

The background of the entire image is a dark, deep blue. Overlaid on this are several ethereal, colorful light patterns that resemble smoke or nebulae in shades of purple, magenta, and blue. A central focus is a human hand, palm facing forward, with a brilliant, multi-colored starburst of light emanating from the center of the palm. The light has a core of white and yellow, radiating outwards in shades of pink, orange, and red. The overall effect is one of divine light and spiritual power.

Intercessory

Prayer

Intercessory

Prayer

This course is part of the Harvestime International Institute, a program designed to equip believers for effective spiritual harvest.

The basic theme of the training is to teach what Jesus taught, that which took men who were fishermen, tax collectors, etc., and changed them into reproductive Christians who reached their world with the Gospel in a demonstration of power.

This manual is a single course in one of several modules of curriculum which moves believers from visualizing through deputizing, multiplying, organizing, and mobilizing to achieve the goal of evangelizing.

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HOW TO USE THIS MANUAL

Each lesson consists of:

Objectives: These are the goals you should achieve by studying the chapter. Read them before starting the lesson.

Key Verse: This verse emphasizes the main concept of the chapter. Memorize it.

Chapter Content: Study each section. Use your Bible to look up any references not printed in the manual.

Self-Test: Take this test after you finish studying the chapter. Try to answer the questions without using your Bible or this manual. When you have concluded the Self-Test, check your answers in the answer section provided at the end of the book.

For Further Study: This section will help you continue your study of the Word of God, improve your study skills, and apply what you have learned to your life and ministry.

Final Examination: If you are enrolled in this course for credit, you received a final examination along with this course. Upon conclusion of this course, you should complete this examination and return it for grading as instructed.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS NEEDED

You will need a King James version of the Bible.

SUGGESTIONS FOR GROUP STUDY

FIRST MEETING

Opening: Open with prayer and introductions. Get acquainted and register the students.

Establish Group Procedures: Determine who will lead the meetings, the time, place, and dates for the sessions.

Praise And Worship: Invite the presence of the Holy Spirit into your training session.

Distribute Manuals To Students: Introduce the manual title, format, and course objectives provided in the first few pages of the manual.

Make The First Assignment: Students will read the chapters assigned and take the Self-Tests prior to the next meeting. The number of chapters you cover per meeting will depend on chapter length, content, and the abilities of your group.

SECOND AND FOLLOWING MEETINGS

Opening: Pray. Welcome and register any new students and give them a manual. Take attendance. Have a time of praise and worship.

Review: Present a brief summary of what you studied at the last meeting.

Lesson: Discuss each section of the chapter using the **HEADINGS IN CAPITAL BOLD FACED LETTERS** as a teaching outline. Ask students for questions or comments on what they have studied. Apply the lesson to the lives and ministries of your students.

Self-Test: Review the Self-Tests students have completed. (Note: If you do not want the students to have access to the answers to the Self-Tests, you may remove the answer pages from the back of each manual.)

For Further Study: You may do these projects on a group or individual basis.

Final Examination: If your group is enrolled in this course for credit, you received a final examination with this course. Reproduce a copy for each student and administer the exam upon conclusion of this course.

INTRODUCTION

You are about to begin an exciting spiritual adventure. Through the pages of this manual you will learn about a powerful supernatural resource available to the Body of Christ, that of intercessory prayer.

In this study you will learn what intercessory prayer is and how to do it effectively using dynamic spiritual resources that have been delegated for this purpose. You will learn what to pray for, how to overcome hindrances to intercessory prayer, and how to get started and keep going.

Your spiritual life and ministry will never again be the same. Are you ready to begin your journey to this exciting spiritual destination?

There is a place where thou canst touch the eyes
Of blinded men to instant perfect sight;
There is a place where thou canst say, "Arise!"
To dying captives, bound in chains of night.

There is a place where thou canst reach the store
Of hoarded gold and free it for the Lord;
There is a place upon some distant shore
Where thou canst send the worker and the Word;
There is a place where heaven's resistant power
Responsive moves to thine insistent plea;

There is a place-a silent trysting hour-
Where God Himself descends and fights for thee.
Where is that secret place? Dost thou ask where?
O soul, it is the secret place of prayer!

-Author Unknown

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon conclusion of this course you will be able to:

- Define prayer.
- Explain how prayer is answered.
- Summarize the role of prayer in the life of Jesus Christ.
- Identify the levels of prayer.
- Identify the different types of prayer.
- Define intercessory prayer.
- Explain the Biblical basis of the believer's ministry as an intercessor.
- Identify Jesus Christ as our model for intercession.
- Describe how intercession is done.
- Explain why intercession is important.
- Use spiritual resources for intercession, including delegated power and authority, binding and loosing, the Name of Jesus, the blood of Jesus, and fasting.
- Explain how to intercede.
- Summarize principles for effective intercession.
- Identify what to intercede for.
- Use the promises of God to intercede.
- Identify and eliminate hindrances to effective intercession.
- Know when not to pray.
- Provide Scriptural references for both versions of the model prayer.
- Explain why the Lord's prayer is actually a prayer of intercession.
- Recite the model prayer from memory.

- Use the model prayer as a guide for intercession.

Define revival.

- Explain how we can prepare for revival.
- Recognize when revival is needed.
- Identify evidences of a backslidden condition.
- Summarize Biblical principles of revival.
- Identify obstacles to revival.
- Explain how to use "God's revival plan" to intercede for revival.
- Make a plan for organized prayer.
- Create a personal prayer manual.
- Engage in international intercession.
- Identify problems in getting started and keeping going.
- Commit yourself to the ministry of intercession.

CHAPTER ONE

AN INTRODUCTION TO PRAYER

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Define prayer.
- Explain how prayer is answered.
- Summarize the role of prayer in the life of Jesus Christ.
- Identify the levels of prayer.
- Identify the different types of prayer.

KEY VERSES:

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth, and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. (Matthew 7:7-8)

INTRODUCTION

This chapter introduces the subject of prayer. You will learn the definition of prayer and the importance Jesus placed on it. You will learn how prayer is answered and the different levels and types of prayer.

THE DEFINITION OF PRAYER

Prayer is communicating with God. It takes different forms, but basically it occurs when man talks with God and God talks with man. Prayer is described as:

Calling upon the name of the Lord:	Genesis 12:8
Crying unto God:	Psalms 27:7; 34:6
Drawing near to God:	Psalms 73:28; Hebrews 10:22
Looking up:	Psalms 5:3
Lifting up the soul:	Psalms 25:1
Lifting up the heart:	Lamentations 3:41
Pouring out the heart:	Psalms 62:8
Pouring out the soul:	I Samuel 1:15
Crying to Heaven:	II Chronicles 32:20
Beseeching the Lord:	Exodus 32:11
Seeking God:	Job 8:5
Seeking the face of the Lord:	Psalms 27:8
Making supplication:	Job 8:5; Jeremiah 36:7

Prayer is not just talking to God, but it involves listening also. Prayer is communication, and a one-way conversation does not last long. When you pray, expect God to speak to you. Most often He will do this through His written Word or by a "still small voice" that seems to "speak" to your heart. Sometimes He will give you a vision or interpret back to your spirit what you have prayed in your heavenly prayer language.

Don't just rush in and dump all your requests on God and then end your prayer. Allow time for Him to speak to you. He will give answers to your questions, guidance for the day ahead, and help you order your priorities. Sometimes He will give you a special message of encouragement to share with someone for whom you are interceding.

When you pray, there is no one approved posture for prayer. You may pray while:

Standing:	I Kings 8:22; Mark 11:25
Bowing down:	Psalms 95:6
Kneeling:	II Chronicles 6:13; Psalms 95:6; Luke 22:41; Acts 20:36
Falling on your face:	Numbers 16:22; Joshua 5:14; I Chronicles 21:16; Matthew 26:39
Spreading out your hands:	Isaiah 1:15; II Chronicles 6:13
Lifting up the hands:	Psalms 28:2; Lamentations 2:19; I Timothy 2:8

HOW PRAYER IS ANSWERED

The Bible reveals that prayer is answered:

Immediately at times:	Isaiah 65:24; Daniel 9:21-23
Delayed at times:	Luke 18:7
Different from our desires:	II Corinthians 12:8-9
Beyond our expectations:	Jeremiah 33:3; Ephesians 3:20

THE PRAYER LIFE OF JESUS

Prayer should be important to us because it was important to the Lord Jesus. Jesus is our greatest model of intercessory prayer. Study each of the following references about the prayer life of Jesus:

JESUS MADE PRAYER A PRIORITY:

-He prayed any time of the day or night:	Luke 6:12-13
-Prayer took priority over eating:	John 4:31-32
-Prayer took priority over business:	John 4:31-32
-He taught prayer to his disciples:	Matthew 6:9-13

PRAYER ACCOMPANIED ANY EVENT OF IMPORTANCE IN HIS LIFE:

-At His baptism:	Luke 3:21-22
-During the first ministry tour:	Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16
-Before the choice of the disciples:	Luke 6:12-13
-Before/after feeding the 5,000:	Matthew 14:19,23; Mark 6:41,46; John 6:11,14-15
-At the feeding of the 4,000:	Matthew 15:36; Mark 8:6,7
-Before the confession of Peter:	Luke 9:18
-Before the transfiguration:	Luke 9:28,29
-At the return of the seventy:	Matthew 11:25; Luke 10:21
-At the grave of Lazarus:	John 11:41-42
-At the blessing of the children:	Matthew 19:13
-At the coming of certain Greeks:	John 12:27-28
-For Peter:	Luke 22:32
-For the giving of the Holy Spirit:	John 14:16
-On the road to Emmaus:	Luke 24:30-31
-Prior to His ascension:	Luke 24:50-53
-For His followers:	John 17
-Before His greatest trial:	Matthew 26:26-27; Mark 14:22-23; Luke 22:17-19

LEVELS OF PRAYER

There are three levels of intensity in prayer: Asking, seeking, and knocking:

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth, and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. (Matthew 7:7-8)

Asking is the first level of prayer. It is simply presenting a request to God and receiving an immediate answer. In order to receive, the condition is to ask:

...ye have not, because ye ask not. (James 4:2)

Seeking is a deeper level of prayer. This is the level of prayer where answers are not as immediate as at the asking level. The 120 gathered in the upper room where they "continued" in prayer is an example of seeking. These men and women sought fulfillment of the promise of the Holy Spirit and continued "seeking" until the answer came (Acts 1-2).

Knocking is a deeper level. It is prayer that is persistent when answers are longer in coming. It is illustrated by the parable Jesus told in Luke 11:5-10. It is also illustrated by the persistence of Daniel who continued to "knock" despite the fact he saw no visible results because Satan hindered the answer from God (Daniel 10).

TYPES OF PRAYER

Paul calls for believers to pray always with "all prayer" (Ephesians 6:18). Another translation of the Bible reads "praying with every kind of prayer" (Goodspeed Translation). This refers to the various types of prayer which include:

1. WORSHIP AND PRAISE:

You enter into God's presence with worship and praise:

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise; be thankful unto Him, and bless His Name. (Psalms 100:4)

Worship is the giving of honor and devotion. Praise is thanksgiving and an expression of gratitude not only for what God has done but for who He is. You are to worship God in spirit and in truth:

But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in Spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him.

God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth. (John 4:23-24)

Worshipping God in truth means that you worship Him on the basis of what is revealed in the Word of God. To worship Him in Spirit is to do so sincerely in the power of the Holy Spirit, from your innermost being, putting Him first above all others. When you worship in Spirit, you allow the Holy Spirit to direct your worship. You do not use man-made formulas or rituals of worship. You do not just repeat chants or prayers with your mind somewhere else.

Instead, you open up the innermost recesses of your heart and mind, and lift praise and adoration to Him in your own words. Sometimes, the Holy Spirit will take over completely and you will begin to worship in the "other tongues" of your prayer language.

Praise and worship can be with:

Singing:	Psalms 9:2,11; 40:3; Mark 14:26
Audible praise:	Psalms 103:1
Shouting:	Psalms 47:1
Lifting up of the hands:	Psalms 63:4; 134:2; I Timothy 2:8
Clapping:	Psalms 47:1
Musical instruments:	Psalms 150:3-5
Standing:	II Chronicles 20:19
Bowing:	Psalms 95:6
Dancing:	Psalms 149:3
Kneeling:	Psalms 95:6
Lying down:	Psalms 149:5

2. COMMITMENT:

This is prayer committing your life and will to God. It includes prayers of consecration and dedication to God, His work, and His purposes.

3. PETITION:

Prayers of petition are requests. Requests must be made according to the will of God as revealed in His written Word. Petitions may be at the levels of asking, seeking, or knocking. Supplication is another word for this type of prayer. The word supplication means "beseeching God or strongly appealing to Him in behalf of a need.

4. CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE:

A prayer of confession is repenting and asking forgiveness for sin:

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

5. INTERCESSION:

Intercession is prayer for others. An intercessor is one who takes the place of another or pleads another's case. It is upon this type of prayer that the remainder of this manual focuses.

SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

2. Define prayer.

3. Explain how prayer is answered.

4. Summarize the role of prayer in the life of Jesus Christ.

5. Identify and define the levels of prayer discussed in this chapter.

6. Identify and write a brief synopsis of the five types of prayer discussed in this chapter.

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. Here is a prayer guide to help you pray for the continents and the world:

On Monday:	Pray for Asia
On Tuesday:	Pray for Europe
On Wednesday:	Pray for Africa
On Thursday:	Pray for North America
On Friday:	Pray for Latin America
On Saturday:	Pray for Oceania (Island nations)
On Sunday:	Pray for the entire world

2. Study the following Scriptures again and then experiment by praying in different positions:

Standing:	I Kings 8:22; Mark 11:25
Bowing down:	Psalms 95:6
Kneeling:	II Chronicles 6:13; Psalms 95:6; Luke 22:41; Acts 20:36
Falling on your face:	Numbers 16:22; Joshua 5:14; I Chronicles 21:16; Matthew 26:39
Spreading out your hands:	Isaiah 1:15; II Chronicles 6:13
Lifting up the hands:	Psalms 28:2; Lamentations 2:19; I Timothy 2:8

3. Study the following verses again and then experiment by praising and worshiping God in the various ways Scripture directs:

Singing:	Psalms 9:2,11; 40:3; Mark 14:26
Audible praise:	Psalms 103:1
Shouting:	Psalms 47:1
Lifting up of the hands:	Psalms 63:4; 134:2; I Timothy 2:8
Clapping:	Psalms 47:1
Musical instruments:	Psalms 150:3-5
Standing:	II Chronicles 20:19
Bowing:	Psalms 95:6
Dancing:	Psalms 149:3
Kneeling:	Psalms 95:6
Lying down:	Psalms 149:5

-----End Of Chapter 1

CHAPTER TWO

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Define intercessory prayer.
- Explain the Biblical basis of the believer's ministry as an intercessor.
- Identify Jesus Christ as our model for intercession.
- Explain how to intercede.
- Explain why intercession is important.

