

The Positive Side of
"You Reap What You Sow"
by Lee Delbridge

Introduction

The Bible says "You reap what you sow." I have always been taught and I have always taught that principle in the negative sense. Almost every time I ever heard it or used it, it was in the sense that no matter what, one day you will be punished for the wrong things you do. There will be a payday someday. But the context mentioned both a positive and a negative side of this universal principle. The text then make application of the positive side (verse 9). Let's read the text.

Galatians 6:7-9

⁷Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. ⁸For 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. ⁹Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.

In the original text it states the universal principle – "you reap what you sow" – and states it both negatively and positively. Then it makes an application of the positive aspect of the principle – if you keep doing good you will be rewarded. In spite of that, I have always heard it and taught the negative aspect instead of the positive. I believe it is a universal principle – you reap what you sow. Today, I want to talk about the positive and the practical side of the universal principle "you reap what you sow." This is a principle based on farming. In farming

You reap later than you sow
You reap more than you sow
But You Always reap what you sow.

Someway, somehow, someday you always reap what you sow. It's the law. It's God's Law -- it must work. Let's study the positive/practical side of this universal principle. This principle is always true. It always works. There are only two exceptions (see below). You always reap what you sow. Let's look at the positive and practical side of this universal principle.

I. At Work

1. Always Do More Than You Are Paid To Do
 - (1) Since it is true that you always reap what you sow and you are doing more than you are paid to do then you are piling up benefits (surplus) that will one day come back to you in one form or another – it's the law, it's God's law, it must work

- (2) Zig Ziglar's illustration about the woman that hated her work and what he taught her about attitude -- he found 22 things she liked about her job
(See: You Tube - Zig Ziglar - Attitude)
- 2. If you always do more than you are paid to do, one day you will be paid for more than you do
- 3. You always reap **later** than you sow, **more** than you sow; but always **what** you sow

II. At Home

- 1. Always Love With True Love – True Love Seeks the Other Person's Best Good
- 2. True love does not always give a person what they want – it always gives them what they need. For example:
 - (1) Teach your children to work for a living and not to expect others to give them something for nothing
 - (2) Teach your children that when they make some money they should give some to God, save some and then spend only what is left
 - (3) Teach your children by example and by word to avoid debt except for a home and for business purposes (but even in those cases be very, very careful)
- 3. True love does not always “bail” children out of trouble – they must learn to face the consequences of their actions – make sure they learn “you reap what you sow”
 - (1) Because you are training them, grace and mercy are exceptions, not normal
 - (2) Try to practice “tough love”
 - (3) Try to balance love and “justice”
- 4. Make sure your children learn both that they are loved and that a person always reaps what they sow (there are consequences to their actions)

III. At Church

- 1. Always Practice Spiritual Disciplines
 - 1. Bible Study
 - 2. Prayer
 - 3. Church Attendance
 - 4. Obedience to the Bible
 - 5. Treating other people as you would like to be treated (Luke 6:31)
 - 6. Sharing the gospel and God's word with others (Isaiah 55:10-11)
- 2. Remember you always reap **later** than you sow, **more** than you sow but always exactly **what** you sow
- 3. Don't become discouraged – you will eventually reap what you sow. It is the law. It is God's law. It always works.

Conclusion

There is a universal, Bible based, God given principle that is always true – you reap what you sow. Today we talked about the positive and practical aspects of that principle. Remember, you reap more than you sow, later than you sow but always exactly what you sow.

On the positive and practical side we said:

At Work: Always do more than you are paid to do!

At Home: Love Everyone in the family with true love – which means you seek their best good.

At Church: You practice the spiritual disciplines

If you will “sow” those activities, you will reap the benefit. It is the law. It is God’s law. It always works. You will reap **later** than you sow. You will reap **more** than you sow. But you will always reap exactly **what** you sow. It’s the law. It is God’s law. It always works.

Compare

Luke 6:38 "Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure--pressed down, shaken together, *and* running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."

Two Exceptions to the universal principle of "you reap what you sow"

- (1) Nothing you do will erase the curse of sin. You will age and eventually die because of sin. Healthy diet, proper exercise, enough rest, etc. will help add life to your years but nothing will change the curse of sin -- you will eventually die. (Romans 5:12; Hebrews 9:27)
- (2) While the principle is "you reap what you sow" is a universal principle; God will forgive your sin, wipe the guilt of sin away and give you the gift of eternal life because Jesus paid the price for the sins of everyone who will accept Him by faith, repentance, confession and baptism. What amazing grace! Some of the consequences of you sin will still remain during this lifetime because of the principle "you reap what you sow." Amazing Grace -- God will forgive you of your sins and the universal principle of "you reap what you sow" will be suspended! God's love is fantastic! (Romans 6:23; John 3:16)