

## REAPING

Reaping is to harvest that which was planted and cultivated. This farming term is often applied in the Bible to denote a time of joy, of abundance, and celebration.

Psalm tells us those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. In Hosea, those who sow for righteousness reap the fruit of unfailing love. A colleague of Job (in the book by the same name) tells Job that those who plow evil and those who sow trouble, reap it the same. **Reaping joy and celebration requires clearing, plowing, sowing and cultivating the things that honor God.**

This application (of farming) continues in the New Testament. In Galatians, Paul tells us:

A person reaps what he sows; to the one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; but to the one that sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

Let us not grow weary in doing good (in planting and cultivating '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.

Ok, what can learn from these passages? First, that the ground (in which we plant the seed) must be carefully chosen – it must rich and fertile. Second, it must be cleared and plowed to remove unwanted briars and other things that will hinder growth and fruition. Third, it must be planted and then cultivated over time. In the application to our spiritual lives, **the process includes a continuing desire to please the Holy Spirit...and not the world. Pleasing the Spirit includes doing good – not as the world necessarily defines good but as Jesus and his Word have taught us through his Spirit.**



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