

## Spiritual People [#593]

Text: Gal 6:1-10

By Bob Young

### Introduction

Let's get spiritual. I remember what that meant in the late 1960s: circle, holding hands, lights out or dimmed. We've come a long way, baby!

- Get Bibles, study, expository. I like expository—hard, not do well, more than teaching/study, plowing holy ground, what comes up is what you get. Good way to study, let message of text loose. Not tell Bible what to say, just turn the Bible loose. Lay it open, let it speak. Plowed ground has a wonderful aroma, so also with Bible study. Exciting. Thought-provoking.
- Gal 6 is about practicing Christianity.
- Easy outline of Galatians: 1-2 Autobiography; 3-4 Doctrine/Teaching; 5-6 Application.
- We know some of Gal. 5—fruit of spirit, works of flesh, maybe even walking in the spirit. We may know some of the earlier verses. But we do not know Gal 6 as the conclusion, and this lesson is only the first half of Galatians 6.

First, this is a text about the Holy Spirit in our lives. Ye which are spiritual restore such a one. You shall reap of the Spirit. Further, this is a text about integrating people concerns and things to be done: people and product; people and task.

**\*1 Spiritual people are concerned about people, about relationships.** This is a rich text.

- Bearing burdens—helping, encouraging, strengthening
- Sharing blessings
- Integrity, candor, honesty

**\*2 Spiritual people honor the process—sowing and reaping**

The law of the harvest. There is a law of sowing and reaping. This is responsibility. We want glory without work; we avoid pain, commitment, dedication. The law of the harvest says otherwise. We reap because we sow, what we sow, more than we sow. We must teach responsibility, decisions. A negative in preaching is the harvest. Difficulties come even when you preach your heart out.

Choices. Have you read the OT story of Balaam lately? Even bad preachers say good things sometimes. "Let me die the death of the righteous." Cannot die the death of the righteous unless you live the life of the righteous. This is the process of Christianity. Cannot sow wild oats and pray for crop failure. When we are worldly all week, we will be worldly on Sunday.

At least two things are visible here: Priorities and Perseverance

### Conclusion

Spiritual people integrate people and task concerns.

Persistence. We have to study the familiar more closely. This is not tired, but weary. Tired = body, weary = mind. Nothing wrong with being tired, but weary is a problem. Persistence pays off.

Reap...in due season. Reaping is in the future. We want an instant harvest, but that is not the nature of the spiritual journey. We are on God's timetable. You cannot plant and harvest on the same mission trip. We cannot force production—the key is in the sowing. God gives the harvest, 1 Cor. 3:6.

Use every opportunity—serve, teach, act. We can keep our sanity by forgetting stats. Live by stat, die by stat. Just live the gospel, preach the gospel. Spiritual people connect with people, sow and reap.

If you have a one year goal, sow rice. If a decade, plant trees. If a lifetime, teach people. A life of service is not wasted. If the sowing is done, there will be a harvest.