KEY VERSE:

Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them. (Hebrews 7:25)

INTRODUCTION

In the last lesson you learned that intercession is praying for others. An intercessor is one who takes the place of another or pleads another's case. When you pray this way, you are interceding:

"Intercession may be defined as holy, believing, persevering prayer whereby someone pleads with God on behalf of another or others who desperately need God's intervention." (Full Life Bible)

It is upon this type of prayer that the remainder of this manual focuses. In this lesson you will learn the Biblical basis of intercession and about our model for intercession, the Lord Jesus Christ. You will also learn how to do intercession and why it is an important ministry.

THE BIBLICAL BASIS OF INTERCESSION

The Biblical basis for the New Testament believer's ministry of intercessory prayer is our calling as priests unto God. The Word of God declares that we are a holy priesthood (I Peter 2:5), a royal priesthood (I Peter 2:9), and a kingdom of priests (Revelation 1:5).

The background for understanding this calling to priestly intercession is found in the Old Testament example of the Levitical priesthood. The priest's responsibility was to stand before and between. He stood before God to minister to Him with sacrifices and offerings. The priests also stood between a righteous God and sinful man bringing them together at the place of the blood sacrifice.

Hebrews 7:11-19 explains the difference between the Old and New Testament ministries of the priest. The Old Testament Levitical priesthood was passed on from generation to generation through the descendants of the tribe of Levi. "The Melchizedek priesthood" spoken of in this passage, is the "new order" of spiritual priests of whom the Lord Jesus is the High Priest. It is passed on to us through His blood and our spiritual birth as new creatures in Christ.

THE MODEL INTERCESSOR

The Bible records that God's purpose in sending Jesus was for Him to serve as an intercessor:

And He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore His arm brought salvation unto Him, and His righteousness, it sustained Him. (Isaiah 59:16)

Jesus stands before God and between Him and sinful man, just as the Old Testament priests did:

For there is one God, and one mediator (intercessor) between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. (I Timothy 2:5)

...It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. (Romans 8:34)

Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them. (Hebrews 7:25)

Jesus brings sinful man and a righteous God together at the place of the blood sacrifice for sin. No longer is the blood of animals necessary as it was in the Old Testament. We can now approach God on the basis of the blood of Jesus which was shed on the cross of Calvary for the remission of sins. Because of the blood of Jesus, you can approach God boldly without timidity (Hebrews 4:14-16).

Jesus was an intercessor while He was here on earth. He prayed for those who were sick and possessed by demons. He prayed for His disciples. He even prayed for you when He interceded for all those who would believe on Him. Jesus continued His ministry of intercession after His death and resurrection when He returned to Heaven. He now serves as our intercessor in Heaven.

HOW TO INTERCEDE

As intercessors following the Old Testament priestly function and the New Testament pattern of Jesus, we stand before God and between a righteous God and sinful man. In order to be effective standing "between" we must first stand "before" God to develop the intimacy necessary to fulfill this role.

Numbers 14 is one of the greatest accounts of intercessory prayer recorded in the Bible. Moses was able to stand between God and sinful man because he had stood "before" Him and had developed intimacy of communication. Numbers 12:8 records that God spoke with Moses as friend to friend and not through visions and dreams as He did with other prophets.

As New Testament believers we no longer sacrifice animals as in Old Testament times. We stand before the Lord to offer up spiritual sacrifices of praise (Hebrews 13:5) and the sacrifice of our own lives (Romans 12:1). It is on the basis of this intimate relationship with God that we can then stand "between" Him and others, serving as an advocate and intercessor in their behalf.

Peter uses two words to describe this priestly ministry: "Holy" and "royal." Holiness is required to stand before the Lord (Hebrews 12:14). We are able to do it only on the basis of the righteousness of Christ not our own righteousness. Royalty is descriptive of the kingly authority which is delegated to us as members of the "royal family," so to speak, with legitimate access to the throne room of God.

Sometimes this priestly intercession is done with understanding. This occurs when you intercede for others in your own native language and you understand what you are saying:

I exhort therefore, that first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men.

For kings, and for all that are in authority... (I Timothy 2:1-2)

At other times, intercession is made by the Holy Spirit. It may be with groanings resulting from a heavy spiritual burden. It may also be in an unknown tongue. When this happens, the Holy Spirit speaks through you praying directly to God according to the will of God:

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities; for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. (Romans 8:26)

For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.

(I Corinthians 14:2)

You do not understand this type of intercession with your mind, but it is the deepest level of intercessory prayer and the most effective because it is made "according to the will of God." Your mind and will do not affect the prayers prayed by the Holy Spirit through you in an unknown tongue.[1]

WHY INTERCESSION IS IMPORTANT

Intercession is obviously important because of the emphasis Jesus placed on it in His own earthly ministry. Its importance is also revealed in the Biblical record which is filled with the stories of men and women who experienced powerful results through effective intercession.

Through effective intercession, you can go spiritually anywhere in the world. Your prayers have no limitations of distance as they can penetrate unreached nations and cross through geographical, cultural and political barriers. You can affect the destiny of individuals and entire nations. You can actually help save lives and souls of men and women, boys and girls and extend the Gospel of the Kingdom of God around the world as you intercede in prayer.

[1] For additional information on speaking in other tongues consult the Harvestime International Institute course entitled "Ministry Of The Holy Spirit."

SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

2. Define intercessory prayer.

3. Explain the Biblical basis of the believer's ministry as an intercessor.

4. Who is our model for intercession?

5. Explain how intercession is done.

6. Explain why intercession is important.

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

FOR FURTHER STUDY

One of the greatest examples of intercessory prayer is the prayer of Jesus recorded in John 17. Use the following outline to study this prayer:

Jesus prays for Himself: John 17:1-5

Summarize His requests for Himself:

Jesus prays for His immediate disciples: John 17:6-19

Summarize His requests for His immediate disciples:

Jesus prays for His future disciples: John 17:20-23

List the specific requests Jesus makes for His future disciples:

Jesus concludes His prayer: John 17:24-26

Summarize how Jesus concludes His prayer:

What is His specific desire?

What did He declare to His followers?

What does He want to be "in them"? _____

CHAPTER THREE

SPIRITUAL RESOURCES FOR INTERCESSION

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Identify the spiritual resources for intercession, including:
 - Delegated power and authority.
 - Binding and loosing.
 - The Name of Jesus.
 - The Blood of Jesus.
 - Fasting.
- Use these spiritual resources in intercession.

KEY VERSE:

Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. (Luke 9:1)

INTRODUCTION

God has provided tremendous spiritual resources for this ministry of intercession to which we are called. In this lesson you will learn how to use these resources which include delegated power and authority, binding and loosing, the Name of Jesus, the blood of Jesus and fasting.

DELEGATED POWER AND AUTHORITY

When we intercede in prayer we actually battle with our enemy, Satan, for the souls of men and women, boys and girls, for nations, and spiritual and political leaders. We do not do this in our own ability or strength, but on the basis of the spiritual power and authority delegated to us by Jesus:

Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. (Luke 9:1)

There is a difference between authority and power. Consider the example of a policeman. He has a badge and a uniform which are symbols of his authority. His authority comes because of the position he holds with the government. Since not all people respect that authority, the policeman also carries a weapon and that weapon is his power. Your authority over the enemy comes through Jesus Christ and your position in Him as a believer. Your power over the enemy comes through the Holy Spirit:

And behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you; but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.
(Luke 24:49)

Like the policeman, you must have both authority and power to be effective in intercession, for you are actually doing spiritual battle with Satan. Believers receive authority through the new birth experience and their position in Christ but some never go on to receive the power of the Holy Spirit which must be combined with authority to intercede effectively.

Satan has limited power, but he has no authority. Jesus gave us both power and authority over all the power of the enemy. The power Jesus gave is directed power to be used for specific purposes in intercession:

POWER OVER THE ENEMY:

You have authority to intercede in prayer for those who need healing and deliverance:

Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. (Luke 9:1)

POWER OVER SIN:

You have authority to intercede for those who need salvation:

Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained. (John 20:22)

POWER TO EXTEND THE GOSPEL:

You have authority to pray for laborers to extend the Gospel:

Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." (Matthew 9:36-37)

BINDING AND LOOSING

The term "to bind" originates from the Hebrew word asar meaning "to bind, imprison, tie, gird, to harness." The word occurs approximately 70 times in the Hebrew Old Testament and was often used to indicate the tying up of horses and donkeys (II Kings 7:10).

The remarks of Jesus in Matthew 12:28-29 are of great significance.

But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Or else how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house. (Matthew 12:28-29)

It is impossible to take the possessions of the strong man without first of all binding the strong man. Jesus, in speaking of the strong man, is referring to Satan. Those possessions which are to be taken from him are his most prized possessions of all, lost individuals enslaved by him, including those who are "demonized."

Jesus gave believers the power to bind and loose:

And I will give unto thee the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in Heaven. (Matthew 16:19)

Jesus taught the importance of binding evil spirits before casting them out, but the principle of binding and loosing extends to more than casting out demons. You can bind the power of the enemy to work in your life, home, community, and church fellowship. You can loose men and women from the bondage of sin, depression, and discouragement of the enemy. In every situation...every problem, every challenge...there is a spiritual key. That key is binding and loosing through intercessory prayer.

THE NAME OF JESUS

The Name of Jesus is the authority upon which we intercede. Jesus promised:

If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it. (John 14:14)

...Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, He will give it you. (John 16:23)

And these signs shall follow them that believe, IN MY NAME shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them: they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. (Mark 16:17-18)

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in Heaven and in earth.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost;

Teaching them to observe all things, whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.
(Matthew 28:18-20)

You are to pray, preach, teach, baptize, cast out demons, heal the sick, and overcome every power of the enemy through the name of Jesus. The name of Jesus is more powerful than any other name:

Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come. (Ephesians 1:21)

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name;

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in Heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:9-11)

THE BLOOD OF JESUS

The blood of Jesus is another powerful spiritual resource that enables us to intercede. It is through His blood that we have access to God the Father:

Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,

By a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is His flesh,

And having a High Priest over the house of God.

Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. (Hebrews 10:19-22)

The "Holiest" is the place where God dwells. We do not access God's presence by religious ritual or complicated procedures. We access it by the blood of Jesus Christ.

The subject of blood is a scarlet thread that runs throughout the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation. The Bible teaches that the life of man and beasts is in the blood (Leviticus 17:11,14). Because the penalty for sin is death (Romans 6:23) and since life is in the blood, God established the principle that forgiveness of sins comes only through the shedding of blood:

And according to the law almost all things are purged with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission (from sin). (Hebrews 9:22)

God made the first blood sacrifice in the Garden of Eden after the sin of Adam and Eve when He killed animals and clothed the couple in skins which were representative of the righteousness of Christ. The importance of the blood sacrifice is emphasized through the story of Cain and Abel, the covenant of circumcision with the Israelites and the Levitical ceremonies in the tabernacle. In the Old Testament the blood of animals was offered as sacrifice repeatedly whenever man sinned. Hebrews 8 details this process and describes it as the "old covenant."

In the New Testament God sent Jesus to shed His blood for sin once and for all. His blood is described as the "new covenant" (Mark 14:24) and He is the mediator of this new covenant (Hebrews 8:6). This made the old covenant obsolete, meaning it is no longer necessary that the blood of animals be offered as a sacrifice for sin:

Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered in the most holy place once for all, having obtained ETERNAL redemption. (Hebrews 9:12)

Hebrews 12:24 indicates that the blood of Jesus speaks for us and what it confesses provides valuable eternal benefits for us. When Paul directs us to "hold fast our confession" (Hebrews 10:22), it relates back to the previous verses which indicates we have the right to draw near to the Holiest.

You enter God's presence in prayer the same way you are saved, by confessing the benefits of the blood of Jesus:

...If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation. (Romans 10:9-10)

God acts in response to your confession which has authority because it is based on the testimony of the blood of Jesus. The blood declares that you can enter right now into the most holy place where God dwells and minister through intercession.

FASTING

Another spiritual resource for effective intercession is fasting. Fasting, in the most simple definition, is going without food. Fasting is one of the things that approves us as ministers of God (II Corinthians 6:3-10). Prayer with fasting was practiced in the early Church (Acts 14:23) and Paul encourages us to "give ourselves" to it (I Corinthians 7:5).

TYPES OF FASTS:

According to the Bible there are two types of fasts. The total fast is when you do not eat or drink at all. An example of this is found in Acts 9:9. The partial fast is when the diet is restricted. An example of this is in Daniel 10:3.

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES OF FASTING:

- Abraham's servant fasted while seeking the right bride for Isaac (Genesis 24:33).
- Moses fasted for 40 days and nights while receiving the revelations of the law and the tabernacle (Exodus 34).
- Hannah fasted for a child (1 Samuel 1:7-8).
- Nehemiah fasted for the restoration of Jerusalem (Nehemiah 1:4).
- The Jews fasted for deliverance following Haman's evil decree of death (Esther 4).
- The entire city of Ninevah fasted in response to Jonah's call for repentance (Jonah 3:5-10).
- David fasted just prior to assuming his God-given destiny as King of Israel (1 Samuel 31).
- Daniel fasted for 21 days and at the conclusion received the message from God that launched the turning point for the Hebrews in captivity.
- Jehoshaphat proclaimed a fast prior to battle (2 Chronicles 20:3).
- Ezra called a fast of repentance for the exiles by the river Ahava (Ezra 8-9).
- Jesus fasted prior to entering His ministry (Matthew 4).
- The Apostle Paul fasted after his conversion (Acts 9).
- It was during a time of fasting that Peter received his commission to share the Gospel with the Gentiles and Cornelius was prepared to receive the revelation (Acts 10).
- The disciples were fasting and praying when the Holy Spirit separated Paul and Barnabas for missionary service (Acts 13:2).

THE PURPOSES OF FASTING:

Fasting does not change God. It changes you. God relates to you on the basis of your relationship to Him. When you change, then the way God deals with you is affected. You do not fast to change God because God does not change. Fasting does change how He deals with you. Read the book of Jonah for an example of how this happened in the city of Ninevah.

On one occasion when the Disciples of Jesus failed to bring help to a demon possessed youngster, Jesus explained that "this kind" came out only by fasting and prayer (Mark 9:29). There are certain situations in life which you cannot face apart from prayer and fasting. More and more as the end time approaches, we will encounter "this kind" of situations, critical dilemmas we have never before experienced. Our victory over "this kind" will necessitate fasting.

There are definite spiritual purposes for fasting. It is important that you understand these purposes. If you fast for the wrong reasons or with no specific purpose, the fast will be ineffective. Study each of the following references. They reveal that people fasted:

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| -In response to a message from God: | Jonah 3:5 |
| -During times of wilderness testing: | Luke 4:1 |
| -During the threat of national calamity or war: | II Chronicles 20:3 |
| -When revelation was needed from God: | Daniel 9:3-4 |
| -When making decisions: | Acts 13:2-3 |
| -When making special requests before authorities: | Esther 4:16 |
| -To prepare for confrontation with demonic activity: | Mark 9:29 |
| -To humble ones self: | Psalms 35:13; 69:10 |
| -To repent of sin: | Joel 2:12 |
| -To feed the poor, both physically and spiritually: | Isaiah 58:7 |
| -To be heard of God: | II Samuel 12:16,22; Jonah 3:5,10 |
| -To loose bands of wickedness, lift heavy burdens, set the oppressed free, and break every bondage: | Isaiah 58:6 |

LENGTH OF THE FAST:

How long you fast depends upon what God speaks into your spirit. He may lead you to fast a brief or lengthy time. Remember the story of Esau and Jacob? Jacob was originally making a meal for himself but denied himself in order to obtain the birthright. How much better if Esau had fasted that meal!

