

# Sowing & Reaping in a New Year

## *Planning & Praying for Fruitfulness in 2024*

### Introduction

As another year comes to a close, we as believers do well to reflect upon the year that is behind us and to begin to think about the year ahead. There are numerous metaphors that are employed in Scripture to help us think about our lives, many of which are agricultural in nature. Both testaments make use of the image of sowing and reaping to describe the eventual results or consequences of our actions:

Job 4:8—As I have seen, those who plow iniquity and sow trouble reap the same.

Hos. 10:12—Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love

Matt. 13:39—and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels

James 3:18—And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

**Main Point:** As we stand on the cusp of a new year, we do well to consider how the investment of our \_\_\_\_\_ in the coming days, weeks, and months will affect our long term \_\_\_\_\_ for God's glory.

### Encouragement & Exhortations from Galatians 6:7-10

Gal. 6:7—Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

- God has designed the world to have a general ' \_\_\_\_\_ —and— \_\_\_\_\_ ' nature, and we ignore that to our peril. "mocked"
- We cannot avoid the ultimate \_\_\_\_\_ of our \_\_\_\_\_.

Gal. 6:8—For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

- To sow "to the \_\_\_\_\_" means to make choices or to act in a manner that indulges our sinful nature.
- The end result of this is " \_\_\_\_\_"—Φθορά (*phthora*)—Deterioration, destruction; the ruination of a person through an immoral action.

Short Term:

Long Term:

- To sow "to the \_\_\_\_\_" means to make choices or act in accordance with our new life in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- The end result of this is " \_\_\_\_\_"  
"The term "eternal life" has two different though related meanings in the New Testament. Essentially it is the life of God that He shares with believers. On the one hand, the New Testament writers spoke of it as a gift that one receives by faith (John 10:28; et al.). However it also refers to the quality of the believer's life that depends on the extent to which he or she walks with God in fellowship (John 10:10). In this second sense, some believers experience eternal life to a greater extent than other believers do. It is in this second sense that Paul spoke of eternal life here."—Thomas Constable, *Galatians*

Short Term:

Long Term:

**Key Point:** Our habits and rhythms of life both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ our sowing into either the flesh or the Spirit.

Gal. 6:9—*And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.*

- Sowing to the Spirit will externalize itself in the doing of \_\_\_\_\_ which can be wearying in a fallen world.  
“doing good”—ποιέω (*poieō*)—to undertake or do something that brings about an event, state, or condition, do, cause, bring about, accomplish, prepare
- The grounds for the exhortation is the long term \_\_\_\_\_ of fruitfulness.

Gal. 6:10—*So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.*

- The doing of good is to be directed towards \_\_\_\_\_.  
“doing of good”—ἐργάζομαι (*ergadzomai*)—to do, accomplish, carry out something through work.

“all”

“those...of the household of faith”

Key Point: The doing of good for God’s glory is accompanied by \_\_\_\_\_ because it is ultimately working \_\_\_\_\_ Him in the strength that He provides.

### Preparing Our Fields for a New Year

1. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

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- To sow “to the flesh” means to make choices or to act in a manner that indulges our sinful nature.
- The end result of this is “corruption”— $\Phi\theta\omicron\rho\acute{\alpha}$  (*phthora*)—Deterioration, destruction; the ruination of a person through an immoral action.

Short Term:

Long Term:

- To sow “to the Spirit” means to make choices or act in accordance with our new life in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- The end result of this is “eternal life”  
“The term “eternal life” has two different though related meanings in the New Testament. Essentially it is the life of God that He shares with believers. On the one hand, the New Testament writers spoke of it as a gift that one receives by faith (John 10:28; et al.). However it also refers to the quality of the believer's life that depends on the extent to which he or she walks with God in fellowship (John 10:10). In this second sense, some believers experience eternal life to a greater extent than other believers do. It is in this second sense that Paul spoke of eternal life here.”—Thomas Constable, *Galatians*

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## Preparing Our Fields for a New Year

1. Planning



3. Planting

2. Prayer



4. Produce