

## Praying For Laborers – 1/21/24

**TEXT- Matthew 9:35-38** *And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.*

**INTRO – Nothing is more important in the Christian life and ministry than effectual prayer.**

*“The man who mobilizes the Christian church to pray will make the greatest contribution in history to world evangelism.” Andrew Murray*  
*“No prayer, no power; little prayer, little power; much prayer, much power.”*  
Prayer is mentioned 550 times in the Bible, 174 times in the New Testament, 35 times in the book of Acts.

**Prayer is a major emphasis of Christ’s teaching.**

- Pray for our enemies.
- The model prayer
- Pray for laborers
- Prayer and fasting for casting out demons
- Pray believing
- Watch and pray lest you enter into temptation
- Watch and pray because no one knows when the Lord will come.
- Prayer of importunity
- Persistence in prayer

Prayer is mentioned 48 times in Paul’s epistles.

James, Peter, John, and Jude mention prayer 11 times.

Many prominent believers in the Bible were praying people. Enoch, Abraham, Hannah, Deborah, Samuel, David, Jehosophat, Hezekiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Nehemiah, Paul, Lydia)

**Prayer was foundational to the early church. Acts 2:42** *And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

**Prayer is to be first. 1 Timothy 2:1-2** *I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.*

**Prayer was the primary ministry of the early church leaders.**

**Acts 6:4** *But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.*

**Prayer is to be continual.**

**Romans 12:12** . . . *continuing instant in prayer;*

**Pray always - Ephesians 6:18** *Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;*

**Pray in everything - Philippians 4:6** *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*

**Continue in prayer - Colossians 4:2** *Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;*

**Pray without ceasing - 1 Thessalonians 5:17** *Pray without ceasing.*

**The Bible states, James 4:2** . . . *ye have not, because ye ask not.*

**God expects us to pray for everything we need. Lack of prayer results in lack of provision.**

**The needs of every home should be brought to God in prayer.**

**The needs of the church for love, unity, spiritual growth, victory, power, wisdom, salvation of souls, for youth for dads and moms for preaching for the pastor and his family for resources and for laborers.**

Prayers were symbolized by the altar of incense in the temple that go up continually before the Lord. So, our prayers should be kept before the throne of grace.

Prayers are mentioned in Revelation concerning the opening of the seventh seal. Rev. 5:8, 8:3-4

**Prayer is a major part of spiritual warfare. - Ephesians 6:18** *Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;*

**We recognize many prayer requests and add them to our bulletin and prayer chain. Almost all of them are prayers for medical needs or personal needs. The command to the disciples to pray for laborers is mostly ignored. Matthew 9:38** *Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.*

### I. The Scattered Sheep

- A. Their moral and spiritual condition – (They fainted)
- B. The failure of the shepherds
- C. There are multitudes

### II. The Harvest is Wasting

- A. Laborers are needed
- B. Where are the reapers?
- C. Is there no compassion?

**Matthew 9:36** *But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.*

**Psalms 145:8** *The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.*

**1 John 3:17** *But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?*

**Jude 1:22** *And of some have compassion, making a difference:*

### **III. What Must We Do?**

#### **A. First there must be prayer**

- Prayer by every individual
- Prayer by parents
- Prayer by church leaders

#### **B. We must be faithful**

1. To the Bible
2. To church
3. To our family
4. To our ministry

### **CONCL – Our God wants to hear our prayers!**

**Hebrews 4:16** *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*