

**Series: #3**

## **“The Blessing of Harvest”**

*“The Harvest – Faith is the Key”*

**Galatians 6: 7-8 [KJ]**

**“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 the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting”**

**Galatians 6: 7- 10 [Message]**

**“ [7-8] Don't be misled: No one makes a fool of God.**

**What a person plants, he will harvest.**

**The person who plants selfishness, ignoring the needs of others—ignoring God! - harvests a crop of weeds.**

**All he'll have to show for his life is weeds!**

**But the one who plants in response to God, letting God's Spirit do the growth work in him, harvests a crop of real life, eternal life.**

**[9-10] So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good.**

**At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up, or quit.**

**Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to us in the community of faith”**

## **Introduction**

**\* The Book of Galatians is the only letter written by the Apostle Paul that was addressed to a group of churches**

**\* Galatia was not a city, it was a region – the region of Asia Minor**

**\* Galatia was made up of many towns**

**\* The Term Galatia was used geographically to denote the north-central region of Asia Minor.**

**\* Paul sent this letter to churches in the province of Galatia – the towns of Antioch, Iconium, Lystra and Derbe - To this Area Paul Proclaims Gods Unchangeable Principles – Holy Truths – Gods Foundational Doctrines.**

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**Paul applies the general principle of sowing and reaping to support the teaching of the Word, to support the Moral Behavior of the Christian Faith, to Support Serve to the Lord.**

### Galatians 6: 9

**“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for IN DUE SEASON we shall REAP if we do not lose heart”**

- \* **My friends Father God has a DUE SEASON for ALL the seeds that you have planted**
- \* **Good Seeds as well as Bad Seeds**

### **God has a timetable – a seed timetable**

- \* **This timetable is not our timetable – He is on His own timetable**
- \* **Sometimes the Due Season is a quick Harvest – a highbred seed**
- \* **Sometimes, now get this the Due Season is a Process Harvest**

### **A Process Harvest**

- \* **This Due Season is one that takes a slow burn – a simmering time**
- \* **Sometimes years and even my friends a lifetime**

### **Three Things you can count on:**

1. **God will cause a harvest to come from our seeds.**
2. **God is never early or never late – His timing, His Due Season is always in and for the best interest of His children.**
3. **Gods can't be changed - seed and harvest principle is as long as the earth remains.**

**Our Harvest will be of the very nature as our seeds that we have sown – You can count on it!**

**Good Seed will bring forth a Good Harvest**

**Bad Seed will bring forth a Bad Harvest**

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**For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting”**

**\* Now remember that when a seed is planted Gods timetable for that seed is set in place.**

**This is called the GROWING SEASON**

- \* How that seed is nourished depends on the yield of the harvest**
- \* During the Growing Season we must refuse to be discouraged**
- \* During this time we must understand that a Harvest is guaranteed – some type of Harvest will come forth**
- \* During this time one must never loose the spirit of expectancy**

**Gods Timetable for the seed****Romans 4:20**

**“He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God”**

- \* Here we find a testimony of Abrahams faith – He staggered not!**
- \* The strength of Abrahams faith was that God had proclaimed the promise of a seed [Romans 4: 18]**

**Abraham was not weak in his faith – despite thinking about his own physical inability**

**Romans 4: 19b-20**

**“...he was about 100 yrs. old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah’s womb: He staggered not at the promise of God [seed promise] through unbelief, but was strong in faith, giving glory to God”**

- \* Abraham understood Seed Time and Harvest**
- \* Abraham was learning Seed Process – Generational Seed and Harvest**
- \* ‘No wine before its time’ – Simply DUE SEASON.**

Hebrews 11: 11-12

“Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she was judged him faithful who had promised”

\* Her Faith – was a faith that believed the impossible! [Faith in God]

Now Abraham and Sara’s FAITH in God cause them to have God Faith in SEED and HARVEST!

