

Faith Factor

Why Not the Best? – The Farmer
God's Laws of Planting and Harvesting
March 10, 2024



2 Peter 1:5-8 (CEV) – “**Do your best to improve your faith.** You can do this by adding goodness, understanding, self-control, patience, devotion to God, concern for others, and love. If you keep growing in this way, it will show that what you know about our Lord Jesus Christ has made your lives useful and meaningful.”

2 Timothy 2:1-7 (TLB) “Timothy, my son, be strong with the strength Christ Jesus gives you. For you must teach others those things you and many others have heard me speak about. Teach these great truths to trustworthy men who will, in turn, pass them on to others. Take your share of suffering as a good soldier of Jesus Christ, just as I do; and as Christ's soldier, do not let yourself become tied up in worldly affairs, for then you cannot satisfy the one who has enlisted you in his army. Follow the Lord's rules for doing his work, just as an athlete either follows the rules or is disqualified and wins no prize. Work hard like a farmer who gets paid well if he raises a large crop. Think over these three illustrations, and may the Lord help you to understand how they apply to you.”

The Farmer

God's Laws of Planting and Harvesting

2 Timothy 2:6 (TLB) – “Work hard like a farmer who gets paid well if he raises a large crop.”

Genesis 8:22 (NIV) – “As long as the earth endures, there will be seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night.”

Galatians 6:7 (MSG) – “Don't be misled: No one makes a fool of God. What a person plants, he **will** harvest.”

I. Everything begins as _____.

Genesis 1:11 (NLT) “Then God said, “Let the land sprout with vegetation—every sort of seed-bearing plant, and trees that grow seed-bearing fruit. These seeds will then produce the kinds of plants and trees from which they came.””

A seed is anything valuable _____.

Proverbs 18:21 (NLT) – “The tongue can bring death or life; those who love to talk will reap the consequences.”

II. Nothing happens until _____.

John 12:24 (TLB) – “I must fall and die like a kernel of wheat that falls into the furrows of the earth. Unless I die I will be alone—a single seed. But my death will produce many new wheat kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives.”

Mark 4:26-27 (NLT) – “Jesus said, “The Kingdom of God is like a farmer who scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, while he's asleep or awake, the seed sprouts and grows, but he does not understand how it happens.”

III. If I have a need, I should _____.

Ecclesiastes 11:6 (GNT) – “Do your planting in the morning and in the evening, too. You never know whether it will all grow well or whether one planting will do better than the other.”

Genesis 8:22 (NIV) – “As long as the earth endures, there will be seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night.”

IV. What I plant, is _____.

Galatians 6:7 (GNT) – “Do not deceive yourselves... You will reap exactly what you plant.”

Negatively: Job 4:8, Proverbs 22:8, Hosea 10:13, Colossians 3:25, Galatians 6:8,
Positively: Proverbs 11:18, Hosea 10:12, James 3:18, Luke 6:38

V. I am not the _____.

2 Timothy 1:5 (NLT) – “I think of your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice. And I know that same faith continues strong in you.”

John 4:38 (TLB) – “I sent you to reap where you didn't sow; others did the work, and you received the harvest.”

VI. The harvest happens _____.

Ecclesiastes 3:1,5 – “For everything there is a season, A time to plant and a time to harvest. A time to scatter and a time to gather.”

VII. I always reap _____.

Mark 4:8 (NIV) – “Other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times.”

VIII. I increase the harvest by _____.

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (NLT) – “Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop. You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. “For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.””

Proverbs 11:24-25 (NLT) – “Give freely and become more wealthy; be stingy and lose everything. The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.”

IX. I plant by faith _____.

Psalms 126:5-6 (NLT) – “Those who plant in tears will harvest with shouts of joy. They weep as they go to plant their seed, but they sing as they return with their harvest.”

X. The best time to plant, _____.

Ecclesiastes 11:4 (GNT) – “If you wait until the wind and the weather are just right, you will never plant anything and never harvest anything.”

“So, let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. Galatians 6:9 (NLT)

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