

Reaping Harvests and Fainting Not

“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not”
(Galatians 6:9).

Working in our family garden as a boy seemed to be one of the most wearisome tasks of the year. Maybe it was the summer sun that sapped me while working in the corn or beans. Thinking about all the baseball or basketball I could be enjoying while weeding the beets or okra may have affected me. It could have been desiring to be with my friends that pulled at me while I was pulling the squash or cucumbers.

To have a good crop you have to stay at the job. After plowing the field and the rows, the seeds have to be planted at the right time. Then, you have to keep the birds away or they will dig up all the seeds. The various plants have to be fertilized, and if there is no rain, they must be watered. The weeds have to be constantly removed or they will take over the field. You can't just plant something and leave it to itself. You have to keep working with it.

In order to reap spiritual harvests, we must be diligent workers. As I stated previously, to keep from fainting, we must receive mercy from the throne of God. Also, we must constantly pray and set our affections on things above. As we are renewed by His strength and grace, we must keep working in the field. And as is true in the natural world of gardening, according to our text “we shall reap, if we faint not.”

In reaping harvests, we must receive the admonition! Actually we have a double admonition in this wonderful text. We not only read, “And let us not be weary in well doing,” but we are reminded to “faint not.” Are you becoming bored with your spiritual service? Do you find yourself occupied with things that take you from your labors in the field? Oh, may the Lord give us ears to hear this repeated word.

In reaping harvests, we must realize the arrangement! One of the biggest battles we face in the Lord's work is waiting for the harvest. We want to have an immediate harvest. We expect an increase overnight. Well, we will reap a harvest, but there is a reaping season! As is stated here, we will reap “in due season.” We are to work and wait; we are to wait and work! Waiting upon the Lord is the divine arrangement.

In reaping harvests, we must reflect the assurance! We can be sure that “in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” “We shall reap!” That's why we plowed the field and the rows and worked with the crop. We looked forward to a harvest. And in spiritual service, we must experience and evidence the assurance that our labors are not in vain. Thank God, in His time and way, “we shall reap, if we faint not!”