

Fall: Harvest Time

by Wayne Goff

The leaves of fall are silently changing and the beautiful yellows, oranges, and reds will make a drive through the hills of Missouri breath-taking. God is so good to bless us with “*seedtime and harvest*” (Gen. 8:22). I am afraid that too often from our sheltered, well-provided homes we forget from where these blessings come.

Israel was commanded annually to offer God a feast commemorating the bountiful harvest (Ex. 23:16; 34:22; etc.), and we have our own national Thanksgiving holiday which reminds us as well.

God wanted Israel to **give back** even of their produce and so commanded the harvesters to leave the “*corners of your field*” and the “*gleanings*” for the widows and orphans (Lev. 19:9). We **give back** to God every first day of the week *as we have been prospered* (1 Cor. 16). We must be *thankful* even as we **receive** God’s blessings.

This principle is even seen in our prayers. While we are privileged to pray to our heavenly Father with “*prayer and supplication*,” it is always to be “with thanksgiving” that we make known our requests to God, Phil. 4:6. There is **never** a time where we should *receive* without *giving something back* -- even if it just a simple word of thanks.

Sadly, there are those who “*sow to the flesh*” (Gal. 6:8). In a day of darkness they will “*reap corruption*”! May God help us to see when we do this, and to help us change.

Gladly, we are encouraged to “*sow to the Spirit*” that we might “*reap everlasting life*” (Gal. 6:8). We may not always see the *benefit (results)* of our efforts here, or immediately, but rest assured that God rewards those who sow to the Spirit!

The next time you see a beautiful pumpkin, give thanks for the farmer who planted, watered, weeded and harvested that product! Such produce does not just appear all by itself! Proverbs 10:5

284101