

**What kind of Church does Jesus Want? 7 Questions to Answer Why We Give for Harvesters.**

1. **What did Jesus tell us to pray for His church?** Matt. 9:35-36, they were distressed, trapped in sin and spiritual hopelessness. V36, downcast, thrown down, vulnerable. Jesus had compassion for them. V37, there is a plentiful harvest but few workers. V38, pray earnestly (beg, plead [with God]) for harvesters to be sent out. Praying for harvesters means paying for harvesters.
2. **Why Preach on Giving to a Faithful Church?** 1) Church members in a faithful church are energized to give. They see the eternal value, richness of ministry, and focused priority of Gospel proclamation. 2) Depth of ministry only built one way => many harvesters! 3) Reminded of what money is for: a) Secondary: to help one another and the poor. b) Primary: Qualified shepherds who teach/preach the Gospel.
3. **Why not just Coast Since Good Things are Happening?** There are **NO** NT examples of a church pleasing the Lord by sitting still. Philadelphia (Rev. 3:8) had little power but were given an open door. Some ministry commitments by Steve S. when considering ministry opportunities: 1) Never succumb to the temptation to artificially growth the church (seeker sensitive). 2) Never be constrained by what other churches are doing. 3) Always proactively prepare to have harvesters ready for growth and have the ability to disciple more believers.
4. **What are the Giving Principles Already Learned?** 1) God's Provision: 2 Cor. 9:8, God provides for the work that must be done. V10, He supplies seed to the sower and bread for food. 2) Production: to do the work of ministry by shepherds equipping the body, Eph. 4:11-13. To make disciples, Matt. 28:19-20. 3) Priority: 1 Tim. 6:17, to set our hope on God, not on uncertain riches. The rich are to be rich in good works. V18, generous and ready to share. 4) Pleasure: 2 Cor. 9:7, God loves a cheerful giver. After giving comes joy.
5. **How is an Extraordinary Church Supposed to Live?** Answer: By Faith! There is no NT example of a church hoarding wealth to be used for Christ's work. The parable of the talents (Matt. 25:14-30) speaks negatively of the one who took and hid their talent. Faith in God's work at Grace Bible Church has brought a Preaching Pastor, Worship Pastor, Youth Pastor, Outreach Ministry Leader, Executive Pastor, and Spanish Pastor. Each time the congregation increased the giving to provide for the work being done now.
6. **What are the Benefits of Harvesters?** 1) Increased time for study and prayer. 2) Equipping of the saints for ministry. 3) Growth and holiness in Christlikeness of its members. 4) Discipleship of the body. 5) Multiplication of Ministry (one man can preach to 50 as easily as 500).
7. **How are the Elders Seeking for Wisdom from the Lord and Your Help?** 1) General Budget: Giving an additional amount to strengthen the finances of the church. 2) Bringing on a Fulltime Pastor of Discipleship and Counseling: An increase of 10% in your current level of giving for 2025 and beyond would provide sufficient funds to bring on an additional harvester. Why Important? New members and new believers create a need for more discipleship and training. Counseling is accelerated discipleship pushing men and women towards Men's and Women's Groups and Small Groups.

## Further Discussion and Application

How can you be praying for the ministry of Grace Bible that will increase Gospel effectiveness in our city and outreach to other places?

Consider how your giving has increased over the years and the blessings that have been enjoyed as you have faithfully given to the Gospel work. How has your giving changed over the years? How might you counsel younger men and women on principles of giving to the Lord?

Is a message like today exciting to you? Are you stirred up to consider giving more? If not, what cares and burdens are you facing that you might share with another trusted believer and possibly find solutions to or a new perspective in those concerns? How can prayer help you organize your concerns, and then in response, what does the Word of God say about the blessings of giving, sowing, and reaping about Gospel work? What joy is there in giving to missions or the work of God? What is the purpose of man?

Sending men to do the work of ministry is a radical action. The sending church is asking a man to devote his time and effort to making disciples. It is also going into areas that are not yet fully developed and functioning. Besides financial support what are other ways that we can use our time, talents, prayers, and families to multiply ministry in our church?

Worship of God is worthy of sacrifice. The Father gave us His Son on account of our sin. A worshipper in OT times brought a sacrifice and/or offering to the temple to worship God. What have we received from the Lord compared to what we have offered to Him? Why should we concern ourselves with how we give and why we give? What is the motive of our heart in worship to the Lord?

Finally, consider your views on ownership. What do we own? What does God own? Consider your views on stewardship. How should we handle what God has given us? How can we use what God has given to be even more productive and useful to the Gospel work?