

TALK IT OVER

We Reap What We Sow

Timeless Truths - Week 2
Pastor Andy Wood
October 31 - November 1, 2026

If you would like to watch the weekend message, visit www.saddleback.com/watch.
Open your group in prayer and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the questions provided or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the Three Essential Questions at the end of the document.

Scriptures

2 Corinthians 8:7-9, 17, 9:6–11 (NIV84); Philippians 4:19 (NIV84); Matthew 6:9, 19–21 (NIV84); 7:24-27, 24:35 (NIV); Proverbs 10:16, 11:24–25 (NIV84); Galatians 6:9 (NIV84); John 3:16 (NIV84)

Questions

1. This week's message is entitled "We Reap What We Sow." It's Week 2 in our series, "Timeless Truths," about living generously like Jesus, sowing seeds for His Kingdom from what God has entrusted to us. In 2 Corinthians 8-9, Paul teaches about reaping and sowing through the filter of the seeds that we sow and the harvest that we reap. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6–11 (NIV84) aloud in your group: "*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: 'He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.' 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. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.*" Describe how Paul says we are to sow. How are we not to sow? List the things Paul says God is able to *"supply," "increase," "enlarge,"* and *"make abound"*!

2. When Paul says *"Remember this!"* in 2 Corinthians 9:6-11 above—what Paul is saying is that there is a decision a person makes, with the seed that God gives them, to sow generously from their heart, and that what God is asking for is a joyful, cheerful heart in any act of generosity. When Paul says *"Whoever"*—he is referring to principles and promises that apply to everyone! Principles are "God's description of how life works based on His design in creation." Promises are "God's commitments to His people based on His character and backed by His word." Jesus says in Matthew 24:35 (NIV) and Matthew 7:24-27 (NIV), *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away…. Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."* How are God's principles and promises defined? According to Jesus in the Matthew passages above, why should we put God's words into practice? What timeless truths—and principles and promises—are you building your life upon?

3. Proverbs 10:16 (NIV84) says, *"The wages of the righteous bring them life, but the income of the wicked brings them punishment."* Jesus says in Matthew 6:19–21 (NIV84), *"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."* Jesus contrasts treasures on earth (vulnerable to moth, rust, and thieves) with treasures in heaven (secure). Where does He say believers should store up their treasures? Where is your treasure: That's where your heart is! What specific *"seeds"* (God's word, righteousness, habits, uses of money or time) are you currently planting? Know that the harvest comes in God's timing; perseverance is required because results are rarely immediate. Paul provides a scriptural foundation for our persistence in Galatians 6:9 (NIV84): "*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."* Discuss.

4. Paul writes in Philippians 4:19 (NIV84), "*My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus."* Paul adds four more *"all's"* in 2 Corinthians 9:8 (NIV84), *"God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."* Finally, he adds a second and third *"every"* in 2 Corinthians 9:11 (NIV84), *"You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."* Paul encourages generosity because God is the unlimited supplier! How does reflecting on God's provisions help you overcome a scarcity mindset and become a consistent giver? How do God's promises free you to sow more generously rather than sparingly or transactionally?

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5. Paul writes in 2 *Corinthians* 8:7, 9 (NIV84), *"Just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving."* What does Paul say the Corinthians should *"also excel in"*? When Paul speaks about this *"grace of giving,"* he doesn't use the word for "money"; instead, he uses the word for *"seed."* God gives us *"seed"*—that when we, in turn, give for His purposes—He multiplies 100 times! In the following verse 9, Paul grounds this *"grace of giving"* in Jesus: *"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich."* As John 3:16 (NIV84) says, *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."* We enter into the joy of the Lord as we share the seeds God has given us to, in turn, bless the world around us. What will you do with the seeds you are given? Discuss how God's sacrificial giving provides the foundation and motivation for your generosity. Where do you pour out your life? What good work is God inviting you to support? Where are you sowing in this season of your life? In which area (faith, speech, knowledge, peace, love, or giving) do you need to grow so that your heart and your sowing are aligned?

6. Generosity is one of the quickest ways out of a poverty mindset. Solomon says in Proverbs 11:24–25 (NIV84), *"One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed."* Christian Smith and Hilary Davidson provided research supporting this principle in their book, "The Paradox of Generosity: Giving We Receive, Grasping We Lose." They found that increased joy comes through a lifestyle of giving! How do you feel when you give? As 2 Corinthians 9:7 says, God wants us to give, "*not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."* Solomon teaches that the person who gives freely gains even more, while the person who withholds unduly comes to poverty. He also says that whoever refreshes others will himself be refreshed! Where have you seen (or experienced) giving freely leading to gaining even more? What is one generous thing someone did for you that made a lasting impact on your life?

7. The ultimate purpose of God's provision and our generosity is worship going back to Him! Consistent generosity is not about trying to get something from God, but about trusting Him as our Provider rather than relying exclusively on our jobs, investments, or possessions. In your relationship with God: Are you consistently sowing time in Scripture, prayer, obedience, and spiritual growth? In your relationships with others: Are you sowing love, encouragement, forgiveness, generosity, and service? With your resources: Are you sowing generously and intentionally into things that have eternal value? Looking at the four harvest principles—you reap what you sow, you reap as you sow, you reap where you sow, and you reap later than you sow—which principle speaks most directly to something in your life right now? What is one specific change you can make this week to sow more intentionally into the kind of harvest God desires to produce in your life?

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Three Essential Questions

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they and what they, or the group, can do as a result of hearing the message.

1. **What did you hear?** ***What point in this message was most impactful for you?***
2. **What do you think?** ***How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?***
3. **What will you do***? **How will you or your group put into practice what you've learned today?***

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