

## PLOWING FOR GOD

**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. 13 **Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity;** ye have eaten the fruit of lies: **because thou didst trust in thy way**, in the multitude of thy mighty men.**

The “mighty men” were not God’s men. They were fleshly sinful men. They put their trust in their own ability.

When we plow with unrighteous men, God is not pleased. God desires that we work with righteous men and sow righteousness.

Fallow fields (paddocks) are fields that currently are not being used to grow crops. “Fallowing” of such a field is achieved when a farmer or landowner ploughs his land deeply, exposing the roots of weeds.

“Hard pan” A hard pan can development below the level of the roots of the crop. This occurs when the land is ploughed too shallow. This hard crust prevents rainwater and nutrients from getting to the plant root system. Believers can be like the “hard panned” fallow fields that need deep spiritual plowing to help them come to their best potential. It is the believers’ responsibility to “break up” his own spiritual fallow ground and seek the Lord. Prepared soils will receive God’s showers of righteousness; “plow deeply” beyond the hard pan crust.

“Sow to yourselves” in righteousness. (Hos 10:12) It time to seek the Lord.

**JOH 15:16** "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, **that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *that your fruit should remain*:** that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."

As stated above a “fallow” field is a field that is no longer in production. There are so many believers in this condition.

God desires His workers to come to full production, to reach our highest potential; hence God’s requirement to “break up” the hard ground of indifference. It is God that has chosen us and ordained us; our hearts need plowing, the Word needs sowing and our fruit needs harvesting.

Peter denied Christ three times, however after weeping bitterly he repented and prepared for service.

**Balaam’s Syndrome:** He prophesied truth, but he was a false prophet.

Baalam took money and position from the ministerial office. The donkey could see what Baalam could not see. Even spiritual men can be blinded.

**MAT 25:25** "And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, *there* thou hast *that is* thine." 26"His lord answered and said unto him, *Thou* wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:" 27"Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and *then* at my coming I should have received mine own with usury." 28"**Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.**" 29"For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath." 30"And cast ye **the unprofitable servant into outer darkness:** there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

God is looking for progressive increase in faith. It is easy to just pay the bills. God's creativity sees the blessing in the fallow ground. So start plowing.

1. Start where you are and move forwards. (Eze 1:9,12)
2. Take responsibility for building faith into your life - naturally and spiritually. (2Thes 3:6; Ecl 10:18)

**2 THES 3:6** Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly**, and not after the tradition which he received of us. 7For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you; 8**Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought**; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you: 9Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an ensample unto you to follow us. 10For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that **if any would not work, neither should he eat.**

The previous verses show Paul's integrity, he was a hard working preacher who paid his own way.

Paul received a hand up not a hand out. (Acts 18:3 Paul was given lodgings)

**ECL 10:18** By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through.

3. Increase comes from integrity; (Pro 11:3) hard work. (Pro 14:23; Pro 24:27; Pro 27:18; Pro 23-27)

**PSA 41:12** And as for me, **thou upholdest me in mine integrity**, and settest me before thy face for ever.

Faith without wisdom is like chaff; it's not worth very much.  
(Pro 14:33-34; 19:8)

4) Spend your money after you pay your bills.

Pro 24:29 Say not, I will do so to him as he hath done to me: **I will render to the man according to his work.**

5) Honour the Lord with your firstfruits. (Mal 3: 8-10)

**PSA 1:1** Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. **2But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.** 3And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and **whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.** 4The ungodly *are* not so: but *are* like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

The blessed man delights in God. (Psa 1:2)

He brings forth fruit in his season. (Psa 1:3)

Whatsoever he does prospers! (Psa 1:3)

God's blessing makes a man rich. (Pro 10:22)

This means he's a working man. (Pro 13:4)

We are the ones that pay our own bills. (Acts 18:3-4) Even the Apostles worked.