

What Time Is It? (Breaking Up Our Fallow Ground)

Hos. 10:12 - Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.

1. Sowing and reaping

Gal. 6:7-9	Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit, shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.
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What are you sowing?

- righteousness, Bible reading, prayer, kindness, unselfishness, friendship, faithfulness
- fashion, adversarial relationships, lust, laziness, accusations

The answer can be easily determined by asking yourself questions like,

- How do I spend my time? my money?
- What do I feed my mind and spirit? What do I read? What kind of TV or videos do I watch?
- How do I react when I see or hear ungodliness? (repulsed or attracted)
- What kind of people are attracted to me (friendships)?
- Whom do I admire?

2. Fallow ground

'Fallow' refers to ground that at some previous time had been under cultivation, but which has been allowed to go unplowed and unplanted, and so is overgrown.

We must be watchful and vigilant. Just because we have been fruitful in some area of life doesn't mean we can stop pruning, weeding, watering, and fertilizing. Today's or yesterday's fruit will not continue without positive effort.

Are there areas in your spiritual life that you have stopped cultivating, and have allowed to become overgrown with sins, cares of this life, etc.?

"I used to believe ..."

"It used to bother me when ..."

"I used to have a conviction about ..."

"I used to always ..."

"God used to talk to me, but ..."

"I used to enjoy church and Christian fellowship and Bible reading and prayer, but ..."

"I used to witness"

If you have fallow ground, there is an answer!

3. Seeking God

Jer. 29:11-14	And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart, And I will be found of you, saith the Lord, and I will turn away your captivity...
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Do feel like you are in captivity? What is it?

e.g., fear, doubt, condemnation, selfishness, unclean desires, hatred, greed, covetousness, bitterness, resentment

Other captivities are more difficult because they are by nature harder to recognize:

e.g., self-pity, desire for attention, religious delusions, false doctrines, lukewarmness

But in all these, if you seek God with all your heart, he will turn away your captivity!

Dt. 4:23-31	But if from thence thou shalt seek the Lord thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou shalt seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul.
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Have you forgotten the covenant of your God? Turned aside after idols?

e.g., materialism, desire to impress people, covetousness, pursuit of worldly goals, desire to be rich

Col. 3:1-5	If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry.
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Isa. 55:1-2, 6-12	Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters ... Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near ... For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace ...
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What time is it? **Time to seek the Lord, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.**