

The Believer and the Spirit

1. **Live by the Spirit** Gal.5:16 find our hope for life in Christ.
2. **Walk by the Spirit** Gal.5:16 following the impulse of the Spirit rather than the flesh.
3. **Grieve not the Spirit** Eph.4:30 disunity in the Body of Christ.
4. **Quench not the Spirit** 1 Thess.5:19 discouraging manifestations of the Spirit.
5. **Be filled with the Spirit** Eph.5:18 expressing the joy of worship and thanksgiving to God.
6. **Sow to the Spirit** Gal.6:8 supporting the ministry of the Word.



Proverbs 11

¹⁷ A man who is **kind** benefits himself, but a **cruel** man hurts himself. ¹⁸ The **wicked** earns deceptive wages, but one who **sows righteousness** gets a sure reward. ¹⁹ Whoever is **steadfast in righteousness** will live, but he who pursues evil will die. ²⁰ Those of **crooked heart** are an abomination to the Lord, but those of **blameless ways** are his delight. ²¹ Be assured, an **evil** person will not go unpunished, but the offspring of the **righteous** will be delivered. . . . ²⁴ One **gives** freely, yet grows all the richer; another **withholds** what he should give, and only suffers want. ²⁵ Whoever **brings blessing** will be enriched, and one who **waters** will himself be watered. ²⁶ The people curse him who **holds back grain**, but a blessing is on the head of him who **sells** it. ²⁷ Whoever diligently **seeks good** seeks favor, but evil comes to him who **searches for it**. ²⁸ Whoever **trusts in his riches** will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf."

Luke 6

³⁵ But **love your enemies**, and do good, and **lend**, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, . . .

³⁶ Be **merciful**, just as your Father is merciful. ³⁷ And **do not judge** and you will not be judged; and **do not condemn**, and you will not be condemned; **pardon**, and you will be pardoned.

³⁸ **Give**, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, they will pour into your lap. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."

Galatians 6

⁶ And let the one who is taught the word share all good things with him who teaches. ⁷ Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. ⁸ For the one who sows to his own flesh shall from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life. ⁹ And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary. ¹⁰ So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith."

⁶ And let the one who is taught the word share all good things with him who teaches."

Support of teachers is an investment in our own spiritual welfare.

1. These verses set the **context** for what follows.
2. If teachers feed us spiritually, it is in our best interest to do all we can to make their work **enjoyable** and **effective**.

2 Corinthians 9

“⁶ Now this I say, he who sows sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall also reap bountifully. ⁷ Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart; not grudgingly or under compulsion; for God loves a cheerful giver.”

1 Corinthians 9:11,14

“If we sowed spiritual things in you, is it too much if we reap material things from you?” . . . “So also the Lord directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel.”

1 Timothy 5

“¹⁷ Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching. ¹⁸ For the Scripture says, “*You shall not muzzle the ox while he is threshing,*” and “*The laborer is worthy of his wages.*”

Philippians 4

“¹⁴ Nevertheless, you have done well to share with me in my affliction. ¹⁵ And you yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone; ¹⁶ for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs. . . . ¹⁹ And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”

You will reap what you sow in your relationship with your teaching pastor.

1. Financial **generosity** / Genuine contentment
2. Encourage effectiveness with generous **feedback**.
3. Fill the gaps created by his **weaknesses**.
4. Challenge & correct **respectfully**.
5. **Protect** from abusive criticism by others.
6. Get to **know** him and learn how to love him and receive love from him.



“⁷ Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. ⁸ For the one who sows to his own flesh shall from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit shall from the Spirit reap eternal life.”

Three possible interpretations

1. **It's about salvation by works.** Eternal life is conditioned upon how we behave (follow the flesh or the Spirit).
2. **It's about faith in Christ.** Eternal life is for those who give their lives to Christ (sow to the Spirit) not to those who find their hope in this world (sow to the flesh).
3. **It's about financial support.** Those who support the ministry of the Word (sow to the Spirit) will promote eternal life and those who sow to the flesh will see corruption.

“⁹ And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary.”

Perseverance in spiritual sowing is needed.

1. There are three Biblical reasons we serve others.
 - a. It is a fruit of the Spirit of Christ in us.
 - b. It is a response to God's love for us.
 - c. **It is an investment in “Body life.”**
2. At times it can seem that there is little practical benefit in sacrificially serving others but do not lose heart. It will bear fruit.

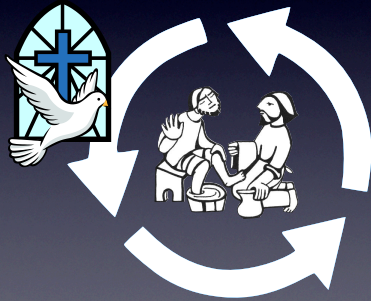
“¹⁰ So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.”

It is in our best interest to treat all people well.

1. We should **look for opportunities** to do good not wait.
2. The way we treat **Christians** is a **priority**.

Implication #1

What goes around,
comes around.



Implication #2

We sow to the Spirit when
we enable and encourage
the proper ministry of the
Scripture and the Spirit.



Implication #3

We make no apology for giving
priority to relationships within
the church family.

