

Lord of The Harvest!

*KJV Genesis 8:22 While the earth remaineth,, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease. **God established seedtime and Harvest, and no one else!***

Harvest time always follows seedtime! A farmer has expectation of a harvest only because he has worked very hard planting his seed.

Why does the farmer to work so hard getting his seed into the ground?

It's **expectation** he expects a harvest! **Harvesting is picking crops; crops are the top or heads of the plants were fruit manifests.**

It's really the fruit the farmer is after, planting seed is the means to that end—so the farmer doesn't eat his seed, he knows it's for planting.

Farmers understand process! The land must be tilled, the seed planted, he must wait for the rain to fall the sun to shine and the weeks go by watching the plant grow until it's harvest time.

Because we go directly to the grocery store get our food and by-pass 7 or 8 steps in the process **we've become impatient!**

Planting or sowing seed as the bible calls it requires several things:

1. **Work or effort!** *Proverbs 20:4 The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing. James 2:20 ...faith without **works** is dead*
2. **Faith!** *NIV 2 Corinthians 9:10 Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.
The same God who gave the seed will produce the harvest!*
3. **Hope!** *KJV Psalm 130:5 I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.*
4. **Patience!** *NIV James 5:7 Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains.*

Delayed gratification is a major key in reaping your harvest!

ESV Mark 4:26-29 And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground.

27 He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how.

*28 The earth produces by itself, **first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear.***

29 But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

We know we can't eat the seed; but we shouldn't eat the **blade** (leaves) or **ear** which is the (stalk) that which supports the fruit. We must wait for the **full corn** or the fruit.

➤ **Delayed gratification** is doing something now (that might be painful or difficult) expecting a future harvest of joy, satisfaction and reward.

We've got to see our harvest when we sow the seed!

The bible from the OT to the NT is filled with agricultural references.

In the Midwest we have only one harvest season—the fall!

❖ **Israel had were several harvests throughout the entire year!**

There was no single harvest season in ancient Israel.

Olives were harvested in September–November!

Flax or **linen** in March–April!

Barley in April–May!

Wheat in May–June!

Figs and grapes were harvested in August or September.

In other words the child of God should expect to receive many harvests of all kinds of fruit throughout the year!

Reaping one harvest after another!

❖ **The olive is symbolic of the anointing!**

We should increase in the anointing every year!

❖ **Flax is used for lamp wicks and clothing!**

Our light should never go out; rather the path of the righteous burns brighter! (Prov 4:18)

❖ **Barley** was harvested before wheat and considered poor mans food!

During times of famine barley was the easiest to get.

❖ **Wheat** is symbolic of life!

Our life in Christ should grow, blossom and increase as we sow His Word in our hearts!

KJV Psalm 92:12 The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

❖ **Figs** are symbolic of prosperity and abundance!

Because **Fig trees** produce (2) two crops a year!

NIV Micah 4:4 Every man will sit under his own vine and under his own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the LORD Almighty has spoken.

❖ **Grapes** are symbolic of The Holy Spirit and Communion with God!

*KJV Philippians 4:15 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church **communicated** with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.*

The word communicated here is the Greek word “*koinoneo*” and means communion, fellowship and joining together becoming partners.

When the Philippian church gave money to the apostle Paul when he was in need they partnered with him to help the church in Thessalonica.

As we give our tithes, offerings and gifts of love we are fellowshiping with God—we are literally partnering with Him in kingdom building!

So Paul tells them when you gave because I as a servant of The Lord are doing His work they also joined in the work, but they not only partnered with Paul they also partnered with The LORD, therefore:

Philippians 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

