



You Reap What You Sow

Dear Friends,

September/October 2023

This year has certainly flown by! We have a little over 3 months left of this year before entering into 2024. As we enter into the autumn season and the Jewish New Year (Rosh Hashanah), we are reminded that it is also harvest time. Harvest time signifies the reaping of the fruits of all our labor throughout the year. This time of the year reminds us of the importance of seed, time and harvest (Gen. 8:22) and we want to thank you all for being a vital partner and faithfully planting your seeds here at JMM! Alexandra and I could never do this alone, but together we are spreading the Gospel on various platforms and reaching people all around the world. Dear loved ones, we don't take your partnership lightly in this Ministry and consider you all as family in Christ Jesus. As you already know, our Facebook Lives, television programs on INEDIT TV and our YouTube channel have been, and still continue to be, powerful tools to encourage the Romanian virtual church and reach nonbelievers with the Gospel of Jesus. Most importantly, hope is being ignited in the hearts of many through these different mass media outlets. We want to take a moment to say THANK YOU for your faithfulness and support!

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. Galatians 6:7-8 (NKJV)

We also want to include the NIV version so that you can see the simplification of what it means to sow and who it is that we are *pleasing*.

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Galatians 6:7-8 (NIV)

During harvest time, the **harvest** pertains to everything we sow spiritually, physically, emotionally, financially and in every single area of our lives. When we're talking about the Biblical law of sowing and reaping, we aren't just talking about money. Many Christians make the mistake of thinking it only has to do with money and consider it a "prosperity" teaching. That is not the case. Sadly, most believers don't take the time to study the importance of sowing and reaping. The Word says when we sow according to the Spirit, we will reap the blessings of the Spirit. What exactly is sowing according to (or to please) the Spirit? If we go back to the previous chapter of Galatians, we find the fruit of the Spirit.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Galatians 5:22-23

When we sow the fruit of the Spirit into our families (kids, husbands, wives, etc), our businesses or jobs, our health, our friends, and those around us, then we will reap the fruit of the Spirit BACK into all of those areas. For example, if we sow goodness, faithfulness and longsuffering (patience) into our current jobs or positions, then surely those blessings and the favor of God will follow us wherever we go. If we speak peace and love over our kids, spouses, homes, etc, that fruit will yield peace, love, unity, and calmness and so on. Our words and actions determine the kind of fruit we will reap.

On the other hand, when we sow according to the flesh, we will reap destruction because the works of the flesh always lead to death. The works of the flesh are:

Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like... Galatians 5:19-21

It's no surprise that we see so many in the body of Christ who are sowing hatred, jealousy, wrath, envy, and gossip and are reaping those same works of the flesh in their own families and lives! **How we react is key to what we will reap.** We need to be very careful about what we think, speak, and act and be quick to repent. When we allow those works of the flesh to linger too long, we become numb to them and they become acceptable to us. These things are never acceptable and should never be tolerated. Many times we come to the conclusion that we've become entitled and that we "have every right to feel that way or speak that way" because we've been hurt or disappointed. Those are thoughts from the enemy to keep us in the same cycle of sowing and reaping to the flesh and to those feelings (emotions) so that we never reap the fruit of the Spirit. We may have every right to respond in the flesh in order to **please** and justify our flesh, but we do not have permission to do so as Christians, according to the Word of God.

We are commanded to love and forgive one another (John 13:34-35, Mark 11:25). That means letting go of all the little annoyances that make us react with the works of flesh. Because those little things will lead to bigger ones like hatred, envy, jealousy and can even lead to murder! Another area that suffers when we react with the works of the flesh is our communication between us and God. And this is actually the MOST important area to be impacted. We cannot walk in hate, idolatry, adultery, wrath, etc and expect to hear from God. That's why it's important to be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger (James 1:19).

The Spiritual law of sowing and reaping affects **every single area** of our lives. That's why Proverbs 18:20-21 says,

A man's stomach will be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; he will be satisfied with the consequence of his words. Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it and indulge it will eat its fruit and bear the consequences of their words.

What have you been sowing? Have you been speaking life (fruit of the Spirit) or death (works of the flesh)? Have you been reacting with the works of the flesh? The Bible tells us that we will bear the consequences of our words, whether life or death. We encourage you, our dear friends, to reach out if you need help to overcome the works of the flesh. We are here for you. You are not alone! Our prayer for you is that the fruit of the Spirit will continue to abide and shine through you in every area of your life, and that you will reap God's goodness and blessings for you and your family!

PRAYER- *Dear heavenly Father, please forgive every word, attitude and action that I sowed to please my flesh and not the Spirit. I forgive and release (insert the situation or family members or people in your life here) that caused me to react in the flesh because I got disappointed hurt or upset. From today on, I declare that my speech will line up with the Word of God, my attitude will line up with the Word of God, and my actions will line up with the Word of God in Jesus name. I chose to sow LIFE over myself and my family by speaking and declaring ONLY the fruit of the Spirit. And Holy Spirit please continue to show me if there are any areas in my life where I need to change or repent. I want only the favor and the goodness of God to follow me and my family, in Jesus Name Amen.*

PS- John and Claudia will be traveling overseas during the month of October and we're asking that you keep them in your prayers. We pray for the will of God to be accomplished during their time overseas and for divine protection. We will not be sending out a newsletter in October. We'll update all our partners in our November newsletter!

In His Service,
John & Alexandra