ONE SOWS. ANOTHER REAPS. BOTH CELEBRATE.
JOHN 4:37-38

37 The saying “One sows and another reaps” is true.

38 I sent you to reap what you have not worked for.

Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.
1 CORINTHIANS 3:5-9a (NIV)

5 What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul?
Only servants, through whom you came to believe— as the Lord has assigned to each his task.

6 I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.
CLIFFE KNECHTLE

“A person’s coming to Christ is like a chain with many links... There are many influences and conversations that precede a person’s decision to convert to Christ. I know the joy of being the first link at times, a middle link usually, and occasionally the last link. God has not called me to only be the last link. He has called me to be faithful and to love all people.”
# Responsibilities in the Salvation Process

**The Lord**

1. Provide a means of salvation in Jesus
2. Reveal Himself and open hearts
3. Convict of sin, righteousness & judgment
4. Grant forgiveness, the Holy Spirit & eternal life

**The Christian**

1. Be an example and influence
2. Give an answer for your hope
3. Share the message of Jesus
4. Intercede in prayer

**The Seeker**

1. Investigate & ask questions
2. Be willing to go wherever truth points
3. Repentance of rebellion against God
4. Trust Jesus & be baptized
THE SCALE OF SPIRITUAL AWARENESS AND GROWTH

+6  Enduring trials and opposition, and being faithful to the end
+5  Using one’s spiritual gifts and resources to advance God’s kingdom
+4  Sharing one’s faith with family & friends who are far from God
+3  Obeying God in temptations, and practicing immediate confession
+2  Learning to love God with one’s spiritual temperament, prayer & scripture
+1  Investing in Christian community

CONVERSION: “BORN AGAIN OF WATER AND THE SPIRIT”

-1  Trusting exclusively in Jesus’ death as sufficient payment for sin
-2  Repenting of sin (having tried to sit on God’s throne)
-3  Conviction of what one has done, deserves, and is unqualified to do about it
-4  Following the arrows that point to God, the Bible, Jesus & the resurrection
-5  Willingness to investigate Christianity despite hurts, hang ups & habits
-6  No awareness of an eternal supreme creator
TWO YEARS OF LINKS WITH CLAY

Link 1 – BUD: From a Stranger to a Friend
Link 2 – TYLER: From an Atheist to an Agnostic
Link 3 – TERRY: From an Agnostic to a Theist
Link 4 – TAD: From a Theist to a Christian
LEE STROBEL

“Remember that all the links in the chain – the beginning, middle, and end – are vital in leading a person to Christ. Most of the time, God uses us as an initial or middle link. Even your smallest gestures – an invitation to church, the gift of a book, an act of kindness in the name of Jesus – can become one of many Christian influences that will accumulate over time in that person’s life, hopefully bringing him or her to faith in the end.”
GALATIANS 6:9

“Let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t give up.”
JOHN 4:36

(The Voice)

36 “The harvester is collecting his pay, harvesting fruit ripe for eternal life. So even now, he and the sower are celebrating their fortune.”

(King James Version)

“...he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.”

(The Message)

“...now the Sower is arm in arm with the Harvester, triumphant.”

(New Living Translation)

“What joy awaits both the planter and the harvester alike!”
LUKE 16:9 (NLT)

“Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends. Then, when your earthly possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home.”
LEE STROBEL

“You may never know how many times God has used you as a beginning or middle link until you get to heaven – and then you will be eternally thankful that you reached out in so many seemingly simple ways to people in your life.”