

# DO NOT GROW WEARY OF DOING GOOD

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*Galatians 6:6-10*

## Introduction:

It is interesting how quickly one can become tired of good things. For many people, their ultimate dream is to be able to retire. After years of getting up early every morning to go to a job, they think it would be great to be able to sleep in and not have to do anything. But many of those same people will tell you that after the first few weeks, it becomes old real quickly. Or a child gets a toy for Christmas. It's something he's been wanting and dreaming about for weeks. Yet a few days, or even hours, later it sits in the corner with other toys, having lost its appeal. We go away on a vacation, enjoying the beach and the chance to relax, but after a few days, can't wait to get back home again.

Even things which are good and enjoyable sometimes lose their luster. We can become tired of good things. But Paul tells us in Galatians, "...let us not grow weary of doing good..." The danger we sometimes face in Christian service is becoming weary of doing the good work that God has called us to do. We start out with great enthusiasm—teaching Sunday School, leading a Bible Study, preaching. We know God has given us this opportunity, and it's a wonderful ministry. But after a while we get tired of preparing every week, we grow weary of the responsibility. We grow weary of doing good...

I think this message was made for me because, believe me, I know what that is like. Sometimes, and I admit that I have felt this the past few weeks, I grow weary doing the good things God has called me to do.

Yet Paul's admonition is that we not grow weary of doing good, because in due season, we will reap the reward if we do not give up.

Well, we will come back to that in a while, but we need to go through the passage. There are a number of truths in these few verses related to doing good, and reaping the rewards of our labor. So let's have a look.

## Sharing in all good things

Verse 6 is a somewhat controversial and difficult one. *Read it...* The difficulty in this verse is the word "share" – the AV uses "communicate."

This verse is explained by most commentators as an exhortation by Paul to the churches telling them that they should pay the preacher well. I kind of like that explanation. But let's look at it a bit closer.

First, we need to see some of the words that are used. We're going to have a bit of a Greek lesson here. "Taught" and "teaches" (NIV – "receives instruction" and "instructor") are the same word in the original. The first case is a present passive participle, while the second is a present active participle. Passive means the action is being done to the person, hence the one who is taught, or receives instruction. An active verb is one where the person referred to is doing the action – one who teaches or the instructor.

And the word itself is "katecheo." It is the word from which we get the English word "catechism." That is not a word we use much in our evangelical Christian community, but perhaps we should. A catechism, as we know it today, is simply a systematic method of teaching truth through the use of questions and answers.

That part is all quite straight forward. But what does Paul mean when he says, "...must share all good things..." There are two questions we must consider. One, what are the "good things?" Two, what does "share" mean?

Let's start with the word, "share." The word that is used in the original language is one I know you have all heard. It is the word "koinonia." It is defined as:

1. to come into communion or fellowship with, to become a sharer, be made a partner
2. to enter into fellowship, join one's self to an associate, make one's self a sharer or partner

It means to hold equally, to be joined together in an equal kind of fellowship, sharing with each other. So, while the idea of paying the preacher is a good one, there is much more to it than that. The teacher

and the one who is taught are to share together in all good things. The word that is used there is “agathos.” It refers to that which is excellent, distinguished, upright, honourable. The term does not so much refer to things that are physical or material, like goods or possessions or money. Rather the thought is that which is spiritual, the benefits of knowing God and being a part of His kingdom and family. It’s about sharing with one another in all the things of spiritual excellence.

So, thinking of Paul’s admonition to not grow weary of doing good, the first aspect of doing good has to do with fellowship, *koinonia*, sharing with our one another, teacher and learner, in all good things—those things that are spiritually excellent.

## Sowing and Reaping

Well, Paul follows this up with some strong reminders about the principle of sowing and reaping. *Read v. 7* – “...whatever one sows, that will he also reap.” This is one of the universal laws of nature. You do not need to be a farmer, or an expert gardener to know that this principle holds true without exception.

