

Galatians 6:7–9

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.

A Promise for the Persistent **Galatians 6:9**

INTRO:

Have you ever grown weary in well doing? You try to be found faithful. Week in and week out you carry out your ministry. You study for hours to prepare. You arrive early and get ready for the challenge of the day. For the hundredth time you scold Billy for pulling Susie's hair. Three times you stop in the presentation to tell Johnny that all four legs of the chair need to be on the floor. When class is done, you are exhausted and then you wonder if they got anything out of it today. Nobody has ever said *"thank you"* for the effort you put in. No one ever knows of the hours you labor in prayer for those children that you teach Sunday mornings. In fact, if the truth be known, there are times that you wonder if it is worth it all. Beloved, if you find yourself **in here in** this scenario, I have a wonderful promise for you.

In **Galatians 6**, the Apostle Paul wrote about the *"principle of the harvest."* **Verse 7** states the principle very concisely. *"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap."* In **verse 8**, Paul fleshes this point out. **Verse 9**, is our text. Here is a major application of this principle. As we take this promise in our hands and look at it as jeweler would a diamond, we will see three facets to this gem.

I. THE EXHORTATION - "And let us not grow weary while doing good"

II. THE CONDITION - "if we do not loose heart"

III. THE CERTAINTY - "We shall reap in due time"

I. THE EXHORTATION - "And let us not grow weary while doing good"

A. We begin our examination of this wonderful promise with the exhortation that begins the verse in the English. In the Greek the first part of the verse literally says,

“And in doing good, let us not lose heart, become weary.”

1. Can you see the thinking which would lead up to this thought? Paul has said God is not fooled. If a person sows something, he will also reap that same thing. Just as the farmer or the gardener plants corn in a field, he expects to reap corn. So also if we invest our lives planting “*wild oats*,” we will reap those same “*wild oats*.”

2. Paul carries this into the spiritual realm in **verse 8**. You plant your life full of that which caters to the flesh, and you will reap what those things produce: corruption and death. Remember **James 1:15**

“Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full grown, brings forth death.”

Conversely, when we invest our lives in walking in the Spirit, seeking to obey God and to serve Him, we will reap the benefits of a life filled with a growing relationship with God -- blessings, fulfillment, and joy.

3. At about this point I am sure someone in the Galatian church wanted to stand up and say, “*Wait a minute, Paul, I have been faithful to sow to the spiritual side. I have tried to grow in my relationship with the Lord. I am doing all I can to serve Him, but the blessing hasn’t come. The reaping hasn’t happened yet, and I am getting really weary. It is really hard to keep on going. What should I do?*”

B. To these people Paul wrote, “***Don’t give up hope. Keep on because here is a special promise for you.***” I am sure some would say, “*But, Paul, you don’t know what I’ve been through!*” Paul did!

1. Paul wrote this precisely because he did know what it was to get weary in the work. He knew what it was to suffer for only doing what he was supposed to do. He knew what it was to have opposition when all he wanted to do was to be faithful. Take for example, his first missionary journey. In Antioch of Pisida, he succeeded and opposition came.

Acts 13:44-45 ***“On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God. But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul.”***

2. From there he went to Iconium where he again had success and trouble.

Acts 14:1-6 ***“Now it happened in Iconium that they went together to the synagogue of the Jews, and so spoke that a great multitude both of the Jews and of the Greeks believed. But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brethren.”***

Eventually they had to flee to Lystra.

3. In Lystra, he didn't get out of town in time and they stoned him.

Acts 14:19-21 *“Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there; and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead. However, when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city. And the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.”*

C. Paul knew very well what it was to be tired of fighting, to be tired of being misunderstood, and unappreciated. In fact, when he got to Corinth in **Acts 18**, he was sorely tempted to do exactly what he was exhorting these folks not to do. **We read in Acts 18:9-10 we read.**

“Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, ‘Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city.’”

