

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 9:37-38 Then He said to His disciples. . .

The Lord felt compassion for the multitude mentioned in **Matt. 10:36** because they were distressed and dispirited like sheep without a shepherd.

- He spoke to the disciples looking out upon the fields of people.
- There were so many, they appeared as shoots of grain on the plain.

. . . “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

³⁸ “Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.”

- **Beseech** – **δέομαι** – **DEOMAI** - *To ask* – a strong request; a prayer

That is the charge to this congregation on this New Year’s Eve.

- ✚ To pray - for the lost!
- ✚ To pray – not in a casual way!
- ✚ To pray - in an importunate manner like the widow who prayed until the unrighteous judge fulfilled her request.
- ✚ To pray - to pray through and not lose heart because our Lord lives to answer prayer!

God has promised in His infallible Word!

John 14:13 “Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

God has indeed promised to answer prayer - - the timing, however, is always His divine prerogative.

2 Peter 3:8 “. . .with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day.”

Cooperate with God in saving souls for His glory!

Matthew 18:19-20 “Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst.”

If there are two or three in your midst the Lord is present.

Are you willing to ask?

1. Beseech the Lord of the Harvest because He is the only One who can save.

A. Engage in importunate prayer as the widow in **Luke 18:1-8**.

¹ Then Jesus told them a parable to show them they should always pray and not lose heart. ² He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected people. ³ There was also a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' ⁴ For a while he refused, but later on he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor have regard for people, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps on bothering me, I will give her justice, or in the end she will wear me out by her unending pleas.' " ⁶ And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unrighteous judge says! ⁷ Won't God give justice to his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he delay long to help them? ⁸ I tell you, he will give them justice speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

B. Remembering **2 Peter 3:8** in that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day."

C. With an attitude of expectancy because He who has promised is faithful (**Hebrews 10:23b**).

Make a list of those unsaved individuals that you will pray for:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Revelation 20:11-15 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. ¹³ And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Isaiah 59:1 Behold, the LORD's hand is not so short that it cannot save; nor is His ear so dull that it cannot hear.

1 Timothy 2:3-4 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who 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.

✚ Is your heart's desire and prayer for the salvation of these souls?

✚ You must believe that things will come to pass that would not have come to pass unless you prayed.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, **that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.**"

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that **while we were yet sinners**, Christ died *as a substitute* for us.

2. Be prepared to give an account for the hope that is in you when God brings people into your life.

1 Peter 3:15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;

					Jer. 17:9
					Rom. 3:23
					Rom. 3:10
					Isa. 64:6
					Rom. 3:20
Heb.	Lev.				Jn. 1:29
9:22	17:11				Isa. 53:1-12
			Heb.	Rev.	
			9:27	20:11-15	
					1 Pt. 2:24
					Acts 4:12
					Rom. 5:8
					Rom. 6:23
					Acts 10:43
					Jn. 3:16, 18, 36
					Jn. 14:6
					Acts 16:31
					Jn. 11:25
					Eph. 2:8-9
					Titus 3:5

Study these passages.

Pray over them.

Ask the Lord about them.

3. Allow the Lord to use the circumstances that befall you to bring people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Acts 16:22-32

Acts 16:22-32 The crowd rose up together against them, and the chief magistrates tore their robes off them and proceeded to order them to be beaten with rods. ²³ When they had struck them with many blows, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely; ²⁴ and he, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. ²⁵ But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them; ²⁶ and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. ²⁷ When the jailer awoke and saw the prison doors opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!" ²⁹ And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, ³⁰ and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹ They said, "**Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved**, you and your household." ³² And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house.

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