

## 8 Kingdom Principles Of Sowing And Reaping

Some events seem to be a way of life. For example, you never get a busy signal when you dial a wrong number. Children never seem to spill their food on dirty floors and the line at the grocery store is always the longest when you are in a hurry.

It seems that while waiting in line at the bank, the gas station, or the grocery store, the other line next to you moves faster. I (Rich) was in a local variety store in Portland, Oregon, by the name of Fred Meyer. While headed for the 10-items-or-less line, an entire family cut just in front of me. I was in a hurry, but waited until they all crowded into the line in front of me. Their cart was filled with grocery items. As I watched in surprise, the parents passed out the money and proceeded to divide up the cart between themselves and the kids!

### **The law of living is giving. If money is to be useful, it must be used.**

Additional laws might include: it always rains on the weekends, you seem to get sick on your day off, etc. Perhaps they could be called Murphy's Other Laws. Some of these laws you can live without knowing about. However, there are some laws you ignore at your own risk of potential destruction.

There are basic laws of nature. In regards to sowing and reaping, here are some things to consider.

### **1. The seed we plant is the same kind of seed we reap—seed of its kind.**

One phenomenon of God's creation is that the seed we plant is from the fruit which was harvested. We see this in life. Parents often see in their children the characteristics of themselves, both good and bad. Each of us must set good examples, for life is spent planting. You have no choice but to sow. When we sow financial seeds into God's kingdom, we benefit from the same.

### **2. We determine the size of the harvest at the time of planting (II Corinthians 9:6, 8,11).**

The farmer who plants hundreds or thousands of acres knows that, barring some natural disaster, he is going to reap more than he planted, but always in proportion to what he planted. One who is generous with his time, talents and resources is going to reap

generously. One who is generous with love, appreciation and mercy will reap in the proportion that he sows those things.

The man who gives beyond his tithe (the tithe belongs to the Lord) has just begun to give. The more one gives, the more one reaps. But don't just look for repayment in monetary measure. Good health is more important than money. A family serving the Lord is more important than dollars.

### **3. We will always have a harvest (Malachi 3:10; Galatians 6:9).**

When you sow, you will always reap! This law is as sure as the rising and going down of the sun. The success of this harvest is not determined by natural laws, but the success is governed by the Lord Himself. Should you sow your seed into your local place of worship from which you and your family receive much benefit? Of course! Will you reap the harvest? Certainly! You and your family reap a good harvest every time your local pastor preaches the Word and sows good seed into your lives.

### **4. You will usually reap later than you sow.**

In the American Midwest, farms are everywhere. You don't have to be around a farm too long to learn that both growth and decay take time. The same is true in our spiritual lives. Perhaps this is the reason Paul warned that we shouldn't be deceived. There's a caution in sowing to the flesh. Nothing seems to happen right away. Marriages do not collapse in an instant. People become deceived and don't realize what's happening until they are trapped.

While we receive much immediate benefit when we sow into our local church, it doesn't stop there. We continue to reap the harvest throughout our lives, because the seed continues to multiply.

### **5. We will always reap more than we planted (Matthew 13:8).**

When we plant a kernel of corn, we reap a stalk with several ears of corn on it. On the ears of corn are hundreds of kernels of corn. So it is with a blade of wheat. Only God could design such a wonder. The law of increased return is what makes farming a workable business enterprise. But sowing to the Spirit results in eternal life. The NIV

translates I Corinthians 2:9, “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him.”

## **6. There is a season for planting and a season for harvesting (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 2).**

Not all harvesting follows immediately. The time element is important. If the seed germinates before its proper time, a harvest can be lost. Many give as if there will not be a harvest. Some people think God has not noted what they are planting, simply because they have not experienced a harvest. But if we plant the seed, a harvest will come. For example, consider Proverbs 22:6 from the NIV: “Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.” The promise is, if we continue to plant the seed of godly training when the child is young, then in a different season of life the child will not forget their training. Thus, as parents or grandparents, we enjoy the harvest, even though it might be years later.

## **7. Seed can be sown secretly; however, the harvest is always viewed by many.**

We do not see all the work, sweat and tears that a person has expended to plant the seed. It may seem to those who were not involved in the labor that the seed was just planted yesterday. When we see the lives of people who are reaping a great harvest of blessing, we should remember that it sometimes took years of faithful cultivating and sowing to bring them to the place where they are today. The harvest they are now reaping, visible and apparent to all, required hours of sacrifice, pain, and toil when nobody else was watching.

## **8. We are responsible to sow and God is responsible for the harvest.**

We are laborers together with God. God does not produce failures; He is the Lord of the harvest. With these laws God has set in order, we need to sow seed that is going to bring fruit both now and for eternity. He is the Lord of the harvest. As we enter each new season, we must start by planting.