. Sometimes it costs us something. Sometimes it costs us everything. Sometimes we sow in tears, but the Bible promises that if we do it generously, bountifully, with a good heart and a good attitude, then we will reap with joy. It's a promise we can bank on!

Importantly, we cannot live successful lives constantly dependant on miracles, because miracles are too chancy. Some people don't want to practice seedtime and harvest, they just want to believe for a miracle. But God did not say that as long as the earth remains there would be miracles. I believe in miracles, and have experienced more than a few myself, but miracles do not come on demand. We have no covenant that says if we ask for a miracle we will get it. That's not a covenant promise. We don't even see this with the apostles. Miracles happened, and still do, but they are not necessarily reliable. By their nature they are sporadic. They are great to experience but you can't bet your life on one. You're just as likely to end up a martyr, which is probably not what you're looking to achieve.

Miracles are not mentioned in Genesis 8:22, so you can't always be depending on a miracle. I believe in miracles, but I watch people come into meetings sick and they leave sick. They come poor and they leave poor. They come with bad relationships, and they leave with bad relationships. The only thing you can rely on, and set your life by, is seedtime and harvest. It comes with a biblical guarantee!

It is so much more fulfilling being a giver, a seed-sower, than a needs-based receiver. If you practice the principles of seedtime and harvest, as taught here, throughout your life, that is what you will become!

An ounce of prevention is worth a truck load of altar calls and prayer lines, with all their potential for disappointment and frustration.

I can't promise you a miracle but I can promise that over time you can sow and reap your way out of debt. You can sow and reap your way to greater intimacy with God, with your significant other, with your children, with your friends, with yourself.

But you have to work at it! When your marriage is in trouble, you have to sow. When you struggle financially, you have to sow. When crisis and conflict surround you, you have to sow. If you are never appreciated at work, you'll still have to sow. When nothing makes sense and the walls are closing in around you, you still have to sow good seed around you. In your most critical time, sow your best seed, your very best seed, and you will reap the very best of harvests - guaranteed!