If you have never fasted begin by fasting one meal. Next you might want to try fasting from sundown one day to sundown the next night. Then you might increase your fasting to more lengthy periods of time. You should always drink water on long fasts. You can go without food for long periods, but water is needed to maintain bodily functions.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FASTING:

Fasting is a personal matter between an individual and God. It is to be done in private and not boasted about:

Moreover when ye fast, be not as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance; for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward.

But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face;

That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. (Matthew 6:16-18)

Leaders may call a public fast and request the whole church fellowship to fast:

Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly.
(Joel 2:15)

GOD'S CHOSEN FAST:

Isaiah 58 describes God's "chosen" or divinely approved fast. God's chosen fast is one:

- Where you humble yourself before God: Verse 5
- To loose the bonds of wickedness: Verse 6
- Which undoes heavy burdens: Verse 6
- That frees the oppressed: Verse 6
- Done with unselfish motives and manifested charity: Verse 7

THE RESULTS OF FASTING:

When you fast, the first thing that happens is that God begins to reveal Himself to you. The Father says, "Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; You shall cry, and He will say, 'Here am I'" (Isaiah 58:9). Other results of fasting itemized in Isaiah 58 are:

-Illumination: Verses 8 and 10 declare that the dark periods of your life will become like noonday. When others think they have extinguished your spiritual light, it will rise again and break forth like the morning.

-Direction: Verse 11 promises that "the Lord will guide you continually."

-Provision: Verse 11 declares God will "satisfy your soul in drought." (This can apply to both material and spiritually lean times.) Verse 11 also describes unlimited spiritual resources. You will be like a "well watered garden," and "a spring of water whose waters do not fail."

-Rejuvenation: Verse 11 declares God will "strengthen your bones" and verse 8 proclaims that "your healing shall spring forth speedily."

-Restoration: Verse 12 indicates that you and your spiritual seed "shall build the old waste places, ...raise up the foundations of many generations...And you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach, The Restorer of Streets to Dwell In."

RESOURCES FOR INTERCESSION

The believer has powerful spiritual resources to enable effective intercession. As you have learned in this chapter, these include:

- Delegated power and authority.
- Binding and loosing.
- The Name of Jesus.
- The Blood of Jesus.
- Fasting.

SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

2. Explain the difference between spiritual power and authority.

3. What does it mean to bind something spiritually?

4. What does it mean to loose something spiritually?

5. What Scripture gives us the authority to bind and loose?

6. Explain why the name of Jesus is a powerful resource for intercession.

7. Explain how the blood of Jesus is a resource for intercession.

8. List and define the two types of Biblical fasts.

9. Summarize the purposes for fasting.

10. What Scriptural reference describes God's "chosen" fast?

11. What are some of the positive results of fasting?

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

FOR FURTHER STUDY

The Name of Jesus is the authority by which we intercede to God. Study the following list of His names to further your knowledge of the tremendous power inherent in the name of "Jesus":

Advocate	I John 2:1
Almighty	Revelation 1:8
Alpha and Omega	Revelation 21:6
Amen	Revelation 3:14
Author/Finisher of our Faith	Hebrews 12:2
Author of Eternal Salvation	Hebrews 5:9
Begotten of God	I John 5:18
Beloved	Ephesians 1:6
Branch	Zechariah 3:8
Bread of Life	John 6:48
Bright and Morning Star	Revelation 22:16
Captain of the Lord's Host	Joshua 5:15
Chief Cornerstone	I Peter 2:6
Chiefest Among Ten Thousand	Song of Solomon 5:10
Christ	John 1:41
Counselor	Isaiah 9:6
Deliverer	Romans 11:26
Door	John 10:9
Emmanuel	Matthew 1:23
Eternal Life	I John 5:20
Faithful and True	Revelation 19:11
Faithful Witness	Revelation 1:5
First Begotten	Hebrews 1:6

First and Last	Revelation 22:13
Glorious Lord	Isaiah 33:21
Great High Priest	Hebrews 4:14
Head of the Body	Colossians 1:18
Head over all things	Ephesians 1:22
Headstone	Psalms 118:22
Heir of all things	Hebrews 1:2
Holy One of Israel	Isaiah 41:14
Hope of Glory	Colossians 1:27
I Am	John 8:58
Image of the Invisible God	Colossians 1:15
Jesus Christ Our Lord	Romans 1:3
King of Glory	Psalms 24:7
Lamb of God	John 1:29
Light of the World	John 8:12
Lily of the Valleys	Song of Solomon 2:1
Living Bread	John 6:51
Lord God Almighty	Revelation 4:8

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Lord of All	Acts 10:36
Lord Our Righteousness	Jeremiah 23:6
Love	1 John 4:8
Man of Sorrows	Isaiah 53:3
Master	Matthew 23:10
Messiah	Daniel 9:25
Most Holy	Daniel 9:24
Nazarene	Matthew 2:23
Only Wise God	I Timothy 1:17
Our Passover	I Corinthians 5:7
Physician	Luke 4:23
Prince of Peace	Isaiah 9:6
Propitiation	Romans 3:25
Redeemer	Isaiah 59:20
Resurrection	John 11:25
Righteous Servant	Isaiah 53:11
Rock	I Corinthians 10:4
Rose of Sharon	Song of Solomon 2:1
Savior of the World	I John 4:14
Shepherd	John 10:11
Son of God	Romans 1:4
Son of Man	Acts 7:56
Son of Mary	Mark 6:3
Stone	Matthew 21:42
Sure Foundation	Isaiah 28:16
Teacher	John 3:2
Truth	John 14:6
Unspeakable Gift	I Corinthians 9:15
Vine	John 15:1
Way	John 14:6
Wonderful	Isaiah 9:6
Word of God	Revelation 19:13

CHAPTER FOUR

HOW TO INTERCEDE

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Explain how to intercede.
- Summarize principles for effective intercession.
- Identify what to intercede for.
- Use the promises of God to intercede.

KEY VERSES:

This is the confidence we have in approaching God; that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us-whatever we ask-we know that we have what we asked of Him. (1 John 5:14-15)

INTRODUCTION

The key element in intercessory prayer is not how loud we pray, nor how energetic we are in our prayers (this is not say that these are wrong), but how sincere our requests are as we make them known unto God. It is imperative that God's glory be the end of our intercession because Satan's chief goal is to prevent God from being glorified. Therefore if we are to have as our primary goal, the glorification of God, and commit our whole soul and being to the movement of intercessory prayer, God will manifest Himself. "Then you will call upon me and when you seek me with all your heart, I will be found by you..." (Jeremiah 29:13-14).

Prayer should be offered in faith and according to the will of God:

This is the confidence we have in approaching God; that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us-whatever we ask-we know that we have what we asked of Him. (1 John 5:14-15)

In this lesson you will learn what the Bible teaches about how to intercede and what to intercede for. You will also learn how to base your intercession upon the promises of God's Word.

HOW TO INTERCEDE

Look up each of the following references in your Bible. These passages provide Biblical guidelines for intercession:

-Prayer is to be made to God:	Psalms 5:2
-Quality rather than quantity is stressed; Prayer is not successful because of "much speaking":	Matthew 6:7
-Empty repetition is forbidden, but earnest repetition is not:	Daniel 6:10; Luke 11:5-13; 18:1-8
-Pray with understanding (in a known tongue):	Ephesians 6:18
-Pray in the Spirit in tongues:	Romans 8:26; Jude 20
-Intercede according to the will of God:	1 John 5:14-15
-Pray in secret:	Matthew 6:6
-Pray always:	Luke 21:36; Ephesians 6:18
-Pray continually without ceasing:	Romans 12:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:17
-Intercede to the Father in the name of Jesus:	John 14:13-14
-Pray with a watchful attitude:	1 Peter 4:7
-Pray using the example of the model prayer:	Matthew 6:9-13
-Pray with a forgiving spirit:	Mark 11:25
-Pray with humility:	Matthew 6:7
-Sometimes accompany prayer with fasting:	Matthew 17:21
-Intercede fervently:	James 5:16; Colossians 4:12
-Pray with submission to God:	Luke 22:42
-Use the strategies of binding and loosing in prayer:	Matthew 16:19

PRINCIPLES FOR EFFECTIVE INTERCESSION

Here are some principles of effective intercession drawn from the foregoing Scriptures:

1. Praise God for who He is and for the privilege of engaging in the same wonderful ministry as the Lord Jesus (Hebrews 7:25). Praise God for the privilege of cooperating with Him in the affairs of men through prayer.
2. Make sure your heart is clean before God by having given the Holy Spirit time to convict, should there be any unconfessed sin (Psalms 66:28; 29:23-24).
3. Acknowledge you cannot really pray without the direction and energy of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:26). Ask God to utterly control you by His Spirit, receive by faith that He does, and thank Him (Ephesians 5:18).
4. Deal aggressively with the enemy. Come against him in the all-powerful Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and with the "sword of the Spirit"--the Word of God (James 4:7).
5. Die to your own imaginations, desires, and burdens for what you feel you should pray (Proverbs 3:5-6; 28:26; Isaiah 55:8).
6. Praise God now in faith for the remarkable prayer meeting you are going to have. He is a remarkable God and will do something consistent with His character.
7. Wait before God in silent expectancy, listening for His direction (Psalms 62:5; Micah 7:7; Psalms 81:11-13).
8. In obedience and faith, utter what God brings to your mind, believing (John 10:27). Keep asking God for direction, expecting Him to give it to you. He will (Psalms 32:8). Make sure you don't move to the next subject until you have given God time to discharge all He wants to say regarding this burden, especially when praying in a group. Be encouraged by the lives of Moses, Daniel, Paul and Anna, knowing that God gives revelation to those who make intercession a way of life.
9. If possible, have your Bible with you should God want to give you direction or confirmation from it (Psalms 119:10-15).
10. When God ceases to bring things to your mind to pray for, finish by praising and thanking Him for what He has done, reminding yourself of Romans 11:36, "For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! Amen." [1]

WHAT TO INTERCEDE FOR

Study the following Biblical references which reveal what you are to intercede for:

-The peace of Jerusalem:	Psalms 122:6
-Laborers in the harvest:	Matthew 9:38; Luke 10:2
-That you enter not into temptation:	Luke 22:40-46
-Them that despitefully use you (your enemies):	Luke 6:28
-All the saints:	Ephesians 6:18
-The sick:	James 5:14
-One for another (bearing each others burdens):	James 5:16
(You sin by neglecting to pray for others:	I Samuel 12:23)
-For all men, kings, and those in authority:	I Timothy 2:1-4
-For daily needs:	Matthew 6:11
-For wisdom:	James 1:5
-For healing:	James 5:14-15
-For forgiveness:	Matthew 6:12
-For God's will and Kingdom to be established:	Matthew 6:10
-For relief from affliction:	James 5:13
-For unity in the Body of Christ:	John 17
-For the persecuted church around the world:	Hebrews 13:3

INTERCEDING WITH THE PROMISES

God answers prayer according to His will and His will is revealed in the promises recorded in His Word. When you do not ask on the basis of these promises your prayer is not answered.

Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. (James 4:3)

It is similar to how a father relates to his children. No parent commits to give his youngsters anything they want or ask for. He makes it clear that he will do certain things and not do other things. Within these limits the father answers his child's requests.

It is the same way with God. He has given promises and they form the proper basis for prayer. Learn what God has promised and pray according to these promises. One way to do this is to go through the Bible and mark all the promises of God and then base your prayers upon these promises. When you pray a promise, you actually declare God's Word back to Him. Here is an example:

"Thank you God that you know what is needed even before I ask (Matthew 6:8). I come to you in the name of Jesus, recognizing the power in that name (John 14:14). I pray for laborers for the harvest to be raised up to extend the Kingdom of God (Matthew 9:37-38)...." etc.

Here are a few examples of Biblical promises. These promises focus specifically on the subject of prayer:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| -The Father knows what you need even before you ask: | Matthew 6:8 |
| -If any two agree in prayer, it will be answered: | Matthew 18:19 |
| -All things are possible with God: | Matthew 19:26; Luke 18:27 |
| -Prayer combined with faith is effective: | Matthew 21:22; Mark 11:24 |
| -If you ask in the name of Jesus, it will be done: | John 14:14 |
| -The effectual fervent prayer of the righteous availeth much: | James 5:16 |

[1] Principles for effective intercession were adapted from the 1992 Personal Prayer Diary, (Seattle, Washington: Youth With A Mission, 1991), 16.

SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

2. How does a person intercede in prayer?

3. For what should we intercede in prayer?

4. Summarize some of the principles for effective intercession which you learned in this chapter.

5. Explain how you can use the promises of God to intercede in prayer.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

World leaders in intercessory prayer have recently used a strategy called "spiritual mapping" to pray for cities and nations. In essence, "spiritual mapping" is an attempt to see a city or a nation or the world as it really is, and not as it appears to be. This tactic is based on the assumption that the spiritual reality lies behind the natural. It takes seriously the distinction between the visible and the invisible, superimposing our understanding of forces and events in the spiritual domain on places and circumstances in the material world.

Spiritual mapping acknowledges that behind many visible aspects of the world around us are spiritual forces, invisible areas of reality, that have more ultimate significance than the visible. Spiritual mapping involves identifying and naming the spiritual forces at work in our communities, cities, and nations, and then applying this knowledge in strategic-level spiritual warfare praying.

The Scriptural mandate for spiritual mapping is taken from when God spoke to the prophet Ezekiel and said:

"You also, son of man, take a clay tablet and lay it before you, and portray on it a city, Jerusalem." (Ezekiel 4:1)

Ezekiel was to draw a map on a piece of clay. God then told him to "lay siege against it." This is obviously not a reference to physical warfare, but to spiritual warfare. He was then to take an iron plate and put it between him and the city as if it were a wall and he was to lay siege against that as well.

There are many levels of spiritual mapping. Mapping could be done in your neighborhood or your particular section of the city. Mapping could be done for the city as a whole, or for the city and its surrounding area, or for the state or the province, or for the entire nation. Some will want to map clusters of nations.

There are two parts to spiritual mapping: First, you gather the information. Second, you pray about what you have learned. You can locate information by visiting the local library, historical museums, the chamber of commerce, consulting old copies of the local newspaper, or conversing with elderly residents and members of the historical society for your city (if one exists).

