



Reaping a Bountiful Harvest

... *the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life (Galatians 6:8b).*

A sack of seeds simply sits until the sower sows the seeds.

One memory of my grade school years is the annual school project of selling packets of vegetable and flower seeds to family and friends. After careful deliberation, they made their selections and I turned in their orders. When it was time to plant the seeds, the seed company sent the seeds and I eagerly delivered the orders to my waiting customers. Then it was up to them to plant those seeds because nothing can happen until the seeds are in the ground. I hope they enjoyed their vegetables and flowers!

Thank You, Lord, for providing us with food to eat and flowers to enjoy.

A sack of seeds simply sits until the sower sows the seeds.

My husband and I were blessed to be able to raise our four sons on the family farm where we also raised corn and soybeans. Year after year, many sacks of corn and soybean seeds were ordered, delivered, and stored until planting time. After preparing the fields for planting, it was time to get the sacks of seeds sitting in storage, fill the planter boxes, and go out to plant the seeds. Once in the ground, the seeds began to take root and grow. The Lord watered the earth with rain, warmed it with sunshine, and the crops grew. Each year we were blessed as the Lord provided us with a harvest to reap.

Thank You, Lord, for the blessing of harvest and the means to provide for the needs of others.

A sack of seeds simply sits until the sower sows the seeds.

In one of the many parables Jesus shared with His disciples, He used the example of a farmer to teach a lesson. We know that the task of the farmer is to go out and plant his seeds. Once in the ground, the seeds begin to grow and produce a crop for him to harvest. The Lord provides the harvest.

“Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold” (Mark 4:3, 8).

To help His disciples understand the hidden meaning of the parable, *And he [Jesus] said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? The sower sows the word. But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold” (Mark 4:13-14, 20).*

At our Baptism, the Holy Spirit planted the seed of faith in our hearts where it took root and began to grow as we attended church and Sunday school. That faith continues to grow as we read and study His Word. Like the farmer in the parable, our task is to be about sowing, namely, sowing the seed of God's Word. When we take time to share His Word with others, many more have the opportunity to come to faith in Him as their Savior and have the assurance of reaping eternal life in heaven.

The words of St. Paul remind us:

- To not become discouraged: *And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up* (Galatians 6:9); and
- To sow generously: *The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness* (2 Corinthians 9:6, 10).

Sing or read: "Sing to the Lord of Harvest" LSB 893

We pray: Dear Lord, thank You for the many blessings we receive from Your hand each day. You created seeds for planting, the warmth of the sun, and refreshing rains for crops to grow. You bless us with bountiful harvests that help feed the people of the world. We also praise and thank You for Your Word and the seed of faith planted in our hearts at our Baptism. Help us to grow in our faith so we can be bold in sharing Your love and saving Word with others. We pray this in Your precious and holy name. Amen.

Scripture references are from the ESV.

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