

GRACE TO SOW

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I. Introduction

- A. Grace is being highlighted in the earth today. Praise God!
- B. **Grace and faith** are the governing principles in the **vertical relationship** we have with God.
- C. However, we also have **horizontal relationships** with the world and those in it. The governing principles in the **horizontal relationships** in the earth is **not grace and faith**. It is **sowing and reaping**.

II. Institution of sowing and reaping

A. God instituted sowing and reaping in the very beginning in the garden of Eden to govern the horizontal natural world. Sowing and reaping are the governing principles of the earth and the world system.

- 1. In the garden, Adam was given the task to work and tend the garden. [Gen. 2:15] This included sowing and reaping. I believe he did this by using his words by faith like God did.
- 2. Adam worked the ground [sowed and reaped] after the fall with physical effort and the sweat of his brow.
- 3. God reiterated sowing and reaping after the flood of Noah. [Gen. 8:22]

B. God instituted sowing and reaping from the very beginning as a principle that governs our horizontal relationship with the world and other people.

- 1. OT - Gen 8:22 "***While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease.***"

a. Is the earth still here? Then sowing and reaping is still governing the earth!

- 2. NT - Gal 6:7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for ***whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.***

a. This principle is still in effect even in the church age and with Christians!

b. Sowing and reaping is vital in the Christian life! **2Co 9:6** *But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.*

III. Institution of grace and faith

A. God instituted grace and faith in His **vertical relationship** with man from the very beginning.

B. God created everything in grace for man before He created him. He created Adam and put him into a finished work.

1. **Gen 2:8** *The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.*

2. This finished work had to be maintained though- **Adam was responsible to tend it and keep it, not God!** [**Gen. 2:15**] Jesus also has placed us in His finished work but it is our responsibility tend it and keep it by the exercise of our faith, words, and actions.

IV. Misunderstanding Grace

A. Before the fall Adam walked in and enjoyed the grace of God by faith. However, after the fall, Adam fell from his spiritual vertical relationship with God and lived on just a natural physical plane. Adam lost the sense of Gods grace and was left with just an understanding of sowing and reaping- the natural governing principles of the earth. After the fall God tried to approach man with grace, but fallen man did not properly understand grace because they confused it with sowing and reaping and felt they somehow deserved the goodness of God that was being shown to them.

B. In grace God protected Adam and Eve from the tree of life after the fall.

1. **Gen 3:22** *Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"—*

Gen 3:23 *therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken.*

Gen 3:24 *So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.*

B. In grace God protected the first murderer.

1. **Gen 4:15** *And the LORD said to him, "Therefore, whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the LORD set a mark on Cain, lest anyone finding him should kill him.*

C. Lamech misunderstood God's grace.

1. **Gen 4:23** *Then Lamech said to his wives: "Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; Wives of Lamech, listen to my speech! For I have killed a man for wounding me, Even a young man for hurting me.*

Gen 4:24 *If Cain shall be avenged sevenfold, Then Lamech seventy-sevenfold."*

D. Job misunderstand God's grace

1. Job lived under the understanding of sowing and reaping. He thought that God had blessed him because he deserved it. So when his life fell apart he blamed God in the end because he felt he did not deserve his "bad harvest". His friends saw Job's life fall apart and blamed him that he had sowed bad things to reap this bad "bad harvest".
2. Job did not realize God blessed him in grace because God was good and gracious and not because he deserved it. Job mistook God's goodness for blessing on his good works. Job did not realize his own depravity until God revealed it to him at the end of the book. He then said he deplored himself before this Job was quite taken with himself! [**Job 42:6**]

E. God gave a covenant of grace and faith to Abraham.

1. **Gen 12:1** *Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you.*

Gen 12:2 *I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name*

great; And you shall be a blessing.

Gen 12:3 *I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

F. This covenant revealed that God's blessings are given by grace and not by merit. However, this covenant was incomplete in that it did not show God's nature of holiness against sin. It did not reveal man's sinful nature and need for a savior. Grace without these missing revelations would cause man to misunderstand God's nature and His dealings. Without these missing revelations man thought God was soft on sin and blessed them because they were good and somehow deserved it like Job did.

1. **Gal 3:19** *What purpose then does the law serve? It was added [Gr. **prostithemi- we get our word prosthesis from this**] because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.*
2. The law was added like a **prosthesis** is to an incomplete limb. The Abrahamic Covenant was incomplete because it did not reveal God's nature against sin, man's depravity and need of saving, and the clear teaching of what the Savior who have to do to save man which was to die. The law was therefore added as a prosthesis to teach these things.

G. Since man did not fully understand God's grace and his need for it, God gave the Law because man would understand the Law. They would understand the Law because it was based upon the principles of **sowing and reaping**.

1. Under the law if you did bad you got bad. If you did good you got good. You had to sow good perfectly to be blessed. If you sowed evil you were condemned. Man could understand this! Sinful man was incapable of perfect sowing. He only reaped condemnation. He therefore needed grace given through the Savior- Jesus Christ.

H. The Law pictured Jesus as our Savior from our sin.

1. **Col 2:17** *which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.*

I. By the finished work of Jesus, grace and faith were permanently established as the governing principles for our vertical relationship with God and His redeemed children. However....

