

## 4 Rules of Sowing And Reaping

Reading: [Philippians 1:27](#)

### Introduction:

- Some of us are farmers
    - Some may plant rice; some grass, some cotton
    - But we all know what's going to happen. We plant the seed, we take care of the ground and we harvest the crop.
    - Another common sense thing is: if we don't plant, we don't harvest
  - These are simple rules that God started from the beginning
- [Genesis 8:22](#) "While the earth remains, **Seedtime and harvest**, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease."
- Today I want to begin the harvest series and talk about Sowing and Reaping
  - There may be others, but today we're going to consider 4 Rules.

### 1. Rule #1 Sowing and Reaping Applies to Everyone

[Galatians 6:7-8](#) 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.

- Believe in God or don't, the principle of sowing and reaping applies to all.
  - This is a law of life. It's a scientific law. It's a natural law.
  - It's a promise from God it applies to everyone
  - Some may call it cause and effect. The end is the same
  - All actions have consequences, positive or negative.
  - At this very moment, everyone is planting seeds through actions or decisions that will one day grow into a harvest that they will reap.
- It affects every aspect of your life as well.
  - In your marriage, you constantly plant seeds that build or destroy
  - In business, you reap the benefits of hard work, or failure of laziness
  - In school, you reap the benefits of study or reap the failures if you don't
- Everyone is affected by the law of Sowing and Reaping

### 2. Rule #2: We Reap What We Sow

[Galatians 6:7](#) for **whatever** a man sows, that he will also reap.

- This is a simple, yet profound law of the principle of sowing and reaping.
  - If a farmer **plants corn seed**, he should expect to **reap corn**
  - If a farmer **plants cotton seed**, he should expect to **reap cotton**
  - If a farmer **plants rice seed**, he should expect to **reap rice**
  - No one ever plants grain and expects to obtain fruit or vegetable.
  - There is a direct correlation between what is sown and what is reap.
- This rule affects every aspect of your life as well.
  - In your marriage, if you plant seeds of love, your love will grow
  - In business, if you plant seeds of honesty, you will be trustworthy
  - In school, you plant seeds of good study habits, you reap good grades

- Everything is at the mercy of the seeds you are planting.
  - Don't buy and sow anger seeds or stress and expect to reap peace.
  - Buy and sow patience seeds and grow contentment
  - Don't buy hatred seeds and expect to grow love
  - Buy and sow love seeds and you will obtain kindness, and compassion

### 3. Rule #3: We Reap More Than We Sow

[Matthew 13:23](#) But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

- A farmer plants a seed because he expects it to multiply in the harvest.
  - This principle is the same whether we sow positive or negative seed.
  - There is certainly much blessing from the good things that we do.
  - This has been said about sinful things we do:  
"Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay."
  - It's true: Read Romans 1:18-32 when you have a moment
- Let's look at the 3 examples that have been mentioned:
  - In your marriage, a little thing easily grows into a big thing whether a gift you've given, or a misunderstanding you have
  - In business, the more you put into it, the more you get out of it
  - In school, the more you study, the more you benefit from study

### 4. Rule #4: We Reap Later Than We Sow

[Galatians 6:9](#) And let us not grow weary while doing good, for **in due season** we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

- [James 5:7-8](#) Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See *how* the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.
- A farmer would never plant a seed on Monday and then come back hoping to harvest the fruit on Tuesday. He understands that every seed takes a period of time to grow and eventually bloom. He plants and waits.
  - There is no exact time table to see the results of seeds in our lives, whether in our character, or in our relationships, or in our mindset.
    - Some seeds may reap quickly; others may take years to bloom
    - As Paul said in Galatians, "in due time we will reap."
    - In your marriage, love must grow. It takes time for love to be what it needs to be. Be patient. Keep nurturing it.
    - In business, it takes time to grow a business, be patient. Get to know the people with whom and for whom you work.
    - In school, you may not understand something at first, but it will happen if you keep at it.
  - Don't give up on God either. His promises are true and His grace is good.
    - He promises Jesus would return and He will. James 5:7-8

**Conclusion:** The fact is: you decide what you sow!