

Key Scripture:

Galatians 6:6–10 (ESV) ⁶ Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. ⁷ Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. ⁸ For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. ⁹ And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. ¹⁰ So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Matthew 6:19–21 (ESV) ¹⁹ "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Romans 8:9-11 (AMP) 9 However, you are not [living] in the flesh [controlled by the sinful nature] but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God lives in you [directing and guiding you]. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him [and is not a child of God]. 10 If Christ lives in you, though your [natural] body is dead because of sin, your spirit is alive because of righteousness [which He provides]. 11 And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, who lives in you.

1 Thessalonians 5:15–18 (ESV) ¹⁵ See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Discussion Questions:

The Bible seems to talk about "the flesh" a lot. How would you explain the physical & spiritual realities of "the flesh" to someone who doesn't come to church? What about "sowing in the flesh"?

On Sunday Paul said that our flesh is constantly trying to corrupt / shift our perspective. What becomes the focus with that? And, what are the effects of this when it happens in your own life?

Paul said "we often see fellow believers who once were following hard after Christ, and who we may have even aspired to be like, later in burn-out mode or they have become tangled up in sin." It is possible to appear like a spiritual role model but be doing so out of the flesh?

"Sowing in the Spirit" was mentioned a lot this week. **How would you describe the Biblical definition of this to a younger believer?**

In Galatians 6:9 the writer immediately calls us to not grow weary of doing good, after calling us to sow by the Spirit. **How are those two ideas connected? Have you seen people you've previously looked up to in the faith who have grown weary?**

We know eternity in Heaven we will be in intimate relationship with God. Can we have that intimate relationship with God starting now? How should we cultivate our eternal relationship with God today?

Paul pointed to two things that can help us cultivate this relationship.

- 1) FASTING; In what way, can it grow this everlasting relationship?
- **2) PRAY WITHOUT CEASING;** (1 Thessalonians 5:15-18) What does that spiritually & practically look like in life? What are the outcomes?

Will our flesh ever stop trying to shift our perspective from God? If not, then should be discouraged? How does Romans 8:9-11 reveal the greater hope that we have above the flesh?

We know God isn't about instant gratification. What will sowing spiritually today lead to in the future? Share physical examples