

Chapter 1

Laborers Together in His Harvest

“... ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.’ Matthew 9:37-38

Jesus tells us that the harvest is ready and people are anxiously waiting to hear the good news of Jesus Christ. The moment you became a Christian, you became one of His laborers in gathering His harvest and spending the message of salvation. Christians all over the world are praying what Jesus exclaimed in Matthew 9:38, that there might be laborers sent into His harvest. Your desire to reach others for Christ is the result of those prayers and stirring of the Holy Spirit that is within you.

Having the desire to lead people to Jesus is the first step in ministering to the needs of other people, but it is only the first step and you must continue on from there. The second step is learning how to effectively get someone born again and filled with the Holy Spirit. The fact that you are reading this book shows that you have that desire and you are seeking for the knowledge, understanding, and confidence taught in the Bible.

“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’” Matthew 28:18-20

In Verse 19, Jesus says, “Go therefore and make disciples.” He does not offer us an alternative option. Nor does He say, “All who are pastors” or “All who have the time.” No! He says, “Go therefore...” that is a commandment God has given to all Christians. As He was ascending into Heaven, Jesus did not recommend that we try to chat with as many people as we can about Him. No, He said, “Go!” And that commandment was given to every Christian.

There is a promise with His command to “Go”. Jesus said in verse 20, “and lo, I am with you always...” This is the greatest news yet. He is with you always; the source of every good thing is inside of you! God did not command you to do something and leave you on your own to figure out the way to accomplish it. When you are born again and filled with the Holy Spirit,

God is in you and working with you. In Zechariah 4:6b it says, “Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts.” When you step out in faith to witness, you are relying on God’s strength and His Spirit to enable you.

Jesus says in Acts 1:8, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witness to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” If you have been filled with the Holy Spirit, you have His power at your disposal to be used for specific reasons-one is to witness. Once you are filled with the Holy Spirit, you are to go into all the world and make disciples. You are to witness to all people and bring them into the kingdom of God. This job was not designated to a few select radicals, it was given to every Christian and therefore we cannot relent with the expectation that someone else will do it for us. The commandment has been given to all and the power is within us!

Throughout denominational churches and religious organizations, the body of Christ has often lacked knowledge and teaching of how to get someone saved and/or filled with the Holy Spirit. As a result, people are afraid to speak up and feel that due to their lack of knowledge they would never be able to do it. The devil has used that lack of knowledge as a tool to silence the church and strip us of our duties as Christians to stand strong and loudly proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.

Thank God for His Word and the knowledge that we can find therein. We are finding out that helping someone else be born again and filled with the Holy Spirit is clearly laid out for us in His Word. The concept was established by God and as His able ministers we are equipped by Him to carry out His mission. His Word makes it very easy for us to reach people and make helping others one of the greatest joys of being saved.

We, the Body of Christ, need every single person to say, “I recognize the importance of my decision to give of myself to bring people to Christ.” We must see it as our highest calling. It is the most important part of our lives-emptying hell and filling heaven. The gift of eternal life is the greatest gift you can give someone. Take a moment to think about the importance of the task set before you. Before you proceed to the following pages, decide that you are willing to do what God has enabled and commanded you to accomplish.

Discussion questions:

- 1) What is a disciple? And what are they called to do?
- 2) What was Jesus command to His disciples? Do you feel that Jesus is commanding us to the same task?
- 3) Explain Matthew 28:18-20 in your own words.
- 4) Why do you think Jesus would give a Great Commission in Matthew 28?