The following summary of guidelines that will assist you in naming and mapping the spiritual forces at work in your own city:

OBJECTIVES OF SPIRITUAL MAPPING:

1. To identify the enemy's plans, strategies, and plots for a specific geographical area.
2. To apply this knowledge in intelligent strategic-level warfare prayer and be victorious in a minimum of time with minimum risk and loss.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH:

A. The founding of the city

1. Who were the people who founded the city?
2. What was their personal or corporate reason for founding the city? What were their beliefs and philosophies? What was their vision for the future of the city?
3. What is the significance of the original name of the city? Has the name been changed? Are there other names or popular designations for the city? Do these names have meaning? Are they linked to religion of any sort? Are they demonic or occultic names? Do they signify blessing or curses?

B. The later history of the city

1. What role has the city played in the life and character of the nation as a whole?
2. As prominent leaders have emerged in the city, what was their vision for their city?
3. Have any radical changes taken place in the government or political leadership of the city?
4. Have there been significant or sudden changes in the economic life of the city? Famine? Depression? Technology? Industry? Discovery of natural resources?

5. What significant immigration has occurred? Was there ever an imposition of a new language or culture on the city as a whole?
6. How have immigrants or minorities been treated? How have races or ethnic groups related to one another? Have city laws legitimized racism of any kind?
7. Have city leaders broken any treaties, contracts or covenants?
8. Have any wars directly affected the city? Were any battles fought in the city? Was there bloodshed?
9. How has the city treated the poor and oppressed? Has greed characterized city leaders? Is there evidence of corruption among political, economic, or religious leaders and institutions?
10. What natural disasters have affected the city?
11. Does the city have a motto or slogan? What is its meaning?
12. What kinds of music do the people listen to? What is the message they receive from that music?
13. What five words would most people in the city use to characterize the positive features of their city today? What five words would they use for the negative features?

HISTORY OF RELIGION IN THE CITY:

A. Non-Christian religion

1. What were the religious views and practices of the people who inhabited the area before the city was founded?
2. Were religious considerations important in the founding of the city?
3. Have any non-Christian religions entered the city in significant proportions?
4. What secret orders (such as Freemasonry) have been present in the city?
5. What witches' covens, Satanist groups, or other such cults have operated in the city?

B. Christianity

1. When, if ever, did Christianity enter the city? Under what circumstances?
2. Have any of the early or later Christian leaders been Freemasons?
3. What role has the Christian community played in the life of the city as a whole? Have there been changes in this?
4. Is Christianity in the city growing, on a plateau, or declining?

C. Relationships

1. Has there been conflict between religions in the city?
2. Has there been conflict between Christians?
3. What is the history of the church splits in the city?

PHYSICAL RESEARCH:

1. Locate different maps of the city, especially the older ones. What changes have taken place in the physical characteristics of the city?
2. Who were the city planners who designed the city?
3. Are there any significant discernible designs or symbols imbedded in the original plan or layout of the city?

4. Is there any significance in the architecture, location, or positional relationship of the central buildings, especially those representing the political, economic, educational, or religious powers in the city?
5. Has there been any historical significance in the particular plot of land upon which one or more of these buildings are located? Who originally owned this land?
6. What is the background of the city's parks and plazas? Who commissioned and funded them? What significance might their names have?
7. What is the background and possible significance of the statues and monuments of the city? Do any reflect demonic characteristic or glorify the creature rather than the Creator?
8. What other art work is featured in the city, especially on or in public buildings, museums, or theaters? Look especially for sensual or demonic art.
9. Are there any prominent archaeological sites in the city? What meaning might they have?
10. What is the location of highly visible centers of sin such as abortion clinics, pornographic bookstores or theaters, areas of prostitution, gambling, taverns, homosexual activities, etc.
11. Where are areas that concentrate greed, exploitation, poverty, discrimination, violence, disease or frequent accidents?
12. Where are locations of past or present bloodshed through massacre, war, or murder?
13. Does the position of trees, hills, stones, or rivers form any apparently significant pattern?
14. Do certain landmarks of the city have names that would not glorify God?
15. What is the highest geographical point in the city and what is built or located there? This can be a statement of authority.
16. Which zones or sectors or neighborhoods of your city seem to have characteristics of their own. Attempt to discern areas of the city that seem to have different spiritual environments.

SPIRITUAL RESEARCH:

A. Non-Christian

1. What are the names of the principal deities or territorial spirits associated with the city past or present?
2. What are the locations of high places, altars, temples, monuments or buildings associated with witchcraft, occult, fortune-telling, Satanism, Freemasonry, Mormonism, eastern religions, Jehovah's witnesses, and the like. Do these form any pattern when plotted on a map?
3. What are the sites of pagan worship from the past, even before the city was founded?
4. What are the different cultural centers that might contain art or artifacts connected with pagan worship?
5. Has any city leader knowingly dedicated himself or herself to a pagan god or a principality?
6. Were any known curses placed by the original inhabitants on the land or people who founded the city?

B. Christian

1. How have God's messengers been received by the city?
2. Has evangelism been easy or hard?
3. Where are the churches located? Which of them would you see as "life giving" churches?
4. What is the health of the churches in the city?
5. Who are the Christian leaders considered as "elders of the city"?
6. Is it easy to pray in all areas of the city?

7. What is the status of unity among Christian leaders across ethnic and denominational lines?

8. What is the view of city leaders toward Christian morality?

C. Revelational

1. What are the recognized, mature intercessors hearing from God concerning the city?

2. What is the identity of the ranking principalities seemingly in control of the city as a whole or certain areas of the city's life or territory?

Now...Use the information you have obtained to pray over your neighborhood, city, or nation. Pray specifically against the evil spiritual forces you have identified.

CHAPTER FIVE

HINDRANCES TO EFFECTIVE INTERCESSION

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Identify and eliminate hindrances to effective intercession.
- Know when not to pray.

KEY VERSE:

Ye ask and receive not because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. (James 4:3)

INTRODUCTION

If you want to intercede properly you must identify hindrances to effective intercession and eliminate these from your life. A "hindrance" is anything that stands in your way, preventing you from interceding.

HINDRANCES TO EFFECTIVE INTERCESSION

Study the following Scriptures which reveal hindrances to effective intercession:

-Sin of any kind:	Isaiah 1:15; Proverbs 28:9	Isaiah 59:1-2;	Psalms 66:18;
-Idols in the heart:	Ezekiel 14:1-3		
-An unforgiving spirit:	Mark 11:25; Matthew 5:23		
-Selfishness, wrong motives:	Proverbs 21:13; James 4:3		
-Power hungry, manipulative prayers:	James 4:2-3		
-Wrong treatment of marriage partner:	1 Peter 3:7		
-Self-righteousness:	Luke 18:10-14		
-Unbelief:	James 1:6-7		
-Not abiding in Christ and His Word:	John 15:7		
-Lack of compassion:	Proverbs 21:13		
-Hypocrisy, pride, meaningless repetition:	Matthew 6:5; Job 35:12-13		
-Not asking according to the will of God:	James 4:2-3		
-Not asking in Jesus' name:	John 16:24		
-Satanic demonic hindrances:	Daniel 10:10-13; Ephesians 6:12		
-Not seeking first the Kingdom: Only when you seek first the Kingdom are you promised the "other things":	Matthew 6:33		
-When you do not know how to pray as you should, prayer is hindered. This is why it is important to let the Holy Spirit pray through you:	Romans 8:26		

ELIMINATING HINDRANCES TO INTERCESSION

Remember that identifying hindrances to intercession is not enough, but you must also ask God to help you to eliminate them from your life. Also remember that what seems to be unanswered prayer does not mean there are hindrances in your life. As we mentioned in Chapter One, answers to prayer may be delayed (Luke 18:7) or answered differently from our desires (II Corinthians 12:8-9).

WHEN NOT TO PRAY

It is important to learn how to wait and intercede before the Lord in prayer for His guidance and direction before acting. It is equally important to know when not to pray. Sometimes your prayer of intercession will result in God calling you to action instead of more prayer. This is illustrated by the story of Israel at the bitter waters of Marah where they desperately needed water, but could not drink from this poison stream. When Moses cried unto the Lord in intercession, God showed him exactly what to do to sweeten the waters. There was no need to wait further on the Lord in prayer. Moses was

to act upon what God had revealed. The same was true of Joshua when he interceded for Israel about the terrible defeat they suffered at Ai. God revealed there was sin among the people and He actually told Joshua...

Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face? Israel hath sinned...Up, sanctify the people...(Joshua 7: portions of 10,12, and 13)

It was not the time to pray but it was time to act upon the direction given in prayer. Some people use intercession as an excuse to avoid doing what God has told them to do. Powerful intercession leads to dynamic, effective action. Some people continue to intercede when God has already answered but they did not like the answer. Review the story of Balaam in Numbers 22. Note especially verses 18-19. Balaam had no right to go to God with the same matter for God had forbidden him to have anything to do with it (see verse 12).

SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

2. List some of the hindrances to effective intercession which were discussed in this chapter.

3. When should you not pray?

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

FOR FURTHER STUDY

List the hindrances to effective intercession discussed in this chapter. Put a check mark by any that might be hindering your prayers. How can you eliminate these hindrances in your life?

CHAPTER SIX

USING THE MODEL PRAYER TO INTERCEDE

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Provide the Scriptural references for both versions of the model prayer.
- Explain why the Lord's prayer is actually a prayer of intercession.
- Recite the model prayer from memory.
- Use the model prayer as a guide for intercession.

KEY VERSES:

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done.
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.
(Matthew 6:9-13)

INTRODUCTION

There are two versions of what is called the "Lord's Prayer" or the "model prayer." One is recorded in Matthew 6:9-13 and one in Luke 11:2-4. Most Bible scholars agree that the similarities between them justify regarding the two versions as forms of the same prayer rather than different prayers.

Matthew's version was given when Jesus taught the Sermon on the Mount. The passage in the book of Luke was given about two and a half years later when the disciples came to Jesus asking Him to teach them to pray. During this interim period, the disciples watched Jesus pray and witnessed the power that resulted from His prayer experiences. This created in the Disciples a yearning desire to learn to pray, so they asked their Master, "Teach us to pray."

Jesus responded with the words of what has come to be called the "Lord's prayer":

In this manner, therefore, pray:
Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done.
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.
Matthew 6:9-13

A PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

When the disciples came to Jesus, they said "Teach us to pray," not "Teach us a prayer." Jesus responded to their request by using a method commonly employed by the Jewish rabbis. The rabbis often listed certain topics of truth, then under each point provided a complete outline.

In this model prayer, Jesus used this same teaching pattern. He gave topics and instructed, "After this manner, therefore, pray." "After this manner, therefore, pray" (houtos oun in the Greek text) means "pray along these lines." Jesus did not command His followers to repeat the prayer word for word, but rather to pray "after this manner."

His prayer began with the plural possessive pronominal adjective "our." Further in the prayer we see statements like "give us," "lead us," and "forgive us." In every sense, the model prayer is an intercessory prayer because you pray for others as well as yourself.

ANALYSIS OF THE PRAYER

The following is a brief analysis of this model intercessory prayer:

OUR FATHER WHICH ART IN HEAVEN:

The words "Our Father" indicate nearness, but the words "in Heaven" imply distance. Psalms 139 reveals, however, that God is everywhere. When we pray to "Our Father in Heaven," it does not emphasize the distance between us and the Father, but it immediately brings us from the natural world to a powerful spiritual plane. It assures us that God has at His disposal the entire resources of the supernatural realm with which to respond to the requests presented in the remainder of the model prayer. When we pray "Our Father in Heaven," we are immediately linked through Christ with a supernatural God with unlimited supernatural resources that can be used in intercessory prayer.

HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME:

When we become members of God's family, our Heavenly Father's name is given to us just as a child who is adopted in the natural world assumes the name of his new Dad. Our spiritual adoption gives us the right to call God "Father" and receive all the benefits associated with His Name because we are now heirs of our Father's Kingdom.

God's name is not just an identification label but it is an expression of His nature and identity. When we say "Hallowed be Your Name" we proclaim the person, power, and authority of God.

When you pray for others, you can use these names to intercede for God to work in their lives. Here is an example:

"I pray for my wife, that you will be Jehovah-shalom to her. I pray that you will be her Jehovah-jireh, providing her every need this day. Jehovah-nissi, I pray that your banner will reign over her life. I pray that as Jehovah-m'kaddesh you will sanctify her this day. (etc.)"

The following list identifies the seven compound names of God and their meanings:

NAME	MEANING	REFERENCE
Jehovah-tsidkenu	Jehovah Our Righteousness	Jeremiah 23:6
Jehovah-m'kaddesh	Jehovah Who Sanctifies	Exodus 31:13
Jehovah-shalom	Jehovah Is Peace	Judges 6:24
Jehovah-shammah	Jehovah Is There	Ezekiel 48:35
Jehovah-rophe	Jehovah Heals	Exodus 15:26
Jehovah-jireh	Jehovah My Provider	Genesis 22:14
Jehovah-nissi	Jehovah My Banner	Exodus 17:15
Jehovah-rohi	Jehovah My Shepherd	Psalms 23:1

YOUR KINGDOM COME:

In Greek, Hebrew, and Aramaic the "Kingdom" of God refers to the kingship, sovereignty, reign, or ruling activity of God. It is the expression of God's nature in action.

God's realm of operation can be viewed in terms of its inclusive universal organization as the Kingdom of God; its local visible organization as the Church through which the Kingdom is extended; and individuals of which the Kingdom is composed, that is, all true believers born into this Kingdom.

Sometime in the future the Kingdom of God will be established in visible form. We do not know the exact timing of this (Acts 1:7), but according to the Word of God it is certain. All the "kingdoms of the world" will become the property of God, the evil Kingdom of Satan will be defeated, and our King will reign forever (Revelation 11:15).

The centrality of the Kingdom message is clear in the New Testament record. It is mentioned some 49 times in Matthew, 16 times in Mark, and 38 times in Luke. Jesus began His earthly ministry by declaring the arrival of the Kingdom (Matthew 4:17). He ended His earthly ministry by speaking of things pertaining to the Kingdom (Acts 1:3). In between the beginning and ending of His earthly ministry, the emphasis was always on the Kingdom. He was constantly declaring He must preach its message in other places (Luke 4:43). Every parable of Jesus related to the Kingdom and His life patterned its principles.

Jesus indicated that we, as believers, were to give similar emphasis to the Kingdom:

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. " (Matthew 6:33)

This verse indicates where we should focus our praying, preaching, teaching, and living. It should all be targeted on the Kingdom of God. If we "seek first the Kingdom," it assures the answer to the other petitions that follow in the model prayer.

Praying "Your Kingdom Come" is more than a prayer for the return of Jesus and establishing of the Kingdom in its final form. When we pray "Your Kingdom Come," we are actually declaring that our Father will reign in the lives of believers, unbelievers, and the entire earth. We are interceding that God will be acknowledged as King and that life here on earth may be regulated by His commands.

When we say the words "Your Kingdom come" we are actually asking God to remove anything that is in rebellion against His Kingdom, including words, attitudes, desires, behavior, etc., in ourselves and others.

