

THE LAWS OF BIBLICAL PROSPERITY

(Chapter Eleven)

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Chapter Eleven – The Law of Sowing and Reaping

We have discussed in the previous lessons that the fullness of God's *prosperity* covers much more than just finances. Although finances are included, God wants Believers to enjoy victory in all areas of life: spirit, soul and body with “nothing missing and nothing broken.” The truth is the Bible is replete with *Laws of Conduct* that produce the fullness of God's prosperity whenever the proper actions are initiated. All we have to do is know the particular actions to initiate which requires that we learn about them in the Word of God.

One of the basic biblical principles that interact with prosperity is the *Law of Sowing and Reaping*. The Bible establishes seed time and harvest as both a fundamental and an eternal principle in God's Kingdom: “*The Kingdom of God is like a man who casts seed upon the soil... when the crop permits, he immediately puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.*” (Mark 4:26, 29); and, “*While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest...shall not cease*” (Genesis 8:22). Indeed, the entire Kingdom of God and everything that goes on within it is subject to the *Law of Sowing and Reaping* and there are numerous scriptures that talk about it. The Christian desiring biblical prosperity then must understand and practice Spirit-led sowing and reaping.

Understanding Sowing and Reaping

The basic idea is that in order to reap (harvest) something desirable for our lives, like biblical prosperity, we have to sow (plant) something (seeds) of value. Then, whatever we sow of value will be multiplied back to us many times over. A key point is to sow something that is important and valuable to us, or that causes us to make a sacrifice, in expectation of a harvest of greater value in the future. In other words, if we sow bountifully we will reap bountifully; conversely, if we sow sparingly (something of little value to us) we will reap sparingly (2 Corinthians 9:6).

Also, we will usually reap the same kind of crop we sow; for example, if we sow corn, we will eventually reap a multiplied quantity of corn. If we sow love we will reap greater love in return. In sum, if we sow something of value, we will reap something of greater value in like kind through a process of multiplication. Therefore, if we sow something into the Kingdom of God that is of value to us, we will reap biblical prosperity in greater value than what we sowed.

There are five key requirements that are necessary to produce the right conditions for biblically-based sowing and reaping:

- We need to have seed to plant. God provides seed to the sower (2 Corinthians 9:10) for the purpose of sowing. Therefore, after a crop is harvested we must be careful not to consume our future seed for sowing on ourselves. There will always be a future planting season and there will be no harvest if we are caught with no seed to sow.
- We need to sow our seed into the Kingdom of God instead of into the idea of receiving a harvest to consume on our own agenda. If our hearts are wrong the harvest will not come in the abundance God wants us to have. If we put the Kingdom of God first in our sowing, we will come to reap biblical prosperity (Matthew 6:33).
- We need to sow our seed into good ground in order to receive the harvest of prosperity we are hoping for. Accordingly, we need to consider our options and choose carefully. We need to consult with the Lord and find out where He wants us to sow our seed. If we sow into poor ground our harvest will be sparse but if we sow into the ground God directs us to, our harvest will be bountiful (Mark 4:13-20).

- We need to walk by the Spirit in faith believing that the seed we have sown will produce the harvest we are seeking (Romans 1:17 and Hebrews 11:6). Every time we sow seed, we need to attach our faith to it. We should speak out that we are expecting the seed to be multiplied back to us as God has promised in His Word and then believe that we have ownership over that multiplication before it actually manifests (Mark 11:23-24).
- We have to know how to reap the harvest which requires us to be familiar with the Word and recognize when the harvest season is at hand. Not only do we do the sowing of the seed, we are also responsible for performing the harvest; God performs the multiplication (Mark 4:26-29). Many Believers have a harvest all around them but don't realize it and are still standing around waiting for it to manifest. Each of us must be able to discern the harvest and then "put in the sickle" to bring in our own harvest.

Why God Requires Us to Sow

Sowing seed requires that we give up something of value that our flesh would prefer to consume for its own pleasure. This is why many Christians often find themselves without bountiful seed to sow; they have consumed it on themselves and there is nothing left to sow. The question is: why does God require us to give up something in order to receive the harvest that He has clearly stated He wants us to have?

