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Cultivate the capacities for pleasure in Christ. One reason lust reigns in so many is that Christ has so little appeal. We default to deceit because we have little delight in Christ. Don’t say, “That’s just not me.” What steps have you taken to waken affection for Jesus? Have you fought for joy? Don’t be fatalistic. You were created to treasure Christ with all your heart — more than you treasure sex or sugar. If you have little taste for Jesus, competing pleasures will triumph. Plead with God for the satisfaction you don’t have: “Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days” ([Psalm 90:14](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Ps%2090.14)). Then look, look, and look at the most magnificent Person in the universe until you see him the way he is.

**M – Move into a useful activity away from idleness and other vulnerable behaviors.**

Lust grows fast in the garden of leisure. Find a good work to do, and do it with all your might. “Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord” ([Romans 12:11](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rom%2012.11)). “Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord” ([1 Corinthians 15:58](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Cor%2015.58)). Abound in work. Get up and do something. Sweep a room. Hammer a nail. Write a letter. Fix a faucet. And do it for Jesus’s sake. You were made to manage and create. Christ died to make you “zealous for good works” ([Titus 2:14](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Titus%202.14)). Displace deceitful lusts with a passion for good deeds.

***The condition of the soil and its location matters. You reap what you sow.*** I am a city girl – no farmer – no vision – no real heart for tomatoes. ***Our friend,*** a farmer’s daughter, knew what plot of land would produce with the right amount of care, fertilizer, water and sun.

***What we do with what we’ve been given is definitely dependent upon what we really believe.***

You have heard the expression …

 “You get out of life what you put into it.”

the Bible puts it this way…

“You will reap what you sow”

We are God’s field ripe for harvest.

What we REALLY believe and how we act on that belief will make all the difference in the harvest from our lives.

**Do we truly have faith to follow through?**

Believing who you are, who Christ is and what you have been given in Christ will be the difference between feast or famine, the difference between a bountiful eternal harvest (here on earth and in heaven) or merely gathering scraps under the table.

# A Bountiful Harvest

*Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also* ***reap*** *sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also* ***reap*** *bountifully.*

**Hebrews 11:6**

Understanding and believing God is faith.

Faith = Fruit

Much Faith = Much Fruit.

Believe God + Believe His Word + Obey His Word = Faith.

**Galatians 3:6** *Even so Abraham BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.* **Believed God – Father of Faith**

Abraham was 75 – so was Sarah – her womb was as good as dead. Talk about a bad plot of ground to grow anything! She was 100 before the Lord brought forth life from her womb!

* Abraham – still a man – still a sinner - of the flesh
* Abraham a man of flesh and a man of faith.

**Flesh and Faith - Sinner and Saint - WHO WE ARE.**

YOUR STORY YOUR HARVEST

* When the Lord purchased the property of my heart some 28 years ago. It was no little

Beatrix Potter garden - nor had it ever been. It was fenced in all right but not with a quaint little fence.

* Weed infested garden plot - Wretched! Poor! Pitiable! Blind! Naked!!!!

*Jesus purchased you with a high price.*

*He took the punishment that I deserved for your sin. The WRATH of God was poured out upon Him. The RIGHTEOUSNESS of God was poured upon you. Now you are His beloved and He is yours - Child of the King - Clothed in Righteousness*

Have you let him in? Do you see that you are like that untended garden in our backyard?

Left alone – apart from Christ – you are:

* A Wretch
* Poor
* Pitiable
* Blind
* Naked

As I am speaking you KNOW in your heart IF you have let Him in. Have you dined with Him?

Listen carefully. Listen praying for faith to hear His voice to you as He speaks to you within.

*You are the apple of His eye*

*You are His beloved and He is YOURS!*

*Redeemed by His blood*

*He took the punishment that you deserved for your sin*.

*The WRATH of God that you deserved was poured out upon Him.*

*The RIGHTEOUSNESS of Christ was poured upon you!*

*You are a Child of the King Clothed in Righteousness*

*You have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer You who live, but Christ lives in You;* --**Galatians 2:20**

Hear this and understand who you are . . .

We are like Abraham – Still sinners - Still flesh

But we are also Saints - We have been given Christ – We have been given Faith.

*You have been crucified with Christ, it is no longer you who live but Christ* - the One who created the Heavens and the Earth, ***Christ*** - the One who calmed the sea, ***Christ*** – the One who made the blind see, the deaf to hear, the lame to walk, ***Christ***-the One who raised Lazarus from the tomb after having been

dead four days, ***Christ*** - the One who lived, died and rose again! LIVES IN YOU! The LIFE THAT YOU NOW LIVE in the FLESH – I LIVE BY FAITH IN THE SON OF GOD who loved me and gave Himself for me!!!

Who is Christ? Christ is our Righteousness!

Paul calls us to be instruments of righteousness!

What is the instrument? You.

**Paul says that the LIFE he now lives in the FLESH he lives by FAITH**

***You reap what you sow!***

**Romans 6:13**…do not go onpresenting the members of your body to sin *as* instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members *as* **instruments of righteousness** to God.

ACT THIS OUT!!!

FLESH - FAITH

You reap what you sow

**Hebrews 11:6** *And without* ***faith*** *it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.*

**Hebrews 11:8** *By* ***faith*** *Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.*

**Hebrews 11:11** *By* ***faith*** *Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised.*

Who are YOU? Who is Christ?

To quote a very well known scripture: ***You reap what you sow!***

***Isaiah 1:4*** *Alas, sinful nation, People weighed down with iniquity, . . .* ***9*** *Unless the LORD of hosts - Had left us a few survivors, We would be like Sodom, We would be like Gomorrah.*

### 1 Corinthians 15:36

### *What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.*

Jesus puts it this way in Luke

*“If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. “For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it. “For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?*

Bankrupt but a child of the King - Poor but Rich - Pitiable but Blessed -

Blind but given sight - Naked but Clothed in Righteousness

**1 Peter 2:24:** *and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might* ***die*** *to sin and live to righteousness*

**The HARVEST OF RIGHTEOUSNESS** –

Comes from FAITH alone - We are His instruments of righteousness.