

# Don't Lose Heart

## **Galatians 6:6-10 (NKJV)**

Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.

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. 10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Has anyone here experienced disappointment in your life? Anyone experienced it since you have become a Christian?

Disappointment is the failure to fulfill expectations. It kind of messes up your plans! It can make you feel defeated. It can make you want to give up.

I suspect the churches in Galatia were experiencing some of this based on what Paul writes here in chapter 6. He combats this disappointment with truth. He sets the record straight and inspires hope!

PRAY

## **Galatians 6:6 (NKJV)**

Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.

Perfect for pastor appreciation month.....whatever you have that is good, please share it with me. If you need my shirt size it's Rural King gift card or Joe's gift card.

While I'm sure there is an aspect of blessing with material things here, It's not the main point. Paul is saying if you are taught the word, share what God shows you from it, specifically share that with the one who teaches you.

Do you realize that 1) I don't know everything about the text today? And 2) The Holy Spirit speaks to each of us differently and could show us all different things from the same text?

Paul is setting up the next few verses by showing us the importance of teaching and receiving God's word and how it is important for us to share with one another and encourage and affirm with the TRUTH.

Let's be hearers and doers of the word but also sharers of the word!

**Galatians 6:7 (NKJV)**

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

The world would call this karma, I call this a spiritual law. It's not a suggestion or a possibility, it's a certainty.

Don't be deceived. Don't blame other people or circumstances or the devil for your own temptations or sins. See the devil would have us to believe that it's someone or something else's fault but we have got to take the blame for our own actions. They are our choices.

And the decisions we make WILL affect our lives if not in the short term then it will in the long term.

God is not mocked. This is a spiritual law and it will come back around. You will reap what you sow.

**Galatians 6:8 (NKJV)**

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.

It's crazy how many people want to plant unrighteousness and expect God's blessing in return. The plant bad wanting to harvest good. They want to sow seeds of wrong and gather a harvest of right. But that's not how God's system works.

You should look at everything you do, every decision you make, and picture what could come of it. Once it's planted, what will it grow into. Because once it's planted it will grow naturally at a pace you can't control and the consequences are set. There will be a day that they push up through the ground and a day they will be harvested.

If you sow to the flesh you will reap corruption. If you are satisfying sinful desires you will reap corruption. That's a nicer way of saying ruin and destruction. It's used in the context of rotting or decaying food.

That's what you reap from acting on sin.....rotten food. Anyone want to gather together for a nice lunch of rotten food? We can all bring something rotten and share with one another. Sounds great huh?

**Romans 6:23 (NKJV)**

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

But if you sow to the Spirit you will reap everlasting life by the Spirit. This is what the abundant life is all about.....living by the Spirit. Instead of acting on our sinful desires, we listen to the Holy Spirit.

God, what is Your desire for me? What are Your plans? I want to please You!

**Galatians 5:16-18 (NKJV)**

I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

It's sowing in the Spirit that overcomes the sowing in the flesh. One leads to good fruit, a good crop to be harvested, the other leads to no good, rottenness.

But this everlasting life by the Spirit is the life Jesus speaks of in John 10:10

**John 10:10 (NKJV)**

The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

It's life and life more abundantly because Jesus came and died in your place for the penalty of you sin and was raised to life so that you could have new life in Him. But THEN, you can walk by His Spirit and as you do this you reap a more and more abundant life day by day.

So when we apply this spiritual law to disappointment. If you sow to the flesh you will speak of and meditate on how things didn't go your way, your plans were messed up (by someone), you will talk about how you feel defeated and want to give up.

Do you know what you will reap? Ruin and destruction. You will be defeated. Your hope might die.

But if you sow by the Spirit. You look at that disappointment with God as the filter. You see that maybe your expectations were wrong. Maybe your hope was in something destined to fail (people, things). Maybe your plans were poop. Maybe God spared you from your own destruction.

Here's what you will reap by the Spirit....Spiritual sight....an eternal view of your expectations. Hope in Jesus who NEVER fails. His plans and purpose for you that are literally what you were created for. And a path to the abundant life!

