

Ten Laws of Sowing and Reaping

By Bill Scheidler

There are certain biblical laws of sowing and reaping that are explained for us in the Bible. Often these principles are applied to money (and they do indeed). However, these principles apply to nearly every area of life in the Kingdom of God.

The following are ten laws of sowing and reaping:

Law #1 – Sowing always precedes reaping.

He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap.
Ecclesiastes 11:10

If you worry about the weather and don't plant seeds, you won't harvest a crop. –CEV

The truth is we are all sowing something whether we realize it or not. Unfortunately, the negative things that we sow will produce a harvest just as much as the good things that we sow.

We are sowing into our minds, marriages, children, relationships, church life, work life, etc.

Note the following verses:

1. If we sow honest labor, we will reap increase (Pro. 13:11; 14:23; 21:25).

Wealth gained by dishonesty will be diminished, but he who gathers by labor will increase. Proverbs 13:11

The desires of lazy people will be their ruin, for their hands refuse to work. They are always greedy for more, while the godly love to give! Proverbs 21:25-26, NLT

2. If we sow in diligence, we will reap riches (Pro. 10:4-5; 12:24).

He who has a slack hand becomes poor, but the hand of the diligent makes rich. He who gathers in summer is a wise son; he who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame. Proverbs 10:4-5

3. If we sow righteousness, we will reap mercy (Hos. 10:12; Pro. 22:8).

Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap in mercy... Hosea 10:12a

4. If we sow to the Spirit, we will reap everlasting life (Gal. 6:7-8).

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

Law #2 – Sowing involves both faith and risk.

Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. John 12:24

When you sow seeds you have to give away what you could eat, bury perfectly good seed and believe that nature will do its magic.

Law #3 – Sowing is much more difficult than reaping.

Both sowing and reaping involve work, but in the case of reaping the worker sees the immediate reward of his labor.

Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy. He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him. Psalm 126:5-6

Law #4 – Sowing requires the patience of the one sowing.

Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. James 5:7-8

Reaping does not immediately follow sowing. In nature, if you sow rabbit seed, it takes about 31 days to reap a crop of rabbits. If you sow elephant seed, it takes about 22 months to reap a baby elephant. There may be a significant lapse of time between the sowing and the reaping.

Law #5 – Reaping is in direct proportion to the sowing.

The size of the harvest is always determined at the time of planting.

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. I Corinthians 9:6

Law #6 – The nature of the seed sown determines the nature of the harvest reaped.

And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. Genesis 1:12

There is a natural seed and a spiritual seed. If we sow to the flesh will reap corruption. If we sow to the Spirit we will reap eternal things (Gal. 6:7-9).

What does it mean to sow to the Spirit?

Sowing to the flesh is when we allow carnal desires to motivate us. Some financial sowing is done with carnal motivation (James 4, to consume). You do not sow into your marriage

so that you can get what you want, you do it because you want to honor God and it is the right thing to do.

Sowing to the Spirit means allowing the Spirit of God to have His way. Sowing to the Spirit means that we sow to produce kingdom fruit in all areas.

Someone said, “Most Christians sow their wild oats Monday through Saturday and on Su7day they pray for crop failure.”

Law #7 – You will always reap more than you sow—eventually.

They sow the wind, and reap the whirlwind. Hosea 8:7a

One corn seed produces a stalk which can produce from 2-10 ears of corn with anywhere from 500-1200 kernels depending on the type of corn. We could say (for certain types of corn) that one seed could potentially produce 10,000 new seeds. If all of those seeds were planted, it would potentially produce 100 million seeds in two generations.

Law #8 – Seed sown secretly will be seen openly at the time of reaping.

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Galatians 6:7-9

Jesus let the wheat and tares grow together until the time of the harvest when they would be manifest more clearly.

Eventually the sown seed will produce (Gal. 6:6-10).

Law #9 – We are responsible for the sowing, God is responsible for the increase.

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor. I Corinthians 3:6-8

Law #10 – The one who reaps is not always the same as the one who sows.

And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true: “One sows and another reaps.” I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors. John 4:36-38

You may not personally reap that which you planted in your lifetime. Sometimes your children will reap what you have sown. If you planted good seed, that seed will produce long after you are gone.