\* The Due Season – the growing process was something that caused them to lean on their faith

\* The Harvest in Due Season was the Promise of a son Isaac but also a nation of believing descendants

\* NO you did not get this – From one Seed birthed the Harvest of a Nation!

Generational Seed

The Seedtime of our Lifetime

\* The law of Sowing and Reaping is at the very heart of God

\* Abraham staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God”

[This was SEED FAITH – HARVEST FAITH]

WE must have a Faith without Staggering / a Faith without Unbelief

Judges 3:12-14

“And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the LORD. [13] And he gathered unto him the children of Ammon and Amalek, and went and smote Israel, and possessed the city of palm trees. [14] So the children of Israel served Eglon the king of Moab eighteen years”

\* Israel did evil [simply they sinned] against the Lord – somebody say SEED.

\* The strengthened Eglon the King of Moab [Fornication] it came against Israel

\* WHY?

\* Because they had done evil [the seed of sin] against the Lord – somebody say HARVEST.

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For he that *soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption*; but he that *soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting*”

During the 400 years covered in the book of Judges, the nation of Israel followed a predictable pattern

\* They would *serve God faithfully* while they followed the *strong leadership of their judges*

\* Why? Because they were exemplified the principle of Gods SEED AND HARVEST

When a judge died, they had no leader, and they would desert God, and began to live in disobedience to His Law, giving themselves to the worship of the pagan gods of the Canaanites

\* And thus *reaping the Harvest of the Seeds they planted*

### **ISRAEL'S DILEMMA**

#### Judges 3:12-14

“And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD strengthened Eglon the king of Moab against Israel, because they had done evil in the sight of the LORD.

[13] And he gathered unto him the children of Ammon and Amalek, and went and smote Israel, and possessed the city of palm trees.

[14] So the children of Israel served Eglon the king of Moab eighteen years”

**These verses describe the horrible oppression Israel suffered because of her rebellion against the Lord**

\* *“The Lord strengthened Eglon”* [meaning – “Calf –Like”]

Israel has a history with “Calves”

\* *“Eglon the king of Moab”* [Meaning – “Fornication”]

Moab - The nation descended from the son of Lot

**This took place because Israel done evil in the sight of the Lord**

\* Their problems stand as a warning to all those who would walk away from the God Who redeemed them

**Judges 3: 13**

**“[13] And he [King Eglon] gathered unto him the children of Ammon and Amalek, and went and smote Israel, and possessed the city of palm trees”**

**Israel not only faced one nation but they faced three nations because of their rebellion against God**

\* They faced the Moabites, the Ammonites and the Amalekites

\* All three of these nations were continual problems for Israel, and all three were **connected to Israel by blood**

**The Amalekites were descended from Esau, Jacob’s twin brother**

\* The **Moabites** and the **Ammonite** were descendants of Lot, Abraham’s [Remember Abraham – the seed] nephew

\* After Lot and his daughters were delivered from Sodom and Gomorrah, Lot’s daughter got him drunk, had sexual intercourse with their father and conceived Moab and Ammon, from whom descended these two nations

**SEED AND HARVEST**

\* All three of these nations worshipped **false gods**

\* The Moabites served a god called Chemosh

## The Ammonites worshiped a god called Moloch

- \* Both of these gods were worshipped through vile, sexual practices as well as child sacrifice.
- \* The Amalekites were a nomadic, warlike people that worshipped a variety of pagan gods.

