

Ready For Harvesting

Last week I spoke about two things we are to focus on this year-

1. People (harvest)
2. Thanksgiving (having a heart of gratitude always).

I wonder how many of us are expecting to see something different in 2019? How many of us are seeking to impact the lives of those around us. I mentioned that when we are focussed on people, the focus on self lessens. If things are always surrounding your needs and wants and it is always about you, you & you, then you have missed the plot. We can very easily get caught up in this trap of being self centred and self focussed. It is not enough for us to enjoy life in Christ whilst others are going to a lost eternity.

Gal 6:7-10 (msg) 7-8 *Don't be misled/deceived: No one makes a fool of God. What a person plants, he will harvest. The person who plants selfishness, ignoring the needs of others—ignoring God!—harvests a crop of weeds. All he'll have to show for his life is weeds! **But** the one who plants in response to God, letting God's Spirit do the growth work in him, harvests a crop of real life, eternal life.*

9-10 So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up, or quit. Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to us in the community of faith.

We have a guaranteed harvest - How many of us want to be harvesters? How many of us want to see the fruit of our labour? How many of us really want results?

In the corporate world there isn't a company where they would not want you to write your goals, have aspirations to achieve, be motivated to see results and be driven to achieve them. Why? because business wants profits and to enable that to happen they need a focussed well planned and motivated work force who want to achieve. They know that if every individual is motivated to achieve then the whole company wins.

The Bible is very clear - what a person plants he will harvest. clear warning! don't be misled, cannot fool God our Maker! The question is this, how much time and energy do we spend planting, sowing or investing in the lives of others? The degree to which we are willing to invest into people will determine how big a harvest we are going to have. Someone who isn't willing to plant his seeds in the field cannot expect anything from it. Its like a bank account or a business, you have to invest first to get a return. You have to spend time with people and invest in them to see their salvation, which could be sooner or later, but it will come to pass because you have been sowing.

Examples of where we should be sowing: into our families - teaching and studying God's word, children- investing time to teach and encourage them in the things of God and church, neighbours - showing love and consideration, church - going the extra mile to serve and be a blessing; Jobs - being diligent and faithful always doing our best.

Operating by the Spirit of God - The Holy Spirit - guarantees eternal life and life to the full. When we sow into the things of the Spirit and operate through the Holy Spirit we are assured of living life to the full, not in half measures. How important is the person of the Holy Spirit? Jesus before he left this earth promised his disciples another helper in **John 14:16-17** *I will ask the Father, and he*

will give you another helper/ comforter/ Saviour who will be with you forever. 17 That helper is the Spirit of Truth. The world cannot accept him, because it doesn't see or know him. You know him, because he lives with you and will be in you. Jesus prioritised the Holy Spirit as the person who will live with us and in us.

If we are to impact the lives of people it cannot be done by our own efforts or own charisma or own strength, it has to be done in and through the Holy Spirit.

In John 15 Jesus said this: *when we abide in Him and He in us we bear much fruit for without Him we can do nothing.* So it is pointless trying to put something on if the Holy Spirit isn't in it because it will be fruitless.

Jesus commanded his disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the promised Holy Spirit in Acts1:4 why because it was through Him that they would receive power to be witnesses. You cannot operate without the Holy Spirit, He is the power house within you.

In Acts you read how bold the disciples became soon after they encountered the Holy Spirit. Peter stood up and preached and 3K were saved, Peter and John with boldness looked at the lame man at the gate beautiful and command him to walk - that's Holy Spirit power; many signs and wonders were done through the Apostles by the Holy Spirit.

Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a glimpse of what and where your harvest is and to give you a labourers heart so that God can send you as a labourer into His harvest. God is looking for steadfast labourers and labourers who easily get tired and give up.

God is looking for people who are willing to prioritise His Kingdom and serve Him with all their mind heart soul and strength. God is looking for a people who are willing to obey His voice and go into His harvest.

So don't quit, don't leave the race, don't give up on the family of God for your season for a breakthrough in the harvest is here.

Jesus loves you. He has a great plan for your life. Only Jesus can go into your dark places and turn it around by lightening it up with his power. Only Jesus can save you from your sin and surround you with His love & his power. He died for you and He rose again from the dead for you. (Activate Faith)

Will you trust Jesus? Will you put your life in his hands? Prayer : Lord Jesus, I acknowledge my sin, I know you died for me to set me free. I repent of all sin in my life and I ask you to forgive me. Be my Lord and Saviour.