

SOWING RIGHTEOUSNESS & DILIGENCE

By Sue Whisenhunt

In Proverbs chapter ten and eleven, the law of sowing and reaping is made very evident. Over and over in these Proverbs, we see the reward of the righteous is contrasted to the ultimate punishment of the wicked. Make no mistake about it: how you live does make a difference. For example, look at the sharp contrast between the righteous and the wicked: "The memory of the [uncompromisingly] righteous is a blessing, but the name of the wicked shall rot" (Proverbs 10:7 AMP).

You know, if I leave this earth before Jesus comes, I don't want people to be glad about when I'm gone. I do not want my family and my friends to say, "I am so glad to get her out of here." Even though they may never say that out loud, I do not want them to be inwardly relieved that I'm gone.

No, I want to be a blessing to whoever comes in contact with me while I'm on this earth ---and so do you!

I saw earlier in my walk with the Lord that wisdom is better than rubies and pearls (Proverbs 10:11 AMP). This Scripture says that nothing you can desire compares with skillful and Godly wisdom. Nothing!

You see, it's a matter of priorities. God does not want us striving after riches; He wants us to seek after His wisdom. And as you do that, He promises his other blessings will be added onto us. That's exactly what Jesus said: "Seek (aim at and strive for) first of all His kingdom and His righteousness (His way of doing and being right), and all these things taken together will be given unto you besides (Mathew 6:33 AMP). So we see that foundation of Godly prosperity is the result of living for God and putting His Word first place in our lives. As we seek first after God and His way of doing

and being right, we are putting ourselves in a position for increase. The more you know about God and His wisdom, the easier it is to prosper in Him.

That's what happened with Thomas and me years ago when we first began our faith walk. We started treating the Word of God for what it really is----- Supernatural, alive and energizing with the power in it to bring each promise to pass (Hebrews 4:12 AMP). We put the Word in our mouths and in our hearts. We did what it said to do, whether we wanted to or not. We read the Word every day faithfully with the full intention of being a doer of it, whether we felt like it or not. Yes, we were challenged within ourselves; however we were diligent to be doers of His Word. Ever learning, ever growing, and ever increasing in faith because it took faith to do His Word. That's the power of Him on the inside of us. Our faith engages Him to rise up within us strengthening us.

By doing that, we were seeking first God's Kingdom. We were receiving God's instructions "in preference to [striving for] silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold" (Proverbs 8:10 AMP). The Word of God is very clear that "I [wisdom] lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgement: That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures" (Proverbs 8:20-21). It is His wisdom, hearing and doing His wisdom that causes us to walk in righteousness. "The righteousness of the perfect [mature] shall direct his way; but the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness" (Proverbs 11:5).

So let's take a look at several passages in Proverbs eleven that show the law of sowing and reaping at work to recompense the righteous in this life. As we peruse these scriptures, we will see one important thing: the righteous have an advantage! I want you to get that Truth into your thinking forever!

First, those who walk in wisdom and righteousness can expect divine guidance and direction: "The integrity of the upright shall guide them, but the willful contrariness and crookedness of the treacherous shall destroy them" (Proverbs 11:3 AMP).

The righteous also have God's promise of deliverance: "The [uncompromisingly] righteous is delivered out of trouble and the wicked gets into it instead" (Proverbs 11:8 AMP).

Then God promises that a person's righteous deeds of love and mercy will return to him as a harvest of blessing: "The merciful, kind, generous man benefits himself [for his deeds return to bless him], but he who is cruel and callous [to the wants of others] brings to himself retribution" (Proverbs 11:17 AMP).

Jesus gave us a similar promise of recompense: "Be merciful [sympathetic, tender, responsive, and compassionate] even as your Father is [all these]....Give, and [gifts] will be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over" (Luke 6:36, 38, AMP).

In other words, every time you are merciful, kind or generous to someone else, you are blessing yourself because your loving deeds will return to bless you. You are sowing righteousness, so you will enjoy a sure reward (Proverbs 11:18).

On the other hand, a person who sows cruelty and callousness in his dealings with others will reap retribution in his relationships and in his life. And God doesn't have to do a thing – the cruel and callous person has done it to himself. He opened the door to the devil and put himself under the curse of the law. Those who go their own wicked way will reap destruction. What God says about the Law of Sowing and Reaping is very blunt and to the point. Do not be ignorant of this Law; it is for your benefit, use it wisely.