YOUR WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN:

In Greek there are two words used for the word "will" in reference to God. One word is "boulema". This word refers to God's sovereign will which is His predetermined plan for everything that happens in the universe. This type of "God's will" is fulfilled regardless of decisions made by man. It is His master plan for the world and God is at work in the world to bring to pass all things on the basis of His sovereign will:

In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will. (Ephesians 1:11)

The "boulema" will of God does not require the cooperation of man. In the "boulema" will of God, the outcome is predetermined. The "boulema" will of God is written in His Word and is quite clear. There is no need to seek this will of God because it is revealed in the Bible.

The other word for God's will is "thelema" and it refers to His individual plan or will for each man and woman. In order for God to fulfill His "thelema" will, it requires man's cooperation. People have the power to choose whether or not they will walk in the "thelema" will of God. When you pray "Your will be done" over yourself or another person, you are interceding for that "thelema" will of God to be done.

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD:

In the model prayer, we seek first the Kingdom when we declare "Your Kingdom come" over every circumstance in our lives. We submit in righteousness to our Heavenly Father's will, declaring "Your will be done." Now we can pray with assurance, "Give us this day our daily bread," asking that our needs be met to enable us to fulfill His will and extend His Kingdom.

"Give us" acknowledges that God is our source, not a denomination or a company pay check. The Greek word translated "daily" in this model prayer, occurs nowhere else in the Bible. It means "necessary or essential bread, sufficient for our sustenance and support." Its use in this context confirms that the model prayer Jesus taught is to be prayed each day.

The prayer is for "bread" which indicates both spiritual and material sustenance. The word "us" denotes that we intercede for this "daily bread" of provision for others as well as ourselves.

AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS, AS WE FORGIVE OUR DEBTORS:

We must learn to both receive and give forgiveness for personal offenses and injustices caused to us by others. Personal offenses occur when you offend yourself and God through your own sin and you deal with it by asking Him to forgive you when you say, "Forgive us our debts."

The Bible declares:

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)

When you confess your known sin, God forgives your unknown sin as well as what you have confessed, cleansing you from "all" unrighteousness.

The second area in which forgiveness must be manifested is in forgiving others of direct and indirect offenses. A "direct offense" occurs when you are offended by someone. "Indirect offenses" are when someone hurts a friend or relative and you take up their offense. Jesus taught that we were to deal with such misdeeds by praying "Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."

The literal rendering of this verse in Greek is "as we forgave our debtors." Thus the verse could read, "Forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven others." The idea is that before we ever seek forgiveness for our sins against God, we are to have already forgiven those who have sinned against us. Jesus taught this principle in the parable of the unjust servant in Matthew 18:22-35.

This story illustrates that God's forgiveness precedes human forgiveness; Human forgiveness is a reflection of God's forgiveness; and God's forgiveness becomes real for us only when we are willing to forgive one another.

Jesus summarized these truths when He declared:

"...If you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses." (Mark 11:25)

Satan causes offenses in your family, between friends, in your business relationships, and in your church. The Bible states "offenses will come" (Matthew 18:7). How will you deal with these issues when they arise? Will you intercede about them in prayer, or talk about them through gossip?

AND DO NOT LEAD US INTO TEMPTATION,
BUT DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE:

Jesus taught us to pray, "Do not lead us into temptation" but James indicates God does not tempt man:

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.
(James 1:13)

So who is the tempter to whom Jesus is referring? The Bible clearly reveals that this is the role of our enemy, Satan (Matthew 4:3; 1 Thessalonians 3:5). The Scriptures repeatedly warn of temptations which come from the devil (Matthew 4:1; 1 Corinthians 7:5; 1 Thessalonians 3:5). The Bible explains that...

...each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. (James 1:14-15)

Satan is the tempter, but we are drawn into his snare when we allow our fleshly desires to entice us. Such desires birth sin, and sin results in death. Some of Satan's attacks arise from uncontrolled evil passions from within, while other temptations come from without through our senses of hearing, seeing, feeling, touching, and tasting. Whatever their source, the Apostle Paul assures us:

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

When we pray, "Do not lead us into temptation," we are asking God to preserve us from the enticement to sin. Even Jesus was not delivered from temptation, but was preserved in it (Hebrews 4:15). The Apostle John assures us:

We know (absolutely) that any one born of God does not (deliberately and knowingly) practice committing sin, but the One Who was begotten of God carefully watches over and protects him-Christ's divine presence within him preserves him against the evil- and the wicked one does not lay hold (get a grip) on him or touch (him). (1 John 5:18 Amplified Version)

In Ephesians 6:10-18, the Apostle Paul provides detailed information about the evil one and the spiritual armor which God provides for our defense. Paul emphatically declares we should be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might and stand boldly in the face of these evil forces (Ephesians 6:10,11,13). He decrees that it is possible to stand against every wile (deceit, cunning, craftiness) of the devil. Paul admonishes that we should war a good warfare (1 Timothy 1:18), fight an effective fight of faith (1 Timothy 6:12), and battle intelligently with purpose (1 Corinthians 9:26).

Paul emphasizes that the battle is not a natural one and natural weapons are ineffective. Spiritual battles must be fought with spiritual weapons:

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand,

Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace,

Above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints...(Ephesians 6:13-18)

The purpose of the armor is to be able to stand against the wiles of the enemy, Satan. Paul commands you to "put on" this spiritual armor which means it is your responsibility to appropriate what God has provided. To "put on" means you take hold of something and apply it to yourself. Here is how to do it as you intercede each day for yourself and others:

Armor	Declaration To Make	Promise To Claim	Opposite Spirit To Bind
Loins girded with truth	Jesus, You are my truth.	John 14:6	Deception
Breastplate of righteousness	Jesus, You are my righteousness.	II Corinthians 5:21	Unrighteousness
Feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel	Jesus, You are my readiness.	Philippians 4:13	Lethargy
The shield of faith	Jesus, You are my faith.	Galatians 2:20	Unbelief, doubt
Helmet of salvation	Jesus, You are my salvation.	Hebrews 5:9	Vain imaginations Evil thoughts
Sword of the Spirit (Word)	Jesus, You are my living Word.	John 1:14	Lies of Satan

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FOR YOURS IS THE KINGDOM AND THE POWER
AND THE GLORY FOREVER:

The word "for" indicates the authority by which the model prayer has been prayed. It means "because" the kingdom, power, and glory belong to God, we can claim the provisions, promises, and protection of this prayer. When we arrive at this final portion of the model prayer and declare "Yours is the Kingdom," we are coming into agreement with everything God says about His Kingdom:

"Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." (Luke 12:32)

It is His Kingdom, but as heirs, it is our Kingdom also. It is a legacy conferred by our Father and it pleases Him to give it to us.

The word for power is "dunamis" from which the English words "dynamic" and "dynamite come." When we end our prayer with "Yours is the power," we are acknowledging the dynamic power of God with its dynamite-like potential for fulfilling our petitions. When we declare, "Yours is the power," God echoes back to us the words of Jesus, "I give you power over all the power of the enemy." This assures an answer to all you have interceded for in the model prayer.

We then declare, "Yours is the glory!" "Glory" is one of the richest words of the English language. No single word can serve as a good synonym, but here are some words that describe it: Honor, praise, splendor, radiance, power, exaltation, worthiness, likeness, beauty, renown, and rank. Jesus said:

"And the glory which you gave Me, I have given them that they may be one just as We are one." (John 17:22)

The same glory with which Jesus was glorified by the Father is a gift to you. All you have to do is claim it. You should be going from "glory to glory" not from defeat to defeat. You may be discouraged and despondent and feel cold and lifeless spiritually, but the Word of the Lord to you today is...

Arise from the depression and prostration in which circumstances have kept you; rise to a new life. Shine, be radiant with the glory of the Lord; for your light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.
(Isaiah 60:1-2, The Amplified Version)

God's glory guarantees:

-Provision:	Philippians 4:19; Ephesians 3:16
-Strength:	Colossians 1:11
-Joy:	Isaiah 66:5; 1 Peter 1:8; II Chronicles 16:10
-Liberty:	Isaiah 60:1
-Rest:	Isaiah 11:10
-Sanctification:	Exodus 29:43
-Unity with other believers:	John 17:22

This word means exactly what it says..."forever" that is "eternal, having no end." As you conclude your prayer, you are ascribing the Kingdom, power and glory to your Father...forever. You are linking yourself in an eternal bond with your Father because you are acknowledging that you share in His Kingdom, power, and glory.

AMEN:

When we use the word "Amen," it seals our prayer with powerful authority because "Amen" is one of the names of Christ (Revelation 3:14). Christ is called the "Amen of God," for all of God's promises are fulfilled in Him. When we say "Amen" it means we have prayed all our petitions in the name of Jesus.

The word "Amen" does not mean "over and out...I'm done praying!" The meaning of this word is, "Even so, as I have prayed it, even so shall it be done," so when you say "Amen" you are actually making a declaration of faith.

SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verses (the Lord's prayer) from memory.

2. Where are the two versions of the model prayer located in the Bible?

3. Why is the Lord's Prayer actually a prayer of intercession?

4. How can you use the model prayer for intercession?

5. How can you use the names of God to intercede for others?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Praying the promises of the Word of God assures answers to your prayers.

Start reading your Bible through and mark each promise either with a certain color or with a "P" in the margin of your Bible.

Begin to use these promises when you pray. You do this by actually praying the promise. For example, here is how you could pray Psalms 9:9-10:

"I pray for (name) that you will be a refuge for her/him in the time of trouble. I pray that she will put her trust in you because you, Lord, have not forsaken those that seek thee."

Now...you try it. Select a promise from the Bible and write it below in the form of a prayer:

CHAPTER SEVEN

INTERCEDING FOR REVIVAL

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Define revival.
- Explain how we can prepare for revival.
- Recognize when revival is needed.
- Identify evidences of a backslidden condition.
- Summarize Biblical principles of revival.
- Identify obstacles to revival.
- Explain how to use "God's revival plan" to intercede for revival.

KEY VERSE:

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from Heaven and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.
(II Chronicles 7:14)

INTRODUCTION

One of the most important tasks of intercession is praying for revival. In this chapter you will learn the definition of revival, how to prepare for it, and how to recognize when it is needed. You will also learn how to identify obstacles that hinder revival and how to intercede for it.

THE DEFINITION OF REVIVAL

First, let us examine what revival is not. Revival is not just emotionalism. People respond emotionally to revival, but emotions are just a part of the revival, they are not the revival. True revival will affect the whole man, however, including his emotions. Knowledge of facts never moves men. Statistics on the number of deaths caused by alcoholic beverage never converts a drunkard. Figures on the increase of crime do not change criminals. The convicting power of the Holy Spirit must touch a man both spiritually and emotionally to effect change.

Revival is not loud music and "hell-fire" preaching. It is not a campaign for new members to increase attendance. Church growth is a result of revival, but it is not the same as revival. Revival is not evangelism. Evangelism is proclaiming the good news of the Gospel. Revival precedes evangelism, for when dead believers are "revived," evangelism results. Finally, revival is not just a series of special meetings...unless those special meetings are touched by the sovereign move of God.

Revival is...

"A sovereign, extraordinary work of God through and in behalf of a people who have learned and applied the principles revealed in the rhema Word of God regarding revival."

Revival is sovereign, in that it cannot be produced by man. It is extraordinary, because it is a special work of God. A revival works within a group of people and in behalf of them. In order to prepare for revival, we must apply the principles revealed in God's Word regarding revival. Everything the Bible teaches about revival is the "rhema" or "specific" word of God on the subject. We may also say that revival is:

- An awakening, revitalizing, restoring of God's people, a strengthening of those things which remain.
- A return to consciousness or life. That which is revived becomes active and flourishing again.
- The inrush of the Spirit into the body that has threatened to become a corpse.
- Times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. (Acts 3:19)

PREPARING FOR REVIVAL

We can compare preparation for revival to the task of farming. A farmer can sit around and pray for a good harvest, but if he does not prepare the field, plant the seed, and water the crop, it will not come.

Equally foolish is the farmer who thinks because he does his part in these tasks that harvest is assured. It takes the sovereignty of God through rain, sunshine, and the proper weather patterns to bring the crop to maturity. The farmer works in cooperation with the principles of sowing and reaping, seed time and harvest revealed in God's Word. God is still sovereign, for the rain, sun, and proper weather patterns come from Him.

The same analogy may be used for revival. It is a sovereign move of God, but to "reap" revival, we must prepare for it by following the principles revealed in God's Word. Revival is the joint move of the Spirit of God and the response of the people of God.

WHEN REVIVAL IS NEEDED

Revival is always needed of course, but it is most necessary when a backslidden condition is apparent. To understand backsliding, consider the example of Israel. Jeremiah called the problems of Israel "backsliding" (Jeremiah 1:3-4). The Bible says:

The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways. (Proverbs 14:14)

Turn to Jeremiah chapter 2. You will note that Israel had...

- Determined God was not as important to them as He had formerly been ("I used to"): 2:5
- Forgot the great things God did for them in former days: 2:6-7
- Even the religious leaders of Israel joined the backsliding hosts. The priests failed to ask, "Where is the Lord?": 2:8
- With God crowded out of their lives, they turned to others things...in this case, idols: 2:11-12; 27-28
- They forsook the true source of spiritual water and began to carve out cisterns that could hold no water. They exchanged living water for stagnant water: 2:13
- They began to drift spiritually: 2:19
- They entered into a self-righteous condition: 2:22-23
- They justified themselves with excuses: 3:11
- They drew others into their corruption: 2:33-34

Backsliding is the sin of crowding God out and filling one's life with self. It is described as a pig going back to the mire and a dog returning to its vomit. (II Peter 2:21-22)

EVIDENCES OF A BACKSLIDDEN CONDITION

Here are some evidences of a backslidden condition. Examine your own heart and life as you study this list. You are entering into a backslidden condition...

1. When prayer ceases to be a vital part of your life. It has been said that "revival delays because prayer decays."
2. When the quest for Biblical truth ceases and you become content with the knowledge you have already acquired. This is not to say backsliders do not read the Bible. Many of them have habits of dutiful devotions, but while they read the words the knowledge acquired is treated as facts and not applied to their lives.
3. When thoughts about eternal things cease to be regular and/or important.
4. When you pardon your sin with self-righteousness by saying "the Lord knows I am just dust" or "that is the way I am."
5. When pointed spiritual discussions are an embarrassment and make you uncomfortable.
6. When things like recreation, sports, and entertainment become first in your life.
7. When you can indulge in sin without protest by your conscience.

8. When aspirations of Christ-like holiness are no longer dominant in your life.
9. When the acquisition of money and goods becomes dominant in your thinking.
10. When you can hear the Lord's name taken in vain, spiritual concerns mocked, and eternal issues flippantly treated and not be moved to indignation and action.
11. When "worship" becomes a weariness. Church services lose their excitement, you can mouth religious songs and words without heart, there is no song in your heart, no praise with the ring of joy.
12. When breaches of unity in the fellowship are of no concern to you.
13. When the slightest excuse seems sufficient to keep you from Christian service.
14. When your fleshly senses are out of control: You watch degrading movies and television, listen to ungodly music, and read morally debilitating literature.
15. When you adjust happily to the world's lifestyle: For examples, unpaid debts, bankruptcy, lying, dishonesty, unkept appointments and promises, immodest styles of dress, cheating your employer of a full day's work, etc.
16. When your lack of spiritual power no longer concerns you; there is no restless yearning for more of God and His power in your life.
17. When your church has fallen into spiritual decline, the Word of God is no longer preached with power in your church and yet you are content.
18. When the moral, political, spiritual, and economic conditions of the world and your nation are of no concern to you.
19. When your heart is hard: Your tears do not flow easily, you are uncaring, abrupt, etc. You do not weep over the things which Jesus wept like a lost city, the spiritual condition of man, the sorrows of others.
20. When you have lost your spiritual strength, and do not even realize it.