V. The Confusion

- A. A common confusion comes when grace is preached.
- B. Many think that grace and faith replaces or does away with the other governing principles of God and it does not.
- C. Many think grace will remove all natural earthly consequences for our actions. **It does not! Grace and faith does not abolish the natural principles of sowing and reaping!**
- D. **Grace and faith** governs our **vertical relationship** with God, but it does not govern our natural earthly horizontal relationships. **Sowing and reaping does.** It has from the beginning and it still does!
- E. That is why many people think that they are just called to rest in grace and grace will just take care of and provide everything in their natural lives. They think that all of God's blessings will fall upon their head like ripe cherries from heaven. When this does not work the way they think or how its been preached to them, they get mad at God or try trusting grace "harder"!
 - 1. Try to tell your electric company that you don't need to give them money because of the finished work of Jesus. They want you to sow money and you reap electricity!
 - 2. Try to tell your employer that you do not need to come in on time and work hard because of the finished work of Jesus and grace. You need to sow work and reap wages.
 - 3. Try to tell you spouse that you do not need to stay faithful because of the finished work of Jesus. You will not see her for two weeks [until the swelling around your eyes goes down!] You need to sow faithfulness and reap a secure and satisfying marriage.
- F. **The fact of the matter is that sowing and reaping governs the natural earth realm.** In the horizontal world and in relationships in the world we must sow to reap.
- J. Many try to make grace and faith the governing principle of both the spiritual and

natural realms. These people will find barrenness naturally. However, many try to make the sowing and reaping principles the governing principles of both the spiritual and natural realms. These people will be barren spiritually. This will lead to dead religion.

K. However, if we will work these two principles together correctly we will find a fulness of God's blessings that He intends us to have.

L. Grace and faith and sowing and reaping can and do work together.

1. **Gen 26:1** *There was a famine in the land, besides the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines, in Gerar.*

Gen 26:12 *Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the LORD blessed him.*

2. Isaac was blessed by God through grace, but Isaac did not sit down waiting for crops just to pop out of the ground. No, by faith he sowed and reaped a hundredfold! **He had grace to sow! Grace and sowing produces a miracle in the natural!**

VI. How grace and faith intersects with sowing and reaping

A. ***God gives us grace and faith to sow good seed and reap a good harvest for His purpose and for His Kingdom!***

B. God gives seed [grace and faith] to the sower [sowing and reaping].

1. **2Co 9:10** *Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed YOU have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness,*

2. Giving our tithes and offerings should be a product first of grace and faith. Everything we have came from God. He has already made us prosperous by grace. He has already blessed us by grace. [**Eph. 1:3**] He has given us seed to sow by grace. Once we believe that we are prosperous and blessed and receive seed to sow by faith, we still need to sow that seed in the natural. The amount we sow is the amount of the harvest. [**2 Cor. 9:6**]

3. If someone sows finances without having faith in grace they will have some

benefit. Even unsaved business people can give to charities from their wealth and see some return. It is a natural principle. Someone who trusts in grace that He is prosperous will have some benefit. However, until both sets of principles are engaged the fulness of financial blessing will not be realized. Finances are both spiritual and natural in their nature. Therefore to experience the fulness of prosperity, grace and faith and sowing and reaping need to be in effect.

- C. Our vertical relationship with God produces the fruit of the Spirit. [Gal. 5:22-23] What are we to do with it? We are to sow the fruit of the Spirit in the natural world and in our natural relationships.
- D. In the book of James the fruit of righteousness is sown by those who make peace. Usually you do not sow fruit. However, we can sow spiritual fruit from grace and faith and reap a natural harvest in the earth for the good of man and God's Kingdom!
1. [Jas 3:18](#) Now the ***fruit of righteousness is sown*** in peace by those who make peace. [Fruit is sowed and produces peace in the natural]
 2. [Pro 28:20](#) A ***faithful man will abound with blessings***, But he who hastens to be rich will not go unpunished. [The fruit of faithfulness is sowed and produces natural blessings]
 3. [Pro 18:24](#) A man who has friends must himself be ***friendly [kindness]***, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. [The fruit of kindness is sowed and it produces friendships]
 - a. A man who has friends must show himself friendly. He must **sow** himself friendly.
- E. We are to sow love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control in the natural realm to see a natural harvest from them in our life and the lives of others.
- F. What does this mean? If we do not sow the fruit of the Spirit, we will not get a natural harvest as God wants and intends for us to. We can live barren lives in the natural although our spirit is fruitful.

VII. Conclusion

- A. We need to understand grace and faith and sowing and reaping to be effective Christians.
- B. Grace does not remove the natural principles of sowing and reaping.
- C. God's mercy can relieve the effects of poor sowing. David sowed evil and reaped judgment but God's mercy limited the full extent of it. [[2 Sam. 24:13-16](#)]
- D. We should always relate to God by grace through faith, and we should always relate to the world and those in it by sowing and reaping. To confuse or switch these will bring frustration and barrenness. If we hook both of these up together we will live dynamic lives for the glory of God!
- E. God gives us grace [divine ability and supply] to sow good seed and to see a good harvest for His purpose and His kingdom.
- F. Pray