

Seedtime and Harvest



Through my adult years, I've developed a love for gardening. There's just something about watching a bare plot of grass transform into a flower-filled haven, alive with fluttering butterflies, birds and bees. Or you just can't beat popping that first luscious cherry tomato still warm from the summer sun into your mouth.

When my children were little, I tried to get them interested in helping me tend the garden. They would plant a few seeds or help me transplant tender young plants into the ground for a few minutes, but soon their backs would hurt or they would be hot or their attention would wander to a more thrilling activity. And weeding? I never had any willing participants when it was time to take back control of the garden from invaders! Even at harvest time, they weren't too enthused to help gather the vegetables. Biting chiggers, mosquitos and "itchy grass"—from all the weeds!—sent them

slinking off to more fun activities. But, they were sure happy to help eat our tomatoes or beans or lettuce.

You know, I guess we adults aren't that much different than kids when it comes to our "spiritual crops." Most of us love to celebrate when a hard-fought spiritual victory has been won—a drug addiction beaten, a troublesome teen sees the light, a friend decides to follow Christ, or a cancer goes into remission. But I wonder, how many more victories could we be a part of if we were willing to "sow more seeds, pick more weeds and water the crops"?

Our verse from Genesis today tells us that there is a seedtime and a harvesttime. I think the *time* part can be a problem for all of us. It takes time and effort to hold someone accountable for an addiction, to stick by a teenager who is in "rebel-mode," to meet at the inner-city center and develop relationships with the kids, or to hold someone's hand while they're throwing up from chemo. It's hard, it's messy and tough love isn't a lot of fun. But, isn't that what Jesus calls us to? Being there in the seedtime will increase the chance that we'll get to see some harvests. Sometimes we plant a seed that someone else gets to harvest, or we get to harvest the seed that someone else planted! However God works it out, let's think about planting a seed in a life today.

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for the times of sowing and harvesting that make up the cycle of life. Show us where you want us to sow some seeds this month. Amen.

"While the earth remains Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer,

And day and night

Shall not cease."

Genesis 8:22