How to Sow & Reap blessings
HOW TO SOW AND REAP BLESSINGS

There is only one way to reap blessing and that is to sow blessing. **You cannot reap if you do not sow.** It is surprising how often this simple truth is forgotten or ignored. If a farmer does not plant seed, there will be no harvest. If you do not plant love, kindness and respect into your family, friends and coworkers you cannot expect to reap love, kindness and respect in return.

What the Bible Says:

The Bible is clear about the law of sowing and reaping:

“**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. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.** (Galatians 6:7-10 NIV)

“**Do for others what you would want them to do for you. This is the meaning of the Law of Moses and the teaching of the prophets.** (Matthew 7:12 ERV)
This applies to everyone.

The law of sowing and reaping is more far-reaching than you may think and it applies to believers and unbelievers alike:

**Your behavior affects how others treat you.**
“I’m grateful that I could give financially in the past because now others are helping me in my time of need.” OR “I wish I would have helped when I could because now I need help and no one is there.”

**The actions of others will eventually reveal what you have sown into them.**
“My adult son appreciates how I took time out to attend his ballgames when he was a kid.” OR “My adult daughter has no time for me because I was never there for her when she was a kid.”

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WHAT DO YOU EXPECT?

Some expect (or demand) that they be treated with respect and kindness even though they have done nothing to earn it or deserve it. The one in authority: a parent, teacher or employer, demands respect from the one under authority: a child, student or employee, but does not show love or consideration in order to earn that respect. The person in authority may appear to be receiving the respect that they feel they deserve by virtue of their position, but eventually they will reap what they have sown and the person under authority will rebel. This rebellion may be overt or it may be passive-aggressive. Either way, the one in authority is merely reaping what he or she has sown.

WHAT DOES GOD EXPECT US TO SOW INTO OTHERS?

God expects us to sow forgiveness into others:

"Yes, if you forgive others for the wrongs they do to you, then your Father in heaven will also forgive your wrongs. But if you don’t forgive others, then your Father in heaven will not forgive the wrongs you do. (Matthew 6:14-15 ERV)"

There is no guarantee that others will forgive you just because you are a forgiving person. However, your Heavenly Father promises to forgive you if you forgive others. You will reap what you sow. (More on Forgiveness)
God expects us to sow a non-judgmental attitude:

“Don’t judge others, and God will not judge you. If you judge others, you will be judged the same way you judge them. God will treat you the same way you treat others. (Matthew 7:1-2 ERV)

You cannot control whether others wrongly judge you, but that should not keep you from refusing to judge others out of obedience to God. You will reap what you sow because God promises He will not judge you. (More on Judgement)

God expects us to sow honor into our parents:

“Children, do what your parents tell you. This is only right. “Honor your father and mother” is the first commandment that has a promise attached to it, namely, “so you will live well and have a long life.” (Ephesians 6:1-3 The Message)

God promises to bless you when you honor your parents even if your parents don’t bless you in return. In this way you will reap what you sow. (More on Honoring Your Parents)
REAPING MORE THAN YOU SOW

When a farmer plants seed, he does so with the expectation that he will harvest a great deal more than the one seed sown. A single seed that sprouts can yield dozens, even hundreds of seeds. It is the same way with each attitude and action (whether good or bad) that we sow. Our decisions, attitudes and actions reap a much bigger crop in the quality of our lives both short and long-term.

Jesus used the picture of a sprouting seed to show that when we allow God’s Word to produce good things in us, the results multiply:

“But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. (Matthew 13:23 NIV)

On the other side of the ledger, the prophet Hosea describes what awaits those who choose to sow seeds of wickedness:

“They sow the wind, and reap the whirlwind. (Hosea 8:7 NIV)
JUSTICE

When someone sows evil and reaps harm, or sows goodness and reaps blessing: this is just. Did you know that God is very concerned about justice?

The desire of the Lord’s heart is to make every wrong (any area that Satan has stolen, killed, or destroyed in our lives) right (as the Lord would have it be for us). He has a zealous commitment to do this.

His Word says:

“The LORD loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love.” (Psalm 33:5 NIV)

“And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:7–8 NIV)

It can be difficult to believe that God is concerned about justice when our circumstances may seem so unfair.
What does God’s justice look like?

Does the restoration of those things God never intended be stolen from us come back to us in the exact form of what was lost? The answer to this question is sometimes yes and sometimes no. And while God’s justice is sometimes immediate and direct, it can also come over time and in indirect ways, just like sowing and reaping.

Sometimes YES--immediate and in the exact form:

- The child killed by a drunk driver may resurrect at the scene of the accident when we cry out for life.
- The loss of a job through false accusation may lead to a more prosperous and fulfilling job opportunity.
- A family who loses a home to natural disaster may wind up in a more desirable home.
Sometimes NO—over time and in indirect ways:

- The child hit by a drunk driver dies and no one can ever replace him. But the parents who are grieving feel led to adopt a child who has never had a home.
- Unemployment leads to promising possibilities in an entirely new career.
- The family who loses a home is lead to go on the mission field.

It is possible that what is unjust for one brings justice to others.

- An unexpected death can bring life to many others through organ donation.
- A devastating disease can result in medical research that brings healing for others.
- A painful job loss for one can lead to new employment for another.

And while God’s justice is sometimes immediate and direct, it can also come over time and in indirect ways, just like sowing and reaping.
God assures us that if we will sow goodness, He will be committed to:

Take what man intends for evil and turn it to our good:

“ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. (Gen. 50:20 NIV)

Bring beauty out of our ashes:

“ to comfort all who mourn and provide for those who grieve in Zion—to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor. (Isa. 61:2b–3 NIV)

Make all things come together for our good:

“ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. (Rom. 8:28 NIV)
By paying the price now and going the second mile, we will reap rich blessing. What a comforting and assuring thought as we labor faithfully in difficult circumstances with godly conviction! Faithfulness will be rewarded, immediately or in the future. Our heavenly Father will not be mocked – He always keeps His promises. Who and what we are today is the result of how we thought, acted and lived in the past. It is shortsighted to only concern ourselves with what we want today.

Prayer

Father, strengthen me to sow goodness, kindness and love into the lives of others. As I plant seeds of encouragement into their hearts may they be blessed. I trust that I will reap what I sow because Your Word promises that I will. May I not grow weary of doing good or impatient if I do not see immediate results. I trust in Your justice over my life. In Jesus’ name. Amen.
The concept of how to sow and reap blessings is critical. Why not share this valuable resource with your family, friends or perhaps a neighbor?

For more free resources: handofjesus.org