YOU choose what to plant but when you do, remember you are also choosing what to reap....

**Galatians 6:9 (NKJV)**

And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

Whatever disappointments you are facing in life, you can't get tired of doing good. It's too soon to quit. Christians are not quitters. Our spiritual heritage is one of perseverance and victory.

**James 5:7 (NKJV)**

Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain.

Especially here in a farming community we ought to get this. Farmers plant in faith that they will reap a good crop. But they wait a long time. They depend on rain at the right times. And they know that SOMETHING will be produced from the seed they sow....they just have to wait.

What if they give up and in July they just till the fields up again? What if they give into disappointment and say "well I guess I wasn't supposed to farm this year" or "maybe I'm not supposed to even be a farmer"

And they are making this decision based on the fact that there is nothing to reap.....but it's just too early!

We're told not to grow weary (tired) in doing good. Who here has NOT ever grown tired of doing good?

I think we all have if we're being honest. Paul says "let us not".....why? Because doing good is sowing in the Spirit. It's planting good seed and there is a spiritual law that says God will produce something good from that seed.

BUT.....in due season. God doesn't grow things prematurely and in reality you don't want it before it's ready. You'd have to baby it and nurture it to save it if it was premature. God says "in due season"

There is a season where every good seed that you plant will come due. It's a spiritual certainty. IF.....we do not lose heart.

Yeah I know life is hard.....I know it doesn't always go the way you would hope....I know it's hard to wait, hard to trust but don't lose heart.....the harvest is coming!

Look at what Paul endured:

## **2 Corinthians 11:24-28 (CSB)**

Five times I received the forty lashes minus one from the Jews.<sup>25</sup> Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I received a stoning. Three times I was shipwrecked. I have spent a night and a day in the open sea. <sup>26</sup> On frequent journeys, I faced dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my own people, dangers from Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers at sea, and dangers among false brothers; <sup>27</sup> toil and hardship, many sleepless nights, hunger and thirst, often without food, cold, and without clothing. <sup>28</sup> Not to mention other things, there is the daily pressure on me: my concern for all the churches.

He went through all of those physical struggles....then notice in v28 on top of all of that.....the daily pressure of concern for the church.....God's people. This we know can be such a weight. The way Paul words it here it's reasonable to say it's harder than physical abuse and torture.

Yet he did not lose heart.....why? He knew that God is not a liar. That Jesus is faithful and true. He knew that there would be a great harvest of all the good that was being planted.....

He knew there was a due season coming. And the only thing we have to do to keep pressing on and one day see the harvest.....DON'T LOSE HEART.

## **1 Corinthians 15:58 (NKJV)**

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.

The good that you do IS NOT WASTED and it's never without purpose. When it comes to doing good....it's never a waste of time.

Let me be clear.....doing good....we're talking about doing the work of God. This is not about being a "good person" it's about being a Spirit filled, born again believer in Jesus Christ who does the work of the Father, modeled by the Son, empowered by the Spirit in us!

When we are doing that, we must be steadfast. We must be immovable. We must excel in it. Because it's guaranteed to produce more good in due season.

And that season will be right on time. Don't lose heart. Don't give up.

As Hitler was mounting his attack against England during World War II, Winston Churchill was asked to speak to a group of discouraged Londoners. He uttered an eight-word encouragement: "Never give up! Never, never, never give up!"

There will be times when you'll be discouraged in your Christian walk, but you must never, never, never give up!

I'm not only saying don't give up on God but also the things of God. Be steadfast. Be immovable.

**Galatians 6:10 (NKJV)**

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

This does not mean on occasion but in life.....let us do good to all especially other believers.

The Christian life gives us the privilege of serving others in the name of Jesus. And our love for people and especially fellow believers is the primary test of our love for God.

Life will not always go as you've planned. Don't lose heart. Keep loving Jesus. Keep loving people.

I guarantee that you will reap what you sow....good or bad....in due time.

Prioritize spiritual things over material things. Prioritize people over things. Prioritize Jesus over people.