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF REVIVAL

Old Testament revivals yield Biblical principles that guide us in praying for revival. No two revivals are identical, but the following principles are evident in the Old Testament record:

1. Most Old Testament revivals were preceded by a time of deep spiritual decline and despair. When conditions are declining around you and you are tempted to despair, rejoice instead...You may be on the brink of revival!
2. Each revival began in the heart of one man, who became the instrument God used to stir others. As God touches your heart with the fire of revival, you will fan the revival flame in others.
3. Every Old Testament revival rested on the powerful proclamation of the Word of God. The message of revival should focus on sin, Hell, and God's judgment not just power, love, peace, and prosperity. Consider the revival message of Moses (Deuteronomy 11:26-28); Samuel (I Samuel 7:3); Ezekiel (Ezekiel 33:7-8); and Elijah (I Kings 18:21).
4. Repenting from sin always preceded revival: Repentance included the destruction of every idol and separation from the world.
5. There was a return to proper priorities including concern for others, keeping the Sabbath, giving, prayer, and the Word of God.
6. There was a return to the genuine worship of God. This worship was not cold and formal ritual, but an exciting, emotional response of the people to their Lord.
7. Every revival was followed by a time of productivity, prosperity, great joy, and gladness.

OBSTACLES TO REVIVAL

Here are some things that prevent the sovereign move of God in a church:

LEADERSHIP HINDRANCES:

Leaders who do not preach and teach the word of God in power hinder revival. Those who have no prayer life, no Bible study program, no demonstration of power, and no passion for delivery of the Word hinder revival. Those who control their congregations and quench the spirit of God also hinder His sovereign move.

Leaders who do not really care for the sheep hinder revival. They do not lead the flock into the green pastures and the still waters necessary to revive them. Leaders who have lost their compassion for a dying world hinder revival. Many do not recognize their responsibility to be the leaders in revival (Joel 2:15-18).

CONGREGATIONAL HINDRANCES:

There can also be obstacles to revival in the congregation of God's people. A congregation's love of tradition interferes with revival. Revival and change are synonymous. God is orderly and dependable, but He is also fresh and vital. He is not a traditionalist. If the church must run according to traditions of men, it will run without the power and presence of God.

A congregation's love of formal order hinders revival. Michal, David's wife, condemned him because of his emotional worship and was struck barren. A barren church loves formal order and ritual. Love of brevity also hinders revival. We want God to send revival in the two hours we designate to Him on Sunday morning.

Many congregations love comfortable truth. They do not want to be confronted with the claims of Christ upon them or preaching about sin and judgment. The truths necessary for revival are not always comfortable. Love of respect by others also hinders revival. Some congregations are more concerned about "what people will think" than about what God thinks.

GENERAL HINDRANCES:

There are other hindrances which may be found in both leadership and the congregation. Iniquity hinders revival, whether it be found in the man in the pew or the pulpit:

Behold the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear (our pleas for revival)...

But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear. (Isaiah 59:1-2)

He that covereth his sins shall not prosper; but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy. (Proverbs 28:13)

An attitude of resignation that "these are the last days and we can only expect things to get worse and worse" will hinder revival. Inattention to prayer and the Word, refusal to humble self, and refusing to seek the Lord all hinder revival. Limiting God hinders His sovereign move in our midst:

Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel. (Psalms 78:41)

And He did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief. (Matthew 13:58)

Indifference prevents revival. People become indifferent to the claims of Christ and to the needs of others. Insensitivity to our spiritual condition and to the moving of God's Spirit also hinders revival.

GOD'S REVIVAL PLAN

Each of the hindrances we have discussed can be eliminated through intercession because revival comes in response to prayer. Here is how to pray for revival:

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from Heaven and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. (II Chronicles 7:14)

Many important principles of revival are contained in this verse. First, note that God is speaking to His people ("If my people"). He is not talking to sinners, the world, or just anyone in general. God is talking to His people who are "called by His name." Here is what God's people must do if they are to experience revival:

1. "HUMBLE THEMSELVES":

To humble yourself is to bring yourself low before God (study Leviticus 26:40-41). This humbling includes humbling yourself before God (II Chronicles 34:1-13); His Word (II Chronicles 34:14-28); and His people (II Chronicles 34:29-33).

2. "PRAY":

You are to pray specific prayers of (1) seeking God and (2) turning from your wicked ways. We often "have not" because we "ask not" or we ask amiss. We should ask God to revive us and pray specific prayers of confession and repentance to prepare our hearts for the move of His Spirit.

3. "SEEK MY FACE":

The phrase "seeking God" is used in the following Old Testament passages:

Exodus 33:7; Deuteronomy 4:29; Ezra 8:22; II Samuel 12:16; 21:1; I Chronicles 16:10-11; II Chronicles 7:14; 11:16; 15:4; 20:4; Psalms 105:3-4; 24:6; 27:8; 40:17; 69:7; 70:5; Proverbs 28:5; Isaiah 51:1; Jeremiah 29:13; 50:4; Hosea 3:5; 5:6-7,15; 7:10; Daniel 9:3; Zephaniah 1:6; Zechariah 8:21; Malachi 3:1.

A review of these passages reveal that seeking the Lord involves:

1. Voluntarily and wholeheartedly turning to God.
2. An inner attitude of commitment to serve Him.
3. A decision to turn away from all evil.
4. A decision to fulfill His will.
5. A commitment to fervent prayer.

Seeking the Lord is the chief means of averting evil (Amos 5:4,14). It is the evidence of true humility (Zephaniah 2:3). It is the basis for sensing the presence of God (Hosea 5:15). It brings life (Amos 5:4-6) and it must be done wholeheartedly (Jeremiah 29:12-13).

4. "TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS":

Prayer and seeking God are not enough in themselves. They must be accompanied by true repentance which is a change in direction. You must turn from your wicked ways towards God. Repentance is the truth emphasized in all Biblical revivals. It is evident in every Old Testament revival. The Church began with calls to repentance (Acts 2). The final call in the book of Revelation is to repentance (Revelation 22:16).

Repentance is a gift from God that enables you to change the direction of your life (Acts 5:29-31; 11:15-18; II Timothy 2:22-26). All men are commanded to repent (Acts 17:30). It is God's will that all repent (II Peter 3:9) and God works graciously to draw men to repentance (Romans 2:4). Without repentance you will perish (Luke 13:3,5). Jesus commanded that repentance and remission of sins be preached in His name among all nations (Luke 24:47).

Repentance includes turning from sins of omission (things you do not do that you should); commission (wrong things you do); and presumption (presuming by not seeking counsel from God and sinning in the process). Repentance also includes turning from "dead works" (Hebrews 6:1-3). "Dead works" are any religious acts done to gain merit with God by human effort.

Dead works can even include worship, tithing, and deeds of kindness. Worship must be in spirit and truth or it is a dead work. Giving out of constraint, emotionalism, or because you are embarrassed to have the offering plate pass in front of you is a dead work. Deeds of kindness or ministry done out of obligation or to receive glory are also dead works.

Any work which has no capacity to be made alive by the Spirit of God is a dead work. For example, sharing the Gospel at all times and places to all men without regard to the prompting of the Spirit of God may be casting pearls before swine (Matthew 7:6) and reproving a scorner in vain (Proverbs 9:7-8). Any work which is done in the energy of the flesh and not in the power of the Holy Spirit is a dead work.

You should constantly examine your spiritual condition, your motives, and methods of ministry and repent of acts of omission, commission, presumption, and dead works.

SUMMARY:

Here is what you must do to prepare for revival:

- Humble yourself
- Pray
- Seek God's face
- Turn from your wicked ways

Here is what God will do in response:

- "HEAR from Heaven": Respond
- "FORGIVE their sin": Reconcile
- "HEAL their land": Restore

SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

2. Define revival.

3. How can we prepare for revival?

4. When is revival needed?

5. Summarize some of the evidences of a backslidden condition which were discussed in this chapter.

6. List the Biblical principles of revival given in this chapter.

7. What were the obstacles to revival identified in this lesson?

8. Give the Scriptural reference for "God's revival plan." _____

9. Explain how to use "God's revival plan" to intercede for revival.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

References for Old Testament revivals are provided for further study of these principles. For each spiritual awakening summarize the existing conditions, the awakening factors, and the results of the revival. The first one is done as an example after which to pattern your own research. You can reproduce the form provided at the end of this chapter for your studies.

REVIVAL UNDER JACOB: Genesis 35:1-15

EXISTING CONDITIONS:

1. The head of the family was out of fellowship with God: From the beginning, Jacob had been a deceiver and conniver. He had promised to serve God while fleeing the wrath of Esau, but soon forgot this promise. Jacob was self-sufficient. He did not view what he had achieved as coming from God even though he had sought the Lord's blessing. He believed he had attained his blessings himself. Jacob was materialistic and more concerned about his possessions and providing for himself and his family than his relationship with God.
2. The structure of his family was not in Biblical order: There was favoritism shown to Joseph. Jacob did not rule his house well and his sons took revenge for the raping of his daughter (Genesis 34). His wives were deceitful, jealous, and conniving.
3. There was a poor spiritual environment: His wives stole the false gods of their father. His sons murdered, stole and looted. He and his family were sinful and idolatrous: Genesis 35.

AWAKENING FACTORS:

1. Some terrible events shocked Jacob to awareness: Genesis 35.
2. The revival started with the Word of God: Genesis 35:1.

RESULTS:

This revival occurred in the home. If our homes are revived, our churches will be revived!

1. The family got rid of their idols and purified themselves: Genesis 35:2.
2. They acknowledged the true God: Genesis 35:3.
3. They returned to the place of spiritual experience: (Going to Bethel): Genesis 35:3
4. They set up the altar, repented, and returned to true worship: Genesis 35:7
5. Their lives were changed: Jacob's name was changed to signify this spiritual change: Genesis 32:24-32
6. Jacob received a new revelation of God: The Lord announced Himself "God almighty" which means the all powerful, the one who is sufficient: Genesis 32:24-32

Now...use the following references and the form at the end of this chapter to continue your study of Old Testament revival principles:

REVIVAL UNDER MOSES: Exodus 32:1-35; 33:1-23; chapters 34-35

REVIVAL UNDER SAMUEL: I Samuel 7:1-17

REVIVAL UNDER ELIJAH: I Kings 17-18

REVIVAL UNDER ASA: II Chronicles 14-15
and a parallel account in I Kings 15:9-24.

REVIVAL UNDER JEHOSEPHAT: II Chronicles 20

REVIVAL UNDER HEZEKIAH: II Chronicles 29:1-36; 30:1-27; 31:1-21

REVIVAL UNDER JOSIAH: II Kings 22:1-23; 23:1-19

REVIVAL UNDER ZERUBBABEL:Haggai 1; Zechariah 1:1-6

REVIVAL UNDER SOLOMON: II Chronicles 6-7

REVIVAL UNDER JONAH: Book of Jonah.

REVIVAL UNDER NEHEMIAH:Nehemiah 8-10

Old Testament Revivals

REVIVAL UNDER:_____

REFERENCES:_____

EXISTING CONDITIONS:

AWAKENING FACTORS:

RESULTS:

CHAPTER EIGHT

GETTING STARTED AND KEEPING GOING

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Make a plan for organized prayer.
- Create a personal prayer manual.
- Engage in international intercession.
- Identify problems in getting started and keeping going.
- Transform intercession from discipline to delight.
- Commit yourself to the ministry of intercession.

KEY VERSE:

But when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. (Matthew 6:6)

INTRODUCTION

During our study of intercessory prayer we have learned what it is, the spiritual resources provided to enable us to do it and specifically how to do this type of praying. We have also considered the model intercessor, the Lord Jesus Christ, and learned to identify and deal with hindrances to effective praying. This final chapter provides suggestions on how to get started and keep going in this ministry of intercessory prayer.

ORGANIZING FOR PRAYER

If you want to be an effective intercessor then you have time to pray. One way to do this is to plan for regular prayer times individually and with others. The New Testament reveals the following structure for organizing prayer forces:

PERSONAL PRAYER:

Prayer is to be made on an individual basis in private:

But when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. (Matthew 6:6)

Set aside a special time each day for prayer, preferably early in the morning before you begin your day. If you are not a "morning person" then select another time that is more suitable. This is the time when you will perform your priestly ministry of standing before God with praise and worship and between God and man with petitions and intercession. Before you begin to intercede have a time of personal repentance and ask God to cleanse you from all sin. Repentance is foundational to effective intercession.

TWO PRAYING TOGETHER:

Two praying together is the smallest unit of corporate prayer. Its Biblical structure as well as its inherent power is revealed in the following Scripture:

Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.
(Matthew 18:19)

Find a friend who wants to be an intercessor and begin to pray regularly together. If you are married you might want to choose your mate. If you have someone praying with you they can help you keep going when you get discouraged.

SMALL GROUPS:

Small groups (sometimes called "prayer cells") consist of more than two individuals joining together in intercession. There is great power when two or three people join together for this purpose:

For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them. (Matthew 18:20)

You might want to meet weekly for prayer with a small group of friends, co-workers, or relatives.

TOTAL CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER:

The entire church should also join together in times of corporate intercession:

These all continued with one accord and prayer and supplication...
(Acts 1:14)

Acts 12:5 reveals that constant intercession was made by the church for Peter when He was in prison. If you are a pastor it is your responsibility to plan such times of corporate prayer.

CREATING A PERSONAL PRAYER MANUAL

It is helpful to create a personal prayer manual to direct your intercession. Use a notebook with dividers for different sections. You might include sections for:

-Study notes on intercession and fasting.

-Your city, state, and nation: Obtain maps of your city, state, and nation to pray over them. Obtain lists of political and religious officials and pray over them by name.

-Personal intercession: List personal prayer needs for your family, friends and others and intercede for these each day. Record prayers that are answered to encourage yourself in the ministry of intercession.

-Your church: Obtain an organizational chart for your church or a list of the names of the leaders and pray for them each day. Pray for each member of your church by name.

-Your ministry: Intercede for your own personal ministry. If you teach a Bible class, pray for your students. If you pastor pray for each person in your congregation by name. If you are a parent pray for your children (who are part of your ministry). If you are a missionary or evangelist pray for open doors for the Gospel, for your converts, disciples, and coworkers.

-International Intercession: Set aside a section for intercession for the nations of the world and the extension of the Kingdom of God. Since Harvestime International Network is focused on world evangelism, we want to link all of our mission efforts together through prayer. Because of this, we provide the following detailed guidelines for international intercession.