But those who sow righteousness and walk in the wisdom of God will find deliverance, direction and increase, for “the [uncompromisingly] righteous shall be recompensed on the earth” (Proverbs 11:31 AMP).

THE REWARD OF DILIGENCE

Diligence is another key to dealing wisely in the affairs of life. “The hand of the diligent will rule, but the slothful will be put to forced labor [under rule]” (Proverbs 12:24 AMP). God has much to say about diligence. It takes diligence in the spiritual realm and in the natural realm to increase, according to God’s Word. I believe it is safe to say that you won’t go far without diligence. Proverbs 13:4 says, “The soul of the sluggard desires, and has nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.” The Amplified Version of this same verse reads, “The appetite of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the appetite of the diligent shall be abundantly supplied.”

The Bible also says that the diligent man gets precious possessions (Proverbs 12:27). There is great reward in being diligent. The provision and the power of God will work on your behalf when you are diligently living in pursuit of God, His Word, His ways and His plan for your life.

To be **DILIGENT** means: **To make an intense effort or to exert oneself intensely; To be steady in application** to business and constant in effort or exertion to accomplish what is undertaken. It means: To be attentive and industrious, not idle or negligent.

Diligence is a steady application to business of any kind. For example, if you are a boss or an employee, you should apply yourself faithfully to the success of your business or job. In the New Testament, we are instructed to do all things heartily unto the Lord. That means that you are to perform

your job, whether you are a boss or an employee, as if Jesus were your boss. I believe if people would look at their jobs as if they were working for the King Of Kings and Lord of Lords, they would perform their job tasks at a higher level; and there would be a great deal less of grumbling and complaining.

Let's look at a few more verses in Proverbs that talk about being diligent. Proverbs 10:4 says, the hand of the diligent maketh rich. Then Proverbs 13:4 in the New International Version tells us that the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.

Diligence is the opposite of being lazy, and as I heard one minister say, "God doesn't bless lazy Christians." There is a lot of Truth to that statement.

So don't expect to be lazy and still prosper and increase. Increase comes as you make the effort to apply God's spiritual principles to your life. As you are diligent to do that, you will have so much advantage in your life compared to someone who just lives from day to day without any thought of God. You become elevated from being controlled by your circumstances to being in control of them.

For instance, walking in God's principles will transform your attitude about your job, even if it's a job you do not like. You'll be set free from bondage to a job, into the freedom of enjoying any job. Instead of just trying to get through your work shift, you'll live each day in victory, confident that your future is in God's Hands and that He will promote you as you are diligent to obey Him.

Above all else, diligence is necessary to increase in the things of God. You can't just tap into the Laws of the Spirit in a careless manner. In order to have the knowledge of God imparted into your heart, a process of diligence

is required. God doesn't just dump the wisdom and understanding of His higher ways on you. You have to seek them by spending time in His Word, in Prayer and in His presence. Proverbs 11:27 says, he that diligently seeks good procures favour.

The Scripture says when we seek God we will find Him (Mathew 7:7). This Word seek implies an intense effort.

For instance, if you were seeking a job, you wouldn't just sit at home and watch television, waiting for someone to come to you. You'd get out into the marketplace, knocking on doors, filling out resumes and applying for jobs on line and making appointments for job interviews.

That's the same kind of continual effort and diligence we need to employ when seeking God. We have to be diligent in the things of God, constant in our effort to learn of His ways and to walk with Him. As we diligently pursue God's wisdom and plant an abundance of God's Word in our hearts, we will become experts at dealing wisely in the affairs of life!

WISDOM WORDS FOR TODAY

MAKE SURE THE SOIL OF YOUR HEART IS GOOD GROUND FOR GOD'S SUPERNATURAL SEED, THEN CONTINUALLY PLANT IT IN YOUR HEART.

SPEAK FORTH IN FAITH THE WORD PLANTED IN YOUR HEART,
AND BRING FORTH THE HARVEST OF YOUR NEED.

BE DILIGENT IN THE THINGS OF GOD,
CONSTANT IN YOUR EFFORT TO WALK CLOSER TO HIM.