

***Fanning it into Flame***  
**Sunday, April 25, 2010**  
**The Law of Sowing and Reaping**

God made a law after the flood that: *"As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease."* (Genesis 8:22) You can count on it. The Apostle Paul said in **Galatians 6:7-9** *"Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. 8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. 9 Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."* Notice that the reaping comes at the proper time. It may not be according to our timetable but it is according to God's. Our responsibility is to not to become weary. We may feel at times like it's taking too long, but God has the big picture in mind.

One of my oft quoted scriptures is from Paul's letter to Philemon where he commends Philemon, Apphia, Archippus, and the church that met in one of their homes for their faith in the Lord Jesus and the love they had for the other believers. He goes on to tell them that he is praying for them to ***"be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ."*** There is a sowing and reaping principle here: a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ is in direct relationship to our sharing our faith with others. If you don't do it, you won't get it. Get it? I love that. That's why I love being a pastor and having the privilege of sharing my faith publically. I don't just look for a Bible passage to speak on, I share what God is actively doing in my life. So my message is actually my testimony. Next thing you know God is working in my heart during the message and downloading all kinds of things I never even thought of before. That's the riches of Christ. He wants to give us more than we can possibly imagine. We just need to get in step with what he's doing wherever we are.

Sometimes people get their nose bent out of joint when they hear the church talk about money and giving and feel manipulated to participate. I can understand that because there are churches that do that. However, I feel that the enemy also wants to keep people from entering into a powerful principle that the Lord wants to show us. Again it's sowing and reaping. Look at what Jesus says in **Luke 6:36-38** *Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. 37 "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. 38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."* God wants to pour out a blessing that we cannot contain and the enemy wants to keep us from entering into this hilarious joyful participation in what God is doing. The enemy wants us to keep our faith to ourselves so we don't enter into this experiential realm of partnering with God in his work.

When the Apostle Paul was reminding the Corinthians of their desire to participate in helping out the famine victims and wanted to prepare them, he added this exhortation: *"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 9 As it is written: "He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." 10 Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. 11 You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. 12 This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God."* (**2 Corinthians 9:6-12**) Notice the progression of the giving process. You never run out because God is our source of supply. (Consider the miracle of the loaves and fishes!) What a joy to be in the flow of what God is doing. This morning a couple of people shared in church about the Agape Retreat they went on last weekend and said that it was not just the candidates that were blessed. All the workers who had formerly attended and now came back to help were more blessed themselves. They experienced the truth of what Jesus said: *"It is more blessed to give than to receive."*

Let's see what kind of harvest awaits us as we partner with the Holy Spirit in the matchless name of Jesus and actually do the things he longs to do in and through us.