INTERNATIONAL INTERCESSION

Here is a special guide to international intercession that may be used individually, in small groups or by the entire church fellowship:

Praise To God: (10 minutes)

We enter God's presence by thanksgiving and praise: Psalms 100:4

Intercession For The World In General: (10 minutes)

Before you begin to intercede, pray a prayer of personal repentance. Then pray for the world in general for...

-A new spiritual hunger throughout the world.

-God to raise up a worldwide force of international intercessors.

-The growth and development of the Church all over the world.

-God to raise up "laborers for the harvest".

-Unity and cooperation among existing churches and missions.

-A revival of zeal and compassion to win the lost.

-Wise use of material resources by believers to spread the Gospel. Ask God to provide the necessary finances and to raise up those willing and capable of funding evangelistic efforts.

-Open "doors of utterance" to share the Gospel (Ephesians 6:19)

-"Closed countries" to open to the Gospel (II Thessalonians 3:1).

-Receptivity in those who hear the Gospel (Romans 15:30-31).

-Major world issues affecting the spread of the Gospel.

-For the hearts of government and political leaders to be receptive to the work of missions and evangelism.

-Laborers planting new churches and missions.

-Believers who are imprisoned or suffering because of their commitment to Christ or because of their ministry.

-The work of Bible translators throughout the world.

-Christian correspondence courses, training institutes and Bible colleges throughout the world.

-National Christian workers.

-The cross-cultural missionary force.

-A move of God among the young people. They are the future leaders of the Church.

-Revelation of the right strategy to reach each nation and village of the world. Ask God to reveal it to those laboring in these regions. Pray for organizations engaged in mission research and strategy.

-Protection for laborers from the attacks of Satan. Bind the activities of Satan coming against believers and nations. Pray for deliverance from those who oppose the Gospel (Romans 15:30-31; II Thessalonians 3:2).

-The Biblical world view to be spread among believers and that they will become participators instead of spectators of God's plan.

-Those who work in secular occupations in various nations in order to spread the Gospel.

-Believers in armed forces stationed in various regions of the world. They can be an effective force in spreading the Gospel.

-The work of religious media such as Gospel recordings, films, cassette tapes, Christian radio and television.

-The work of medical, relief, and social missions that combine medical and physical assistance with the spreading of the Gospel.

-Missionary aviation organizations and their dedicated pilots who fly missionaries and supplies to various regions of the world.

-The work among immigrants and refugees of the world.

-The binding of spiritual powers of Satan that are influencing nations and regions. That such powers exist is illustrated by the prince that had power over Persia in the time of Daniel.

These powers explain why some nations are more receptive to the Gospel than others. Certain spirits are active in various regions. Until they are bound these regions will not be receptive to the Gospel.

Intercession For One Area Of The World: (10 minutes)

Use a world map as you pray for the nations. Here are some specific things to pray about for each nation:

-Current events. You can keep aware of specific prayer needs by observing current news events in the nation or by keeping in contact with Christian workers there.

-The churches of the nation.

-Those laboring in the spiritual harvest fields of this nation: Those planting churches, national workers, training institutes, missionaries, Bible translators, etc.

-All believers in this nation.

-Unreached peoples of the nation.

-Binding the powers of Satan operating in this nation; those forces which would come against the spread of the Gospel or close the nation to evangelism efforts.

-In every society there are basically seven areas which shape the thinking of individuals and the destiny of the nation. These are the home and family, the church, education, arts and entertainment, media, government and business. Intercede for each of these areas.

Intercession For A Specific Missionary Or Mission Agency: (10 minutes)

By keeping in touch with the missionary or agency you will be aware of specific needs for which to pray. Have your name put on the list to receive their newsletter or prayer bulletin.

Pray For One Unreached People Group: (10 minutes)

The five major unreached people groups are Buddhists, Hindus, tribal peoples, Muslims, and Chinese.

-Pray for spiritual hunger among these groups.

-Pray for laborers to share the Gospel with them.

-Pray for revelation of the proper strategy to reach each individual group.

-Pray for those already attempting to reach these people.

Personal Prayer Needs: (10 minutes)

Consider your own personal needs in relation to the world. How do your personal needs relate to God's global purpose and your part in it? Even your most personal concerns should somehow relate to God's plan for the nations. Seek God for ways you can fulfill your part of the commission to reach the nations of the world with the Gospel of the Kingdom. How can you better equip yourself to do this? How can you begin right now? How can you free more of your personal time and finances for the cause of world missions?

PROBLEMS THAT MUST BE OVERCOME

Everyone who has ever prayed effectively faced problems that had to be overcome. Conquering these challenges is part of intercession:

"To strive in prayer means to struggle through those hindrances which would restrain or even prevent us entirely from continuing in persevering prayer. It means to be so watchful at all times that we can notice when we become slothful in prayer and that we go to the Spirit of prayer to have this remedied."

-Dr. O. Hallesby

Take each problem you face to God who through the "Spirit of prayer" (the Holy Spirit) will help you remedy it. Here are some common problems you might face:

LACK OF TIME:

We always find time for what we really want to do. "Lack of time" is not an excuse. The busier you are the more you need to intercede. Set a time for prayer and do not let anything intrude in that time. Do not base the time you spend in prayer on what others may spend because you may need more or less time depending on the subject matter of your prayer. Intercession does not have to be lengthy to be effective. Consider the effectiveness of the prayer of the thief on the cross ("Remember me when you come into your Kingdom") or the publican's earnest appeal ("Lord be merciful to me a sinner") in contrast to the Pharisee's long, self-righteous prayer.

DISTRACTIONS:

Try to minimize interruptions during intercession. Leave instructions with your mate, secretary or a friend that you are not to be disturbed during this time. If you have a telephone let someone take messages, disconnect it, or use an answering machine. Do not pray where a radio or television set is in use. Soft Christian music in the background sometimes covers other distracting noises like nearby traffic or conversation by others.

TIREDNESS:

If you grow weary or sleepy during prayer time, try walking while you pray or praying out loud.

LACK OF DESIRE:

Desire for the ministry of intercession can be systematically developed. It starts with the discipline of doing it regularly whether you "feel" like it or not. Our entire Christian experience is based on faith, not feeling. When you begin to see the results of intercession in your own life and in the lives of others for whom you are interceding, your prayer time will be transformed from discipline to delight.

"For who is it who gives you the desire? God, of course. Does He give it you in order that it may stay unfulfilled? That is impossible. He implants within you a desire for something with the intention of giving you that very thing; He will infallibly give it you if you ask for it in the right way...and He assists you to make the petition." -Jean-Nicholas Grou

THE BEGINNING OF THE END

We have come to the end of our study on intercession. In reality, however, it is not an end but a beginning. You have just received the most powerful spiritual resource available to the Body of Christ...that of intercession. Through intercession, you can go spiritually anywhere in the world. Your prayers can penetrate unreached nations and cross through geographical, cultural and political barriers. You can affect the destiny of individuals and entire nations. You can actually help save lives and souls of men and women, boys and girls.

You have joined in an intimate partnership with God through intercession. You can pray with confidence knowing that:

The Lord of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed so shall it stand. (Isaiah 15:24)

This is the purpose that is purposed upon the whole earth; and this is the hand that is stretched out upon all the nations.

For the Lord of hosts hath purposed and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back? (Isaiah 15:26-27)

The Lord of Hosts has a purpose, and no force of the world, flesh, demons, Hell, or Satan himself will impede it. You are now part of that divine purpose through the ministry of intercession.

We close with this powerful description of intercession by Canon Liddon:

"Is it true that intercession is simply compliance with habit, dull and mechanical? Let those who have really prayed give the answer.

They sometimes describe prayer with the patriarch Jacob as a wrestling together with an unseen power which may last, not infrequently in an earnest life, late into the night hours, or even to the break of day. Sometimes they refer to common intercession with Paul as a concerted struggle.

They have, when praying, their eyes fixed on the great intercessor in Gethsemane, upon the drops of blood which fall to the ground in that agony of resignation and sacrifice.

Importunity (persistence) is the essence of successful intercession...it means not dreaminess, but sustained work. It is through intercession specially that the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence and the violent take it by force."

-Canon Liddon

Are you ready to make such a commitment?

SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

2. Write out your personal prayer plan. When will you start? What time each day will you set for prayer? Where will you pray?

3. Which problems discussed in this lesson are ones that you may have to overcome to get started in prayer and keep going?

4. Have you created your personal prayer manual?_____ If not, consult the "For Further Study" section of this chapter.

5. Have you committed yourself to a daily time of intercession? _____

6. If you are a pastor, teacher or other group leader, write out a prayer plan for involving your congregation, students, or group members in united prayer.

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Here are guidelines to assist you in creating your own personal prayer manual.

Section One: Study notes

Insert your personal study notes on intercession and fasting in this section so you can review them frequently.

Section Two: City, State, Nation

Obtain maps of your city, state, and nation to pray over them. Obtain lists of political and religious officials and pray over them by name. Insert the information you obtained through "spiritual mapping" of your neighborhood, city, state, or nation.

Section Three: Personal Intercession

Personal Needs: List personal prayer needs for your family, friends and others and intercede for these each day. Record prayers that are answered to encourage yourself in the ministry of intercession.

Your Church: Obtain an organizational chart for your church or a list of the names of the leaders and pray for them each day. Pray for each member of your church by name.

Your Ministry: Intercede for your own personal ministry. If you teach a Bible class, pray for your students. If you pastor pray for each person in your congregation by name. If you are a parent pray for your children (who are part of your ministry). If you are a missionary or evangelist pray for open doors for the Gospel, for your converts, disciples, and coworkers.

Section Four: International Intercession

In this section, place a copy of the guidelines for international intercession which were given in this chapter. You may also want to obtain maps of various nations to include in this section.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX ONE: INDEX OF PRAYERS IN THE BIBLE

You learned in this course that Jesus is the greatest model of intercessory prayer. There are many other examples of effective intercessors in the Bible. The following list contains references for all the prayers in the Bible. Use the study guide provided in this appendix to increase your knowledge of intercessory prayer by studying these prayers and the lives of those who prayed them.

PRAYERS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:

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Prayer of the glorified saints: 19:1-10

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(This prayer index is adapted from
"All The Prayers In The Bible"
by E.M. Bounds)

APPENDIX TWO STUDY GUIDE: BIBLICAL INTERCESSION

Scriptural reference of the prayer: _____

Who prayed this prayer? _____

Biographical information on this person is given in the following references:

Positive spiritual qualities evident in the life of this intercessor:

List the qualities that made him/her a good intercessor. (These are things you want to emulate in your own life):

Negative qualities in this intercessor's life:

List qualities or conduct that interfered with their ministry of intercession. (These are things you want to avoid in your own life):

Analysis of the prayer:

What events prompted the person to pray?

What is the main focus of the prayer?

What specific request are made in the prayer?

What part of the prayer is intercession? Petition? Confession? Worship and praise?

Is there evidence of faith or lack of faith by the person praying?

What Scriptures are quoted in the prayer?

What reference is made to God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit?

List any promises of God claimed in the prayer.
Was the prayer answered? When? How?
If it wasn't answered, why not?
What were the results of the prayer?
What can you learn from this prayer to make your own intercession more effective?

ANSWERS TO SELF-TESTS

CHAPTER ONE:

1. Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth, and to him that knocketh it shall be opened (Matthew 7:7-8).
2. Prayer is communicating with God. It takes different forms, but basically it occurs when man talks with God and God talks with man.
3. The Bible reveals that prayer is answered:

Immediately at times:	Isaiah 65:24; Daniel 9:21-23
Delayed at times:	Luke 18:7
Different from our desires:	II Corinthians 12:8-9
Beyond our expectations:	Jeremiah 33:3; Ephesians 3:20
4. He made prayer a priority and it accompanied any event of importance in His life. See the section in Chapter One entitled "The Prayer Life Of Jesus."
5. There are three levels of intensity in prayer: Asking, seeking, and knocking: Asking is the first level of prayer. It is simply presenting a request to God and receiving an immediate answer. Seeking is a deeper level of prayer. This is the level of prayer where answers are not as immediate as at the asking level. Knocking is a deeper level. It is prayer that is persistent when answers are longer in coming.
6. Worship and praise: Worship is the giving of honor and devotion. Praise is thanksgiving and an expression of gratitude not only for what God has done but for who He is. Commitment: This is prayer committing your life and will to God. It includes prayers of consecration and dedication to God, His work, and His purposes. Petition: Petitions are requests made at the levels of asking, seeking, or knocking. Supplication is another word for this type of prayer. Confession and repentance: A prayer of confession is repenting and asking forgiveness for sin. Intercession: An intercessor is one who takes the place of another or pleads another's case.

CHAPTER TWO:

1. Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them (Hebrews 7:25).
2. Intercession may be defined as holy, believing, persevering prayer whereby someone pleads with God on behalf of another or others who desperately need God's intervention.
3. The Biblical basis for the New Testament believer's ministry of intercessory prayer is our calling as priests unto God. The Word of God declares that we are a holy priesthood (I Peter 2:5), a royal priesthood (I Peter 2:9), and a kingdom of priests (Revelation 1:5).
4. Jesus Christ.
5. As intercessors following the Old Testament priestly function and the New Testament pattern of Jesus, we stand before God and between a righteous God and sinful man.
6. Intercession is important because of the emphasis Jesus placed on it in His own earthly ministry. Its importance is also revealed in the Biblical record which is filled with the stories of men and women who experienced powerful results through effective intercession. Through effective intercession, you can go spiritually anywhere in the world.

CHAPTER THREE:

1. Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases (Luke 9:1).
2. Your authority over the enemy comes through Jesus Christ and your position in Him as a believer. Your power over the enemy comes through the Holy Spirit.
3. The term "to bind" originates from the Hebrew word asar meaning "to bind, imprison, tie, gird, to harness." You can bind the power of the enemy to work in your life, home, community, and church fellowship.
4. To loose is to set free. You can loose men and women from the bondage of sin, depression, and discouragement of the enemy.
5. Matthew 16:19.
6. The name of Jesus is powerful because it is the authority by which we intercede before God. See John 14:14.
7. Through the blood of Jesus we have access to God the Father. Hebrews 10:19-22.
8. The total fast is when you do not eat or drink at all. An example of this is found in Acts 9:9. The partial fast is when the diet is restricted. An example of this is in Daniel 10:3.
9. Fasting does not change God. It changes you. God relates to you on the basis of your relationship to Him. When you change, then the way God deals with you is affected.
10. Isaiah 58 describes God's "chosen" or divinely approved fast.
11. When you fast, the first thing that happens is that God begins to reveal Himself to you (Isaiah 58:9). Other results of fasting itemized in Isaiah 58 are illumination, direction, provision, rejuvenation, and restoration.

CHAPTER FOUR:

1. This is the confidence we have in approaching God; that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of Him (1 John 5:14-15).
2. Review the sections on how to intercede in Chapter Four.
3. In Chapter Four, review the section on what we should intercede for in prayer.
4. Review the principles for effective intercession in Chapter Four.
5. You learn what God has promised and pray according to these promises, then you know your prayer will be answered. One way to do this is to go through the Bible and mark all the promises of God and then base your prayers upon these promises.

