

# Sow What?

**Big Idea: Like the saints of the past, we need to be “faith farmers”, sowing to the Spirit and trusting that God will reward us with a good and abundant harvest.**

As we continue our way through the Bible looking at the dominant themes of Scripture, you can't help but notice how beautifully they are interwoven into one seamless tapestry: the cross, God's family, faith, fruitfulness, multiplication, blessing, giving, and sainthood. Today, we will look at the life of Jacob once again to observe the fundamental principle behind all of those related themes: the law of sowing and reaping. Even people who don't yet base their lives on God's Word notice the truth of this principle. They may refer to it with other words, like cause and effect, reciprocity, or karma, but no matter what you call it, the fact remains: whatever you sow, that's what you'll reap!

## 1. You Reap What You Sow

*Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him (Hebrews 11:6). Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap (Galatians 6:7).*

The “whatever” here applies to the “what” and the “how much”.

**What** - Farmers know that if you plant hayseed you get hay, carrot seeds you get carrots, and apple seeds you get apple trees with lots of apples and more seeds for more trees for more apples... and so on. It's just too obvious to continue with the examples. Why then do we keep forgetting that there are consequences to our actions? When we do something nice for someone they often return the favor, but when we hit someone they hit back! If we want a particular harvest we need to sow the appropriate seeds.

**How Much** – The “whatever” also refers to the amount. *The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully (2 Corinthians 9:6).* This applies to the good and bad. With the bad, we do the crime we do the time – the degree of negative consequences usually correlates with the severity of the negative actions. Parents – you know what we're talking about. The same applies to doing good – it comes back in kind!

## 2. Sowing To The Flesh

*For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption. Galatians 6:8a*

Jacob learned this the hard way: his scheming and deceptive ways came right back at him. The best example among several was the sister switcheroo on his wedding night – funny to us yes, but to Jacob, not so much (Genesis 29:15-30)!

## 3. Sowing To The Spirit

*But the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. Galatians 6:8b*

Jacob did have his good moments: setting up Bethel as his special sanctuary with God (Genesis 28:10-22) and persistently pursuing a blessing from God that he could pass on to the next generations (Genesis 32:24-32).

## 4. The Harvest is Inevitable

*And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. Gal. 6:9,10*

As you read through the Hall of Faith again in Hebrews 11, notice that the acts of faith were done with an anticipation of reward. The reward may not have come in their lifetime but when you sow to the Spirit the results are often “out of this world”. So what will you sow today!