

Be a Witness for Christ

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Matthew 9:36.

B. Jesus saw the crowds as a helpless flock of sheep and as a vast over-ripe harvest (Matthew 23:13, John 4:34-38)

C. The answer was in laborers (people who are willing to work and serve), not religious leadership who seek position.

II. The answer: pray for laborers.

A. We are to be thrust into the harvest.

B. The laborer is the ordinary garden variety kind. (Colossians 1:29)

C. Laboring was the one great thing on Paul's mind. (1 Corinthians 15:16)

D. We must labor and develop other laborers as well.

E. To labor one must depend upon the Spirit and be under His control.

III. Prayer is Jesus' very simple solution.

A. Thanksgiving and prayer should have a strong place in our prayer life. (Romans 1, Matthew 26:27, Mark 8:6, Luke 17:12-17)

B. We are to give thanks in everything.

C. Faith is a rare commodity, but a spirit of thanksgiving is even more rare. (Psalm 100:4)

D. Give thanks in everything. (1 Thessalonians 5:18, Philippians 4:6-7)

IV. Faith is one of those things that gives you power in prayer. (Matthew 21:22)

A. You cannot come to God doubting His willingness or ability to help. (1 Timothy 2:8, James 1:6-7)

B. Bring forth your cause and strong reasons before God. (Isaiah 41:21)

C. Faith sometimes goes against reason. (Romans 4:18-21, Mark 9:23, Mark 11:21, Luke 7:50)

D. If you are going to have power in prayer, you are going to have to strengthen your grasp on God's Word.

V. Obedience is a key to effective prayer. (1 John 3:22, Proverbs 15:29, Psalm 66:17)

A. The obedient one does not wallow in sin. Do what is right. (1 John 3:9)

B. The obedient one confesses sin. Be sorry when you do not do what is right. (1 John 1:9)

VI. To have power in prayer you must have unity in heart with fellow believers. (Acts 1:13-14, Matthew 18:19)

A. Sometimes however one cannot help unity.

B. In those cases one must forgive and co-labor in a meaningful enterprise. (Ephesians 4:2, 4:32, Philippians 1:27, Exodus 19:5-6)

VII. There must be a willingness to work.

A. Prayer could be an injury to your spiritual growth, because God uses difficult times to build character.

B. There is a fine balance between our efforts and God's. (Acts 27)

VII. Your prayer life must be dedicated to the glory of God. (John 13:14, Ephesians 3:21)

A. This is difficult.

B. It is very easy to take the glory from God as a prayer warrior.

Application questions

1. How would you characterize the prayer life and why is this important?

2. What are the conditions of effective prayer? Which one stands out to you, and why?

3. Memorize 1 Thessalonians 5:18 and write it below. How does this verse relate to a person's prayer life?
