



Topic: Cause and Effect (The Principle of Sowing and Reaping)

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

~Galatians 6:7-9 (KJV) ~

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INTRODUCTION

We have often heard quoted “you reap what you sow” said by those within and without our environment. Some even use the word “karma” with intent to express the same end results to be realized by the use of both the phrase “you reap what you sow” and the word “karma”. The depth of their use has far reaching definition and meaning that ultimately determines where one would end up. We must realize that what we put into the world comes back to us. In other words, how we live our life determines what kind of life we live.

The Bible tells us in our main text, Galatians 6:7-9, that we will receive a harvest consistent with the type of seed we sow. If we live or sow to the flesh we will reap the corruption associated with sowing to the flesh. On the other hand, if we sow to the Spirit we will reap everlasting life associated with sowing to the Spirit. The unfortunate truth of this is that many people fail to realize that they may be the direct result of why certain things occur or do not occur in their life. While we understand some things we encounter are not the result of what we have or have not committed; they are, simply put, our ordained lot to experience. An example would be someone who was born lame or someone who was born without sight. There was nothing this individual did to cause the situation they find themselves in. This was their lot to experience. In fact, the Bible makes reference to an incident wherein as Jesus and his disciples were traveling along they came upon a man who was blind from birth. The disciples asked Jesus was it this man or his parents who had committed sin that resulted in the man being born blind. Jesus responded “neither this man nor his parents sinned, but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him” (cf. *John 9:1-3*). This supports God ordaining some of the events that occur in our life.

On the other hand, there are things that occur in our lives that are the direct result of our own doing. It is to these things that we address in our lesson. It has been my experience that often time people seem bewildered when certain things happen to them. They are perplexed in trying to find the reason behind the why or trying to find the “cause behind the effect”. They tend to look all around themselves looking for the answer while the answer lies right within them. We understand God has all power and is able to do what he desires; we also understand that he is a God of choice and not force. God will never force us to do something outside of our will. He affectionately attempts draw us with loving kindness toward doing what is right and consistent with His will and His character. If we are to receive this effect in our life, it will be the direct cause of us yielding unto God.

OUR STUDY

Cause and Effect is an often over looked principle. We know we reap what we sow, but we don't realize the source of that saying; actions yield consequences. In a world of freedom of choices, some choices inevitably lead to good results while some inevitably lead to bad results. The outcome of whether it's good or bad depends on the cause that initiated the outcome.

Let's view this principle from what the Bible has to say...

We must sow to reap. All walks of life have sowing and reaping. Genesis 8:22 lets us know that as long as the earth remains, there will be seed and harvest. It is the principle of life we all live by. From the moment we rise in the morning until the moment we close our eyes at night, we are sowing and reaping of some type. Life is full of causes and effects which center around decisions we make. If we desire good, we must sow goodness.

Proverbs 1:29-33 (NLT)

- ²⁹ For they hated knowledge and chose not to fear the LORD.
- ³⁰ They rejected my advice and paid no attention when I corrected them.
- ³¹ Therefore, they must eat the bitter fruit of living their own way, choking on their own schemes.
- ³² For simpletons turn away from me—to death. Fools are destroyed by their own complacency.
- ³³ But all who listen to me will live in peace, untroubled by fear of harm.”

This portion of scripture identifies the contrasting results between the one who chooses not to receive knowledge and fear of the Lord by rejecting the Lord's godly counsel and ignoring to live as God commands and the one who chooses the ways of God as the governing of life. The scripture tells us that he who refuses to submit to God and continue living as they please in spite of knowing their ways are wrong in the eyesight of God will receive the result of the bitterness of their choices. The New Living Translation coins these people as “simpletons” who are headed for death because they turn away from the Lord. On the contrary, the one who embraces the truths of God and apply them to their living will live in peace and not be troubled by fear of harm. From this scripture, we see how the cause will affect the effect of the outcome.

Proverbs 28:13 (NLT)

- ¹³ People who conceal their sins will not prosper, but if they confess and turn from them, they will receive mercy.

What we glean from this scripture is that if we attempt to cover or conceal our sinful acts, we will not be fruitful in receiving mercy from the Lord but instead will remain condemned in our sin. Therefore, the cause of barrenness in our life is our unconfessed sin.

Galatians 6:7-9 (NKJV) (main text)

- ⁷ Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.
- ⁸ 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.
- ⁹ And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

What goes around comes around. This is a simple message, nothing too deep or complicated, but very often understated. In garden season you can only harvest what you plant. If you plant onions, you will reap onions. You cannot plant onions and question why you did not reap grapes when grapes were not planted nor sown.

While, we understand this text is actually talking about eternal life, it is also pertinent for believers as well as the unbelievers, who also live under the sowing and reaping principle.

“A man reaps what he sows.” This is an immutable law of God, which the phrase “God is not mocked” emphasizes. Consequently, though people may fool themselves (by sowing little but expecting much), they cannot fool God, and the result of their poor sowing will be manifest.

We mustn't let ourselves be deceived into foolish thinking that what we sow will not be the result of what we reap. We are the cause of the effect we receive in our life. If we desire to live all the fullness of God, we must show this by our cause. We must live a life that promotes the fullness of God. We must continually submit ourselves unto God. Paul tells us in Romans 12:1 to present our body as a living sacrifices, holy, acceptable to God which Paul says is our reasonable service and to be not conformed to this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our mind. This is the cause. The effect of this cause will be that we will prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. From this *cause*, we will come to know the *effect* of the will of God for our life.

CONCLUSION

The seed you and I sow today will determine the kind of fruit we'll reap tomorrow. Paul stressed the importance of sowing seeds of God-honoring behavior. We can expect to experience the fruit of God's blessings if we recognize the importance of doing our part in living in right relationship with the Lord and with those we encounter. We cannot be wearing in doing well, for the Bible tells that we will reap if we faint not. Our due season will come.

God's peace and blessing be upon you....

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