

# 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?

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

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

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