Still, he kept on because he believed in the principle of the harvest. He wanted these folks to hang on too because he knew there was only one thing that could keep them from not reaping. **It was giving up.**

II. THE CONDITION - “if we do not loose heart”

A. The blessing of the promise is tied to our meeting a condition. We need to persist. The last phrase of the verse says *“If we do not give up.”* In short, we must not give up hope.

B. Now why would we be tempted to give up when we are working at our being faithful? Several possible reasons come readily to mind.

1. We may be tempted to give up because we feel unappreciated and unnoticed. Nobody really cares that I do this so why should I continue. One reason why I try to express my appreciation for you folks and the work you do is because I don't want you to think I don't care. I do. But more importantly, God cares!

2. We may become despondent when we think no one else is doing what we are doing for the Lord. *“If I am the only one doing it, I am not going to do it either.”* Remember Daniel? He was going to be obedient even when no one else was obedient. Dare to be a Daniel, **Dare** to stand alone, Dare to have a purpose firm. Dare to make it known.

3. Sometimes folks give up because they have been faithful a long time and they have just worn down. The problem is that we have taken our eyes off the Lord.

We are like Peter. We see *“the wind boisterous”* and we become afraid. And we just give up.

C. Whatever the reason we may want to quit, Paul says don't do it. Take a long look at the Lord and keep on because God has a great promise for the persistent.

III. THE CERTAINTY - “We shall reap in due time”

A. The certainty in the heart of this verse is the promise. *“We shall reap.”* Notice it does not say, *“We might reap.”* There is not one ounce of doubt in this statement. It is an absolute certainty. If we do not quit, we will reap. It is a fact and no one can change it. God said it, and it will happen. The blessing is on the way. The only question is will we wait for it?

B. But what shall we reap? We will harvest the fruit of the seeds that we have sown.

1. If we sow the seeds of faithfulness. God will bless us with the benefits of faithfulness. Let me show you what I mean.

Luke 6:38 *“Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”*

This is not talking about giving support to an evangelist and becoming rich. Rather, it is saying that if you pour your life out in service to God, giving in ministry, God will see that you will receive in benefits far more than you give.

2. If we sow the Gospel, God will give us people who will be saved. The key to bountiful reaping is bountiful sowing.

3. If we sow the Word of God into the hearts of people we will reap spiritual maturity and joy in the lives of others.

B. We may want to respond to Paul saying: *“Paul, you don't understand. For years I have faithfully planted and tended the part of the vineyard the Lord gave me to work. I taught my Sunday school class. I've faithfully served in AWANA and Sparks. I have cleaned my portion of the building. I repaired the plumbing when it broke. I've done Operation Saturation. But I haven't reaped yet. Maybe God has forgotten to bless me.”* No, you have overlooked three little words in this verse -- *“in due time.”* The Greek is literally, *“in its own time.”*

1. Reaping happens when it is time to reap. When we used to garden, we used to plant the whole garden pretty much at the same time. But we never picked it all at the same time! Radishes come first. Then the green beans start coming,

and then the tomatoes. It takes a little longer for the sweet corn. Then finally, when summer is over and the frost comes, the acorn and butternut squash and the pumpkins are ready. We planted them the same day, but we reaped them, each in their own time!

2. Beloved, if we remain faithful, the question is not if we shall reap, but when we shall reap! We must just wait until the season is right. In God's time the reaping will come. The law of the harvest does not fail.

3. Some reaping comes in the season, the radishes, and beans. But much of the reaping must wait until the summer is ended and the growing season is over. So, too, it will be with us. Some reaping we will do now, but the best will take place in eternity. It is any wonder the writer to the Hebrews wrote:

Hebrews 10:36 *“For you have need of patience [endurance], so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:”*

In 1 Corinthians 15:58 Paul wrote:

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”

So, *“Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.”* The law of the harvest works, because God who created it promised it would. It is impossible for Him to lie.

In the Service of the King