



The Principles of the Harvest

By Shannon Ford on March 14, 2022

TODAY'S READING: Galatians 6

In Galatians 6:6-10, Paul says our life is like the harvest. What we grow will depend on what we sow. This principle is true in all areas of life. Many commentators believe Paul seeks to apply these verses in a practical way to the use of money. Indeed, few things more clearly disclose the priorities of the heart than money. However, I believe that this section goes beyond the use of money. I believe Paul is telling the Galatians to pay close attention to what you do with your life because what you sow now will be what you reap later.

If you are a weekend gardener, then you are familiar with these two basic harvest laws. First, *we harvest the same kind as we plant*. Second, *we harvest in a different season than we plant*. Both principles are clearly seen in these verses. In verses 7-8, the first law is seen. If we sow to satisfy our old nature, we will become corrupt and be destroyed. If we sow to please the Spirit, we will grow in holiness and reap eternal life. In verses 9-10, Paul encourages the Galatians to *"not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap."* This is a clear illustration of the second harvest law – we harvest in a different season than we plant. There are four pieces of counsel that can be taken from these verses and applied in our lives today.

- *Let us share* (v. 6) – If you are being taught well and served well, then share generously.
- *Let us sow to the Spirit* (vv. 7-8) – Remember, the harvest is directly related to what is planted. There are no miracle crops.
- *Let us not lose heart* (v. 9) – If your weariness is the result of simply not seeing the benefits of your labors, stay faithful. If, on the other hand, your weariness is caused by over-activity, then seek balance.
- *Let us do good* (v. 10) – The crop may seem a long time growing, but every act in kindness is another seed sown.

We may see people who appear to be flourishing even though they are not following God. It can feel like their lives are mocking God. We should not be discouraged by this. God is aware of exactly what is going on. Reaping does not necessarily happen immediately after sowing. At the same time, our good works may not always show immediate results. God reminds us that all the good we do to glorify Him will result in a good harvest. What we do for God will not go unnoticed.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, let me only sow good seeds of kindness and compassion. Let me sow good seeds of the love I have received from You. Let me be able to live my life in a humble way as I wait patiently to see the harvest You produce within me and through me as Your child. In Jesus' name, amen.

TOMORROW'S READING: Acts 17

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