All three of these nations were a continual thorn in the side of Israel. They were constantly attacking, hindering and seeking to enslave the people of Israel

## These three nations are a picture of our old, fleshly natures

- \* Moab represents the power of the flesh
- \* Ammon: represents the passion of the flesh
- \* Amalek [Means: Valley Dwellers] represents the persistence of the flesh

## Power / Passion / Persistence – Three Areas of the Flesh Battle

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Just like Israel was repeatedly attacked by these nations, the believer is continually attacked by the flesh if we move away from the Lord

### Ephesians 2: 1-3

“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; [2] Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: [3] Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others”

## I have Good God News!

### Ephesians 2: 4-10

“ 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

9 *Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them”

\* **BUT GOD**

\* **Key is that we must look to Jehovah God**

\* **Big issue even in the news of today – we are a nation my friends who is quickly embracing other Gods**

\* **September 25, 2009 – A day set aside for Muslims to prayer in Washington DC. – our Nations Capital**

\* **National Day of Prayer that has been set in place for years was totally ignored by Leaders in our Nations Capital**

\* **The key word was and is this day Tolerance!**

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[14] So the children of Israel served Eglon the king of Moab eighteen years”

\* **Three nations joined forces and came against Israel**

**We are told that they “smote Israel”**

- \* The word “smote” means “to strike, smite, hit, beat, slay, and kill”
- \* These pagan armies did not come by for a friendly picnic; they came to destroy Israel
- \* Israel was in a fight for its very existence.

**My friends, the battle we wake up to every day is just as serious!**

- \* We are in a fight for our very spiritual lives every day we live

**Paul describes this battle for us in:**

**Galatians 5:16-18**

“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law”

**We all have different areas in which we fight, but if you are saved, you are involved in warfare every day you live.**

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- \* Eglon established his headquarters in “the city of palm trees”
- \* This is another name for the city of Jericho – [Deuteronomy 34:3.]

**Jericho was the first city conquered by Israel when they entered the Promised Land** – [Joshua 6]

- \* Jericho represented all the victories that God would give them in the future.
- \* To see their oppressors set up their headquarters in the very place where they once had enjoyed great military and spiritual victory must have been hard for Israel to swallow.

**Such is the power of the flesh!**

- \* Just what you think you have achieved victory in an area of your life, and just what you think that problem with that sin is settled forever, here comes the flesh.
- \* It will do everything in its power to undermine your victories and take back any ground you have won.

**We fail to do what Paul said he did**

1 Corinthians 9:27 “But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway,”

- \* The phrase “*keep under*” means “*to beat black and blue*”
- \* When the flesh rises up, we must put it back in its place.
- \* Remember With God [Jehovah God – Through the Blood of Jesus] all things are possible!

**11.**

**Because Israel failed to honor the will of God in their walk day by day, they became the servants of Eglon**

\* \* *“The Lord strengthened Eglon”* [meaning – “Calf-Like”]

\* *“Eglon the king of Moab”* [Meaning – “Fornication”]

**Judges 3: 14**

**[14] So the children of Israel served Eglon the king of Moab eighteen years”**

The word *“served”* means *“to work; to labor; to become a slave to”*

\* Israel had been redeemed to be the servants of Jehovah God.

\* Now, because of their sins, they have become the servants of pagan kings.

\* This condition lasted for 18 years!

**This showcases sin and the power of the flesh**

\* It has the power to enslave us and lead us away from the Lord

\* It has the power to enslave us and to cause us to work for the world and the devil.

\* It has the power to make us labor for self every day, while we ignore the will of God for our lives.

**It is not what God saved us for.**

**He did not save us so that we might remain the slaves of sin.**

**He saved us to be free - He saved to serve Him and Him alone!**

**Judges 3: 15**

**“But when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, the LORD raised them up a deliverer, Ehud the son of Gera, a Benjamite, a man lefthanded: and by him the children of Israel sent a present unto Eglon the king of Moab”**

\* When she finally got tired of the servitude, Israel called on the Lord and He began the process of bringing her back to Himself

**The first step is restoration is repentance!**

**Conclusion****Galatians 6: 7-8 [KJ]**

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**For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting”**

**\* God has given us everything we need to enable us to walk in spiritual victory**

**\* He has given us His Word, His Spirit, prayer and His presence in our lives**

**If we will follow Him, humbly and faithfully, He can and will keep us from the bondage of the flesh!**

**“The Blessing of Harvest”**

***“Faith in God is the Key”***