

What About the Harvest?

- What is the thing God the Father is the most concerned about?
- What is central to God's will and heart?
- What is Christ's plan and desire for us?
- What will we be doing if we are main-stream in the *will* of God?
- If I am yielded to God's plan for my life, for the world, what would it be?
- Why do we need strong, victorious families? What is God's heart-beat for the family?

THE HARVEST SPEAKS OF ABUNDANCE:

(John 4: 34-38; I Cor. 3:6-9; Psa. 126:5-6; Matt 9:36-38) There is a multitude of grains of wheat in a wheat field, or in other fields of other kinds of grains. (So there is a multitude in the *field, that is the world.*) In a granary, that holds the wheat there is a multitude of grains.... grains in abundance, so in the world there is an abundance of people. Christ is speaking of abundance -- there are people everywhere, in need of Him. An abundance of people without Christ, how will they be reached?

THE HARVEST SPEAKS OF ACCESS:

It is not hidden, it is around us -- (Consider Acts 2, 8, 10, 13, etc.) In all these portions of Scripture, people in need of Christ were everywhere. Nobody needs to hunt for people in need of Christ. The harvest (of people) is accessible. It is at our arms length. Holy Spirit knows **why -- where -- and when!** **We need to be available.** The Holy Spirit would bring the lost person and the witnesser together. It is up to us to be ready and willing. (Jh 15:26-27; Matt. 4:19) He is ready to do His part in the harvest of souls. (Jh 16: 7-11) With over 6 billion people in the world, they are everywhere, needed someone to tell them the gospel story. (II Cor. 15:1-4; Romans 1:14-17; Acts 20:21; 17:30; II Pet. 3:9)

THE HARVEST SPEAKS OF A PROCESS:

There must be the *Tilling of the soil* -- (Rom. 10:13; Acts 16:30,31; 9:15, 22) Hearts must be or become soft, pliable, receptive, or open if they are to accept Christ. This demands that we build relationships; winning hearts for a hearing. Most unsaved do not have a prepared heart! What is a prepared heart? Someone open to hear the gospel message from our lips!

We must sow the Seed -- (Matt 4:14; I Cor. 3:7-8) A sower went forth to sow. The seed is the Word of God, and the field is the world. (Matt. 13) God put *life in the seed*, His Word, (Consider I Peter 1:23.) We should expect an increase, a harvest when we sow the seed. The farmer would not bother to sow any seed if he did not think there was life in the seed and also if he did not expect an increase. We must build **Need and Desire** in the heart of the hearer -- stair stepping people to Christ -- little by little! If we don't sow, why should we have a harvest? There must be sowing, sowing, sowing.

We must water the Seed -- with **tears** -- (Psa. 126:5-6) Maybe we would like to have a harvest without investment. But there must be tears of concern, of compassion and burden. (Gal. 4:19; Matt 9:36-38; Psa. 126:5,6))

On old deacon, who was a blacksmith in the 1880's, and also a deacon of a Baptist Church, had a great burden for the lost. He closed up his shop one day, and rode his horse out to see a rancher for whom he had wept many tears. He told his wife he was going out to endeavor to bring the man to Christ, to salvation. When he got there, and had entered the house, he began to share his reason of coming. Very quickly he broken down in tears, and cried so under his burden and broken heart for the man, that he left unable to talk and much ashamed. He went home dejected about it all and told his wife that he had bawled like a child and made a fool of himself. A few hours later in the day a man walked into his blacksmith shop. It was the rancher, and he said to the deacon, "*Today I heard a new*

reason why I should repent and become a Christian. If you are that concerned for me, I wish you would show me right now how to be saved.” God wonderfully used the tears of the blacksmith.

Then, we can expect the Harvest when the other things are done. The harvest is promised. (Jh. 4:36-38; Psa. 126:6,7) The harvest is a result of the process. (Psa. 126:5-6) All of us must be involved in the process.

THE HARVEST SPEAKS OF DANGER -- (John 4:34-36)

The harvest is already *white unto harvest*. What does that mean? It means the wheat field should have been harvested days earlier. The wheat stalks are turning from golden to a lighter yellow as the heads of wheat are also opening up. For now it is beyond the peak of readiness to be harvested. Now when the sickle cuts the stalk as it goes through the combine, some of the kernels that are partly open will fall to the ground and be lost. Later the farmer can go through the field and possibly see wheat lying every where. He could lose a high percentage of the wheat harvest because it became “*white unto harvest*.”

We must be led to the right place at right time, led of the Holy Spirit. There is the danger of missing the Holy Spirit’s work when He is at work. (Jh 15:16, 26, 27) Consider chapters 8, 10, 11, 18 in the Book of Acts. What do you see there? (See I Cor. 3:5-12) Christ’s ministry had prepared a harvest in which the disciples had not labored and He spoke of this in John 4:34-38. (Consider also: Acts 20:20; 4:23-33; 5:42; Gal. 4:19; I Thess 2:9; II Thess 3:8)

THE HARVEST SPEAKS OF PREPARATION:

What is true of a physical harvest on the farm is also true in the harvest of souls. The process must take place and as God gives the increase the harvest brings with the need of preparation.

1. Preparation of **time** set aside for the harvest.
2. Preparation of **priorities** to get the work done.
3. Preparation of **investment** that is necessary to care for the harvest.
4. Preparation of **oversight** and **care** to glean the harvest.
5. Preparation of **equipment** what must be used for the harvest.

THE HARVEST SPEAKS OF DEMANDS:

1. There is the **dedication** needed in the whole process -- II Tim. 2:9
2. There must be **determination** for and in the work.
3. There must be **Zeal** -- willing effort; surrender to leadership
4. Matt. 9:38-39

THE HARVEST SPEAKS OF JOY -- FULFILLMENT:

1. Gathering fruit brings great joy. -- Jh. 4:36
2. Gathering together with others bring much joy. -- Jh. 4:35- 38
3. Gathering rewards in the future brings great joy. -- I Cor. 3:8
4. Gathering with God is a blessed privilege. -- I Cor. 3:7, 9a
5. Gathering and caring for the harvest brings great fulfillment. There is also the need of safety and protection for the harvest. **Oh, be involved, friends!**