We Reap More Than We Sow - But we share less than is wasted

Maybe the Harvest Season is a particularly appropriate time to reflect somewhat less on **how** Creation started, in order to **marvel instead at how effectively and reliably God's creation provides for us, year on year.** And that in spite of all our mistakes, lapses and wobbles, God still invites us to simply enjoy the fruits of His creation!

Although the human race hasn't yet got the message about more effectively and lovingly sharing those resources, harvest-time reminds us that God has given humankind access to all of them. So enabling most of us to lead comfortable and happy lives to the full - even in the face of the often-dangerous forces of nature, and current dangers, hardships and concerns.

He's also given us free-will to make our own choices. The choices that we're free to make always *(**always!**)* have consequences - which is why we have to take responsibility for what we think, what we say, what we do, and how we behave - towards one another and towards the rest of Creation. Whether or not we hoard, or share what the earth can provide in abundance (usually!) Is entirely down to us…

It occurs to me that:

- We can only reap what we sow; if we sow anger and frustration and fear, that's what we'll experience in life; if we sow 'thorns', we'll get 'thorns'.
- In reality, we continually reap more than we sow (and often more than we realise), thanks to God's creative actions; "sow an acorn, we get an oak tree; sow a few grains of seed, we get a harvest of corn; sow love, we receive love; sow forgiveness, we receive forgiveness".

But in order to reap a meaningful 'spiritual harvest', we have to be patient and persistent - we have to try, maybe fail, but then try again, and again… We have to seize upon every opportunity to do right by God - not only by living the life he wants us to lead, but also by letting others in-on what we believe, why we believe it, and how that influences the way we live-and-love; and share-and-care. Opportunities to do that exist here-and-now.

Thought for the Week: **It all starts here in our hearts:**

- When we sow a thought
  - we reap an action
- When we sow an action
  - we reap a habit
- When we sow a habit
  - we reap a character
- When we sow a character
  - we reap a destiny

We already reap more than we sow in terms of everyday resources, that we all-too-often take for granted. We already receive more love (from God) than we could ever imagine, let alone repay.

But we have to try, and so we pray:

> ***Lord Jesus, help us to sow our beliefs and our faith in the way we live, the way we speak, and in how we care. If we have been sleepwalking through life, going through the motions, failing to take responsibility, and ignoring the needs around us - teach us to count the many blessings we still receive every day.***
>
> ***Then teach us to make our days count for you, and for those in need.***
>
> ***Wake us up, Lord! Shake us up. Do whatever it takes to get our attention. Help us to get busy living for you.***
>
> ***Amen***