This answer to this question is that as God's adopted children (Ephesians 1:5), we are all in a process of being conformed to the image of Jesus Christ (Romans 8:29). Accordingly, over time we will encounter numerous experiences in our lives that are designed to help us increasingly manifest His attributes. The very essence of God's nature is *giving* and *sowing*. He gave us life, He gave His Son, He gave us grace and mercy, He gave us an inheritance (Ephesians 1:11), He gave us deliverance from sickness, poverty and sorrow (Isaiah 53:4-5). And He sowed the very life of His only begotten Son in order to receive in return a harvest of souls for His Kingdom. Jesus sowed His own mortal life for the same reason. In the process He paid for sins that weren't His and that we should have had to pay for.

Therefore, it is required that we learn to sow what is valuable to us so we can come to resemble Christ. We are to be givers and sowers out of what is important and valuable to us. Not only are we to give, we are to give cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:7) from the seed God has provided. If we do not give from what He provides, or if we give insufficiently or grudgingly, we can expect a shortfall in the realization of biblical prosperity in our lives. As we grow in our giving and sowing we come closer to the image of Christ and then God increases prosperity in our lives so we can bless more and more people.

Sowing and giving also teaches us to love, to love God and to love one another so we can fulfill the commandments of Christ (Matthew 22:36-40).

Conclusions

When we talk about sowing and reaping most Christians automatically think about their money because it's their most valued possession. Certainly, one of God's purposes for money is that part of it be sown. But there are other kinds of sowing we must consider such as:

Sowing your time into companionship with the Lord
 Sowing your time in the Word
 Sowing your efforts and talents into people's lives
 Sowing the Word into other people
 Sowing love to those around you
 Sowing into the Gospel

Have you ever seen Christians who are trying their best to hang onto their possessions and valuables? Usually they're the ones who take offence when the Pastor gives a long offering message. What they don't realize is that they are cutting themselves off from the fullness of biblical prosperity. And anyway, they will probably come to lose what they are trying so hard to protect (Proverbs 11:24). The truth is we have to give in order to receive (Luke 6:38). When Jesus asked the Rich Young Ruler to sell all His property to the poor, he wasn't able to do it and missed an opportunity for a 100-fold harvest on what He had been asked to sell (Mark 10:17-30).

God wants cheerful givers who desire to look like Jesus. Therefore, we invite you to consider the following Law of biblical prosperity: ***in order to experience the manifestation of biblical prosperity, you must continually and cheerfully sow something of value into the Kingdom of God.***

Today is a good day to look for an opportunity to sow something into the Kingdom of God. The more often you sow, the easier it becomes, the more you look like Jesus and the greater becomes the manifestation of biblical prosperity in your life.

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BIBLE STUDY

Lesson Eleven – The Law of Sowing and Reaping

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2. The Law of Sowing and Reaping is both a _____ and an _____ principle in the Kingdom of God.
3. The basic idea is that in order to reap something desirable for our lives, we have to sow something of _____ into the Kingdom of God.
4. If we sow _____ we will reap bountifully; conversely, if we sow _____ we will reap sparingly.
5. The seed that we need to sow into the Kingdom of God is provided by _____ and we must be careful not to consume on ourselves what He has intended for sowing.
6. If we put the Kingdom of God _____ in our sowing, we will come to reap biblical prosperity.
7. Sowing into good ground means that we sow into the ground God _____ .
8. In order to experience biblical prosperity as a result of our sowing, we must attach _____ to it.
9. We have the responsibility of bringing in the _____.
10. God requires us to give up something of value in our sowing so that we come into _____ with the image of Christ.

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7. Sowing into good ground means that we sow into the ground God directs us to.
8. In order to experience biblical prosperity as a result of our sowing, we must attach faith to it.
9. We have the responsibility of bringing in the harvest.
10. God requires us to give up something of value in our sowing so that we come into conformance with the image of Christ.