



Sow the Wind

For they sow the wind and they reap the whirlwind.

Hosea 8:7a

My pastor is fond of saying that we always reap more than we sow, and always long after we sow. I thought of that in context with the feature verse above when I read it yesterday. There's a twinge in my heart when I think of what I spent a lot of years sowing. When I turn the light on today, my present, it is still a sobering thought.

The principle of sowing and reaping is not foreign; it is taught often in churches throughout the world. Because it is so basic and so widely applicable, it is easily understood. But it is not easily grasped. At least it's not for me. This is one of those truths that I hear, I feel the conviction over, I nod and agree, then go on about my life and do nothing to put it into practice.

What seeds am I putting in the ground right now? In my day to day life, in my waking hours, what am I sowing? Am I sowing seeds of obedience or of rebellion? Laziness or diligence? Righteousness or unrighteousness? Every choice I make during my day is a seed planted. The choice to pick up my Bible instead of an easy-read, entertaining book. The choice to take care of chores rather than sit on the couch and watch mindless television or play games. The choice to give the benefit of the doubt to someone rather than jump to conclusions and get angry. The choice to abstain from gossiping rather than indulging, to say something kind rather than cutting. There are so many choices presented to us throughout our days, and so often I make the wrong one.

What I do today matters today, but it matters more in the murky and unseen tomorrow. The choices that I make today become the habits of tomorrow. The habits of tomorrow become the lifestyle of the future. When I sow laziness and self-indulgence I reap distance from God in the immediate. What will the harvest of that be when the seeds are full grown? The harvest is always more than the planting.

I read this verse and felt conviction over it, and I recognized that I could not make needed changes on my own. I asked for help, for God's intervention. Then I ignored it when I needed it most. Yet another choice made. I am so thankful for the promise of 1 John 1:9 and that God's mercies are new every morning.

Today is another day, and I have another opportunity to sow seeds of faithfulness, diligence, righteousness, kindness, joy, and love. I pray that as I reach into the bag of seeds, I choose the ones that will yield not the whirlwind, but an abundant harvest of faith.

Father, we thank You for Your word of truth. We realize that we are incapable of righteousness in our own nature and it is only through Your Holy Spirit that we are able to choose the seeds that will reap a harvest fit for Your kingdom. Help us to lean on You, to abide in You, and faithfully sow Your seeds rather than our own.