

***It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.***

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

**Isaiah 55:11** So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

**Matthew 9:36** - Seeing the people, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then He said to His disciples, “**The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.**” <sup>38</sup> Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.”

A very real need!

The Lord taught a few wonderful Points of Doctrine in **Matt. 9:37-38**.

**1<sup>st</sup> POD: Prayer must precede all missionary and evangelistic work.**

“beseech the Lord of the harvest”

**δέομαι – DEOMAI** - a command to pray; a strong request. “*To ask or implore*”

**2<sup>nd</sup> POD: Prayer sets God in motion to accomplish what man cannot.**

A crop of lost souls!

“send out workers” is something God does in response to prayer.

Please observe whose harvest it is . . . it is God’s harvest.

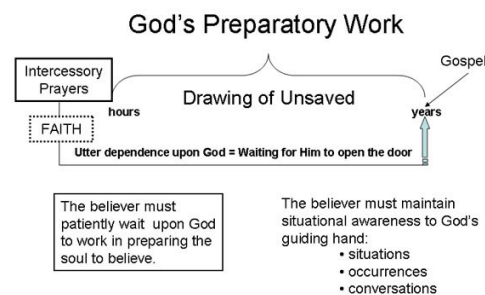
<sup>38</sup> “Therefore beseech **the Lord of the harvest** to send out workers into **His** harvest.”

➤ **Harvest** – **θερισμός - THERISMOS** - refers to the process and time of harvesting a crop.

**3<sup>rd</sup> POD: Since the harvest is God’s, true evangelism is a work in which the believer must cooperate with God.**

➤ The believer begins cooperating with God via intercessory prayer.

**Dynamics of Personal Evangelism**  
A Cooperative Work with God



It is appropriate for the believer to spend time in the throne of grace on behalf of the lost.

- Praying for salvation; praying in accordance with the will of God.

**1 Timothy 2:3-4** This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

**Romans 10:1** Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation.

**4<sup>th</sup> POD: Winning or harvesting souls for Christ is a process [*which requires time*].**

**5<sup>th</sup> POD: Therefore, the believer must not get ahead of God in that work.**

*When the lost are ready to be harvested, God will lead you to them.*

*The believer must be patient and wait on the Lord.*

- Remember one very important Scripture related to personal evangelism.

**2 Peter 3:8** “But do not let this one *fact* escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.”

*Observation* - those who the Lord asked to pray are the ones the Lord sent.

**Matthew 10:5** These twelve Jesus sent out . . .

Praying on behalf of others, in an intercessory capacity, is the manifestation of the love of Christ.

- As you begin to pray for one another a bond of camaraderie develops - true Christian fellowship, rapport, and a genuine concern for those you pray for.

As you pray for the lost, the compassion of Christ is felt for the lost.

*What constrains you?*

When we begin to pray for God to do something, oftentimes we already have the means to accomplish that request.

Just what is the doctrine in your soul doing for you?

**POD: It is in prayer that God gently reveals His will to the willing soul through the witness of His indwelling Spirit (Rom. 12:1 cf. Jas 1:5; 1 Cor 3:16; Rom. 8:16, 26-27; 9:1).**

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*All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.*