

Have you tried "jogging in a jug?"

Remember this: *Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.* 2 Corinthians 9:6

BIG IDEA FOR RECESSION-PROOF LIVING: You will reap what you sow!

1. **THE BUCKET PROMISE:** *Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.* Luke 6:38

Why was Jesus talking about buckets? Check out Luke 6, Matthew 5-7

What do we learn about giving from buckets?

- When you give, God gives back to you.
- God uses the same bucket you use!

God tells us to pick up our buckets FIRST!

The bucket promise rests in the character of God. Check out Psalm 103

2. YOUR BUCKET IS YOUR BUCKET

Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, for each one should carry his own load (bucket).

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Galatians 6:4-5, 7-8

Mocking God is the same as ignoring Jesus and His claims on your life!

God is not stupid. God never suffers from amnesia.

Check your bucket! Are you sowing sin or obedience?

- God always knows what's in your bucket: *"Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account."* Hebrews 4:13
- The consequences always catch up with us because the law of sowing and reaping applies to our lives—no matter what!

What are you sowing in your life right now? _____

3. THE BUCKET HARVEST: *Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.* Galatians 6:9

God will respond to the generosity of recession-proof givers: *Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.* 2 Corinthians 9:10-11

When will I reap a harvest? _____

RECESSION PROOF RESOURCES:

"Money and Possessions," by Randy Alcorn

"Total Money Makeover," by Dave Ramsey

"Debt Free Living," by Larry Burkett

"The Shrewd Christian: You Can't Have It All, But You Can Have More Than Enough," by Neil Atkinson

Web sites for Recession Proof Living resources:

www.daveramsey.com

www.crown.org (Crown Ministries)

www.willowcreek.org/goodsense (Willow Creek)

www.compass1.org (Compass—finances God's way)

www.saddleback.com/lakeforest/carehelp/financialpractical/personalfinances