

REAP THE HARVEST

2 Corinthians 9:6-11

- **The Lord wants to bless His people physically, emotionally, relationally, vocationally, spiritually and financially.**
- **God has established our universe around certain natural, physical and spiritual laws that are designed to benefit us.**
- **The Lord has given "laws" about finances - about managing, saving and investing money - that will bring blessings to those who abide by them.**
- **The Law of the Harvest -** *"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."* (2 Corinthians 9:6 NIV)
- **The *Law of the Harvest* applies to the physical, emotional, relational, spiritual and financial areas of our lives.**
- ***What are the Principles behind the Law of the Harvest?***

The "Law Of The Harvest" Is Based On The Principle Of:

<u>ORIGINATION</u> - Everything Starts With A Seed

- *"Then God said, 'Let the land sprout with vegetation - every sort of seed-bearing plant, and trees that grow seed-bearing fruit. These seeds will then produce the kinds of plants and trees from which they came.' And that is what happened."* (Genesis 1:11)
- **Seeds have exponential potential.**
- *"Though what you start with will seem small and insignificant, you'll end up in the future with much."* (Job 8:7)

The "Law Of The Harvest" Is Based On The Principle Of:

<u>DISTRIBUTION</u> - Nothing Happens Until The Seed Is Planted

- **Seeds won't produce until they are planted.**
- **A lot of people are waiting for God to provide them with a new job or more income, but that's not going to happen until they're willing to "sow the seed of faith" in their living, serving and giving.**
- Jesus - *"Unless a grain of wheat is buried in the ground, it cannot reproduce. But if it dies it will produce much fruit."* (John 12:24)

- **Wherever we have a "need" we need to plant a "seed."**

The "Law Of The Harvest" Is Based On The Principle Of:

<u>REPRODUCTION</u> - Whatever We Sow Is What We Will Reap

- *"Then God said, 'Let the land sprout with vegetation - every sort of seed-bearing plant, and trees that grow seed-bearing fruit. These seeds will then produce the kinds of plants and trees from which they came.' And that is what happened."* (Genesis 1:11)
- **The planting of "seeds" can have a good or bad result depending on whether we plant positive or negative "seeds."**
- *"Do not deceive yourselves. No one makes a fool of God. You will reap exactly what you plant in life."* (Galatians 6:7)
- **The attitudes, ambitions and actions of our life are going to affect us and people around us as well as future generations.**

The "Law Of The Harvest" Is Based On The Principle Of:

<u>MATURATION</u> - We Reap In Different Seasons Than We Sow

- **Plants and People take time to grow and produce fruit.**
- **Fame can be instant but success is never instant.**
- *"There is a season, a time for every activity under heaven...A time to plant and a time to harvest."* (Ecclesiastes 3:1-2)
- **When we start following God's principles we won't reap great blessings right away, but those blessings will come in time as we stick to God's plan.**
- **We can be assured that while we are waiting, God is working.**
- *"The Lord is a faithful God. Blessed are those who wait for His help."* (Isaiah 30:18)

The "Law Of The Harvest" Is Based On The Principle Of:

<u>MULTIPLICATION</u> - We Always Reap More Than We Sow

- Jesus - *"Some seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, multiplying thirty, sixty and even a hundred times."* (Mark 4:8)
- **Whatever we do that's positive or negative will come back to us many times over.**
- *"God is the One who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, He will provide and increase your resources..."* (2 Corinthians 9:10)

The "Law Of The Harvest" Is Based On The Principle Of:

<u>PROPORTION</u> - We Grow Our Harvest By Planting More Seed

- *"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."* (2 Corinthians 9:6)
- **The Lord wants us to become joyful, cheerful and generous givers, so that He can bless us with more in our lives.**
- **What we give to the Lord - our time, energy, love, talents, money, etc. - He gives back to us many times over.**
- *"Give freely and become more wealthy; be stingy and lose everything. The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed."* (Proverbs 11:24-25)

The "Law Of The Harvest" Is Based On The Principle Of:

<u>DETERMINATION</u> - We Must Be Patient And Not Give Up

- Jesus - *"The Kingdom of God is like a farmer who scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, while he's asleep or awake, the seed sprouts and grows, but he does not understand how it happens. The earth produces the crops on its own. First a leaf blade pushes through, then the heads of wheat are formed, and finally the grain ripens. And as soon as the grain is ready, the farmer comes and harvests it with a sickle, for the harvest time has come."* (Mark 4:26-29)
- **Results from our sowing will come slowly but surely.**
- *"We must not become tired of doing good. We will reap a harvest at the right time if we do not give up."* (Galatians 6:9)
- *"God is the One who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, <u>He will provide and increase your resources</u> and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you."* (2 Corinthians 9:10)

- ***When should we start "planting seeds" through our serving, giving and witnessing?***
- *"Plant your seed in the morning and keep busy all afternoon, for you don't know if profit will come from one activity or another - or maybe both."* (Ecclesiastes 11:6)
- **The time to start "planting seeds" through our living, serving and giving is NOW.**
- *"Those who plant in tears will harvest with shouts of joy. They weep as they go out to plant their seed but they sing as they return with the harvest."* (Psalm 126:6)
- **The Lord wants to bless His people with a great "harvest" in many different ways - but to experience that "harvest" we've got to become generous "planters."**
- *"God loves a person who gives cheerfully. And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others...For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, He will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you. Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous."* (2 Corinthians 9:7-11)