We know this to be unquestionably true in the physical realm. There is not a person here who thinks that if they plant pumpkin seeds sunflowers will grow. It simply doesn’t happen that way, and we all know it. In fact, it is the dependability of this kind of natural laws that makes science possible. If things happened at random in our world and our universe, there would be no way to predict anything, or to reach any kind of conclusions in the scientific realm.

It is the truth of this principle that has made possible the development of new kinds of plants, resulting in increased production and disease resistance. Because you know what you are going to get when you plant something, because it is all determined by the genetic makeup of the seed, the scientists know that if you can change some small element in the genetics you can change the outcome. But the principle is clear. What you sow, you will reap.

But... Paul is not talking here about wheat or canola or sunflowers. He is talking about spiritual truth. Just as there are laws of nature, and physical laws that are universal, so there are universal spiritual laws.

Paul’s point here is that just as the law of sowing and reaping is true in the physical, material realm, so it is true in the spiritual realm. You cannot expect to sow a life of self-centered indulgence and reap a harvest of righteousness and blessing. That doesn’t happen any more than sowing millet will give you a harvest of wheat.

Sometime we hear people talk about a wild, immoral lifestyle by saying, “He’s just sowing his wild oats. I’m sure everything will be okay in the end.” Let me tell you something. If you sow wild oats, you are going to reap wild oats. Look at what Paul says in verse 8 – *read it*.

The Scripture is clear on this point. Listen to some other verses:

*Prov. 22:8* – *Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of his fury will fail.*

*Hosea 8:7* – *For they sow the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind.*

*Hosea 10:12* – *Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love;*

*2 Cor. 9:6* – *The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.*

Listen to what James says in chapter 3 of his epistle. *Turn and read James 3:13-18*. The message is clear. If you want a harvest of righteousness, you need to sow righteousness. Just as you farmers know that if you want bins filled with canola in the fall, you need to sow canola in the spring.

Now, let me just clarify one thing. There is a bit of an exception clause to this. In the spiritual realm, there is something which can change the outcome. That is the forgiveness that is available because of the grace of God and the payment Christ made for sin on the cross. God can change the result if we confess our sin and plead his forgiveness on the basis of Christ’s death and resurrection.

However, Paul is very clear. God is not mocked. You cannot sow a lifetime of self-indulgence, with no repentance and no remorse, and think that God will overlook it and ultimately give you eternal life.

*Read v. 8 again* – Eternal life is the harvest of a Spirit-led life.

## Keep on Doing Good

When we consider the principle of sowing and reaping, Paul's exhortation in the next verse just makes sense. *Read v. 9.* Often we read that verse in regards to service or ministry. The implication is that if we just keep faithful in teaching or preaching or sharing the truth, eventually we will reap a harvest of souls.

But I think that is a rather narrow and perhaps incorrect view of what Paul is really suggesting. It's about continuing to do what is right, at all times, knowing that the harvest will come. What is that harvest? Well, there are a couple of things. First, Paul spoke in verse 8 of reaping eternal life. This expression describes not only a life that endures forever but, primarily, the highest quality of living that one can experience.

But just prior to this section, Paul spoke about another harvest—the fruit of the Spirit. When we live a life led by the Spirit of God, the result will be a harvest of wonderful fruit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." (Galatians 5:22-23 ESV)

What a wonderful harvest that is. But it does not happen instantly, nor does it happen effortlessly. Just as reaping a bountiful harvest of grain or produce requires patience and perseverance, doing all the work necessary to encourage growth and development of the fruit, so it is in the spiritual realm.

## Conclusion

*Read v. 10* – There you have it. Because of the immutable principle of sowing and reaping, let us sow to the Spirit. Let us keep on doing good, not growing weary or giving up.

Back at the beginning we spoke about how easy it is to grow weary, even of good things. But a life of good deeds sown in the fertile soil of the Spirit of God, results in a harvest of spiritual fruit, which has eternal value.

So let's keep on keeping on. "...let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."