

The law of Sowing and Reaping

What we reap for our misdeeds is not retribution from God. Instead, we reap the opportunity of being "on the receiving end" of what we dish out, so that we may learn and grow by it. What we reap from the good that we sow is the love and gratitude of those whom we love and help and the knowledge that we are making progress in becoming all that God wants us to be.

True repentance from sin involves more than simply asking for forgiveness in order to avoid punishment from God. Acknowledging the lordship of Christ in our lives does not exempt us from the law of sowing and reaping. It's one thing to be sorry and repent of our sins because we don't want to suffer punishment from God. It's quite another to be sorry because we are able to genuinely empathize with those we have harmed. There is a huge difference between "*Godly sorrow*" and "*worldly sorrow*." According to 2 Corinthians 7:10, "*Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.*"

When Paul talks about "*salvation*" and "*death*," he is not talking about going to Heaven or Hell after you die. He is referring to your present experience in the age in which you currently live. "*Salvation*," also referred to as "*life*," has to do with our relationship with God. If we are connected with God, we are "*alive*" spiritually. If we have lost that connection, then we are "*dead*" spiritually. In our day-to-day walk we most often find ourselves experiencing a little of each. Christian salvation is something that we grow into.

Praying the sinner's prayer, or asking forgiveness for a particular sin or shortcoming, only marks the beginning of a process. Of course God forgives. Then He helps us to empathize with and love those whom we have wronged. In some cases, the best way to learn to do this is to spend a while in their shoes. The law of sowing and reaping has nothing at all to do with forgiveness, nor does it allow us to escape personal responsibility for our negative thoughts and actions. The purpose of this law is to mold us into the image of Christ and prepare us for life in God's Kingdom. And don't forget, the law of sowing and reaping also includes rewards for making the right decisions and doing good.