CHAPTER FIVE:

1. Ye ask and receive not because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts (James 4:3).
2. Sin of any kind; idols in the heart; an unforgiving spirit; selfishness and wrong motives; wrong treatment of a marriage partner; self-righteousness; unbelief; not abiding in Christ and His Word; lack of compassion; hypocrisy, pride, meaningless repetition; not asking according to the will of God; not asking in Jesus' name; Satanic, demonic hindrances; not seeking first the kingdom; when you do not know how to pray as you should.
3. When God has told you to do something. You should act upon the direction He has given and not use intercession as an excuse to avoid doing what God has commanded.

CHAPTER SIX:

1.

Our Father in heaven,
 Hallowed be Your name.
 Your kingdom come,
 Your will be done.
 On earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread.
 And forgive us our debts,

As we forgive our debtors.
And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.
(Matthew 6:9-13)

2. Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4.

3. His prayer began with the plural possessive pronominal adjective "our." Further in the prayer we see statements like "give us," "lead us," and "forgive us." The model prayer is an intercessory prayer because you pray for others as well as yourself.

4. Pray the prayer over them: "I pray that your Kingdom will come in her life, your will be done. Give her provision for this day..." etc.

5. God's names represent His nature and what He is to us and you can claim this as you intercede for others. For example, claim Jehovah-Jirah to provide for someone in need.

CHAPTER SEVEN:

1. If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from Heaven and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land (II Chronicles 7:14).

2. A sovereign, extraordinary work of God through and in behalf of a people who have learned and applied the principles revealed in the Rhemah Word of God regarding revival.

3. We prepare for it by following the principles revealed in God's Word. Revival is the joint move of the spirit of God and the response of the people of God.

4. Revival is needed when a backslidden condition is apparent.

5. Compare your answer to the summary of evidences of a backslidden condition which are given in Chapter Seven.

6. Compare your answer to the summary of Biblical principals of revival listed in Chapter Seven.

7. Leadership, congregational, and general hindrances. See the discussion in Chapter Seven.

8. II Chronicles 7:14.

9. Humble yourself, pray, seek God's face, turn from your wicked ways. See the discussion Chapter Seven.

CHAPTER EIGHT:

1. But when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly (Matthew 6:6).

2. Answers will vary.

3. Answers may include the following: Lack of time, distractions, tiredness, lack of desire.

4. Answers will vary.

5. Answers will vary.

6. Answers will vary.

Strategies

For

Spiritual Harvest

This course is part of the Harvestime International Institute, a program designed to equip believers for effective spiritual harvest.

The basic theme of the training is to teach what Jesus taught, that which took men who were fishermen, tax collectors, etc., and changed them into reproductive Christians who reached their world with the Gospel in a demonstration of power.

This manual is a single course in one of several modules of curriculum which moves believers from visualizing through deputizing, multiplying, organizing, and mobilizing to achieve the goal of evangelizing.

For further information on additional courses write:

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HOW TO USE THIS MANUAL

MANUAL FORMAT

Each lesson consists of:

Objectives: These are the goals you should achieve by studying the chapter. Read them before starting the lesson.

Key Verse: This verse emphasizes the main concept of the chapter. Memorize it.

Chapter Content: Study each section. Use your Bible to look up any references not printed in the manual.

Self-Test: Take this test after you finish studying the chapter. Try to answer the questions without using your Bible or this manual. When you have concluded the Self-Test, check your answers in the answer section provided at the end of the book.

For Further Study: This section will help you continue your study of the Word of God, improve your study skills, and apply what you have learned to your life and ministry.

Final Examination: If you are enrolled in this course for credit, you received a final examination along with this course. Upon conclusion of this course, you should complete this examination and return it for grading as instructed.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS NEEDED

You will need a King James version of the Bible.

I

SUGGESTIONS FOR GROUP STUDY

FIRST MEETING

Opening: Open with prayer and introductions. Get acquainted and register the students.

Establish Group Procedures: Determine who will lead the meetings, the time, place, and dates for the sessions.

Praise And Worship: Invite the presence of the Holy Spirit into your training session.

Distribute Manuals To Students: Introduce the manual title, format, and course objectives provided in the first few pages of the manual.

Make The First Assignment: Students will read the chapters assigned and take the Self-Tests prior to the next meeting. The number of chapters you cover per meeting will depend on chapter length, content, and the abilities of your group.

SECOND AND FOLLOWING MEETINGS

Opening: Pray. Welcome and register any new students and give them a manual. Take attendance. Have a time of praise and worship.

Review: Present a brief summary of what you studied at the last meeting.

Lesson: Discuss each section of the chapter using the HEADINGS IN CAPITAL BOLD FACED LETTERS as a teaching outline. Ask students for questions or comments on what they have studied. Apply the lesson to the lives and ministries of your students.

Self-Test: Review the Self-Tests students have completed. (Note: If you do not want the students to have access to the answers to the Self-Tests, you may remove the answer pages from the back of each manual.)

For Further Study: You may do these projects on a group or individual basis.

Final Examination: If your group is enrolled in this course for credit, you received a final examination with this course. Reproduce a copy for each student and administer the exam upon conclusion of this course.

II

Module: Visualizing

Course: Strategies For Spiritual Harvest

INTRODUCTION

The Bible states in Proverbs 29:18, "Where there is no vision, the people perish."

All over the world there are born-again believers who are perishing.

No...they are not perishing in sin. They have accepted salvation through Jesus Christ. They attend church services, read the Bible, and may even be leaders in the church.

But they are dying spiritually. Their lives as believers are routine. There is no spiritual excitement. They have no goal or purpose. They have no vision.

The vision of which we speak is not what is visibly seen in a trance. It is not natural vision. It is a spiritual vision.

-If you feel empty spiritually...

-If you long to be used of God, but do not understand your part in His plan...

-If you feel there is something more to Christianity than the routine into which your life has fallen...

The vision is your answer!

God is taking spiritually dead men and women and making them spiritually alive. The vision is providing new meaning and direction for living. It is uniting the Body of Christ, the true Church, in common purpose. That vision is the subject of this course, "Strategies for Spiritual Harvest." The course will lead you through four steps to achieve the vision:

-Visualization: In which the vision will be identified.

-Conceptualization: In which you will learn the concept of purpose behind the vision.

-Objectification: In which you will learn objectives for fulfilling the vision.

-Expectation: In which your expectations will be fulfilled as you become part of the vision.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course you will be able to:

- Explain the vision of the harvest as a spiritual parallel of a natural example.

- Use effective strategies for spiritual harvest in your life and ministry.
- Identify factors that prevent spiritual harvest.
- See the world as God sees it.
- Reap in revelation harvest.

PART ONE: VISUALIZATION

Identifying The Vision

CHAPTER ONE

THE BIRTH OF A VISION

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Define "spiritual vision."
- Explain the birth process of spiritual vision.
- Compare spiritual birth of a vision to the natural birth process.

KEY VERSE:

Where there is no vision, the people perish. (Proverbs 29:18)

INTRODUCTION

The Bible states in Proverbs 29:18, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." The vision to which this verse refers is spiritual vision.

Spiritual vision provides direction. It provides challenge and structure for life. Without it, people become spiritually dead. Developing spiritual vision is the process of recognizing the purpose for which you have been brought into the Kingdom of God. In this chapter, this development is called the "Birth of a Vision."

WHY SPIRITUAL VISION?

Why is spiritual vision necessary? Why do people perish without it?

The answer is found in one of many Biblical examples of spiritual vision. Read the story of the Prophet Elisha and his servant, Gehazi in II Kings 6:15-17.

God's people, Israel, were surrounded by the enemy nation of Syria. There were many soldiers, horses, and chariots of war. When Elisha's servant, Gehazi, saw the great force of the enemy he was afraid. He cried out to Elisha, "What shall we do?" Elisha told him:

Fear not, for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.
(II Kings 6:16)

Then Elisha prayed that God would open Gehazi's eyes and allow him to see in the spirit world. The request was granted, and Gehazi saw the spiritual forces of God surrounding Israel.

In this example, God actually let Gehazi see the spiritual vision with his natural eyes. But the important point is that without spiritual vision the people of God cannot see beyond the natural circumstances of life.

Like Gehazi, they are defeated by the powers of the enemy which they see at work in the natural world around them. Their vision is focused on their problems and their life becomes a cycle of crying out, "What shall we do?" Without spiritual vision, they cannot see and understand the divine plan of God.

DEVELOPING SPIRITUAL EYESIGHT

Before you are born again you are blinded by sin. Through salvation by the blood of Jesus your basic blindness is healed. Then God wants to develop your spiritual vision.

This process is a spiritual parallel of an actual incident in the ministry of Jesus:

And He cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto Him, and besought Him to touch him.

And He took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when He had spit on his eyes, and put His hands upon him, He asked him if he saw ought.

And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking.

After that He put His hands again upon his eyes and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly. (Mark 8:22-25)

This miracle was an actual physical healing performed by Jesus during His earthly ministry.

Why didn't the first touch of Jesus heal the man completely? Didn't Jesus have all power? Wasn't He the Son of the living God? Jesus was providing a natural example of a spiritual truth. Jesus wants to touch you spiritually just as He did in this natural healing. First He wants to clear up the basic blindness of sin in your life. Then He wants to develop your spiritual vision.

WHAT IS SPIRITUAL VISION?

Spiritual vision involves seeing beyond the natural world into the spiritual world. It is understanding the divine purpose of God and recognizing your part in His plan.

Believers who are spiritually "perishing" are in one of the following categories:

-They do not have spiritual vision.

-They have received a spiritual vision but have been disobedient to it.

-They have a vision, but do not know how to fulfill it. They have tried and failed or perhaps have never tried at all.

Spiritual vision provides a clear image of what God wants you to do and then directs every step of your Christian life towards achieving that goal.

THE VISION OF PAUL

The Apostle Paul had spiritual vision. He said:

I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision. (Acts 26:19)

The heavenly [spiritual] vision became the compelling force in Paul's life. He recognized that having a vision is not enough. Action must be taken to achieve the vision.

A vision can remain "visionary." This means it never becomes a reality because you never act on it. When God gives a vision He also provides spiritual and practical strategies for fulfilling it.

When God gave Paul a spiritual vision, He gave him specific things to do to fulfill the vision.

...Rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee.

To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

(Acts 26:16-18)

God gave Paul spiritual vision for the purpose of making him a minister and witness.

His ministry was to be to a special group of people, the Gentiles. The term Gentiles refers to everyone who is not a Jew, so it really means all the other nations of the world.

God gave Paul objectives [a plan] to achieve the vision. Paul was to:

- Open their spiritual eyes from darkness to light.
- Turn them from the power of Satan to God.
- Lead them to forgiveness of sins.
- Reveal their spiritual inheritance made possible by faith.

THE BIRTH OF A VISION

God wants to give you a spiritual vision just as He did Paul. God also wants to reveal the purposes and objectives which will enable you to fulfill the vision.

As you experience the "birth of a vision" you will become a participator instead of a mere spectator in God's divine plan.

The natural birth process which brings a human baby into the world is similar to the process of the birth of a vision in the spirit world. You will experience the following stages as you give birth to spiritual vision.

CONCEPTION:

"Conception" means to create. A spiritual vision is created in your spirit by God.

When God gave Paul spiritual vision He identified the source. He said, "I am Jesus" (Acts 26:15). God conceived Paul's vision.

DEVELOPMENT:

When you first receive a spiritual vision, it is in "embryo" form. An embryo is a basic cell of life. Just like the development of the human embryo, God develops your spiritual vision as you grow in Him.

The basic cell of life in the human baby is the embryo, from it all the basic human features are developed. If you try to change the embryo, deformity or death can occur to the child.

God conceives the basic spiritual vision within you. The vision must remain the embryo from which all features develop. If you try to change the vision, it will be deformed from the perfect plan of God, or it may be aborted.

When the vision explained in this course is conceived by God in your spirit it must always remain the same although you may fulfill it in different ways.

The vision will grow and develop as you mature spiritually. Its features will not be the same as yesterday, last week, or last month. But you must never forget the basic vision which is the divine purpose for which you are called.

This development of a vision will be a stretching experience as it is in the natural world within the body of a mother. If the vision does not develop within you it will die.

Just as a mother carries her child within her body, when you receive this vision it is with you constantly. It becomes a vital, living part of you. It draws from your own life source as well as from the divine source which conceived it.

While the baby is developing, a pregnant mother will deny herself of certain things. As your spiritual vision develops, you may have to do this also. You may have to deny yourself of your own plans and ambitions. You may have to lay aside worldly treasures. You will have to sacrifice time to fast and pray.

TRAVAIL:

Ecclesiastes 5:3 states:

For a dream cometh through the multitude of business. (Ecclesiastes 5:3)

The meaning of the word "multitude" is great. "Business", according to one Hebrew meaning, is travail [difficulty]. So a dream or vision comes through "great travail."

In natural birth there are facts about travail that parallel the spiritual travail which births a vision. Natural travail is a time of intense, concentrated effort to birth the child. This time of travail is also called "labor."

As in the delivery of a child, a spiritual vision is birthed by intense mental, physical, and spiritual concentration. As you study this course, concentrate on what God wants to birth in your spirit.

In the natural world during labor [travail], the one giving birth must let the natural forces take control. Physically forcing the child into the birth canal before it opens can kill the child.

The same is true in the spirit world. Let God take control of your life. If you try to birth the vision in your own strength it will abort the plan of God.

Everything within you may cry out to push and bring the spiritual vision forth with natural abilities. But by self-effort you can destroy the vision.

Peter cried out to Christ, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man," when he realized what Christ was calling him to do (Luke 5:8). He knew the vision was too great for him to fulfill by his natural strength and abilities.

As a mother in travail hides herself from public gaze, so those in travail spiritually must be alone with God.

THE TIME OF TRANSITION:

In the natural birth process there is a time during labor known as the time of "transition." It is the most difficult time of travail right before the birth canal is open to permit the birth of the child.

This parallels the birth of a vision in the spirit world. When God births in you a spiritual vision you will experience a time of transition.

Transition means change. As God gives you this spiritual vision it is going to require change in your life. It will call for new commitment and dedication.

You may experience pressure in every area of your life. Everything within you may cry out for relief from the spiritual birth pangs of what God is bringing forth.

This is the point where many fail to receive the vision. Time and time again God has brought His people to the time of transition to birth His vision within them.

But because the transition was too difficult many have turned back. They could not take the pressure of this most difficult time.

It required changes in their thought patterns and lifestyle which they were not willing to make. They could not abandon self-effort and tradition. They could not set aside their own ambitions and desires to embrace the plan of God. This is what happened to the nation of Israel:

Like as a woman with child, that draweth near the time of her delivery, is in pain, and crieth out in her pangs; so have we been in Thy sight, O Lord.

We have been with child, we have been in pain, we have as it were brought forth wind; we have not wrought any deliverance in the earth; neither have the inhabitants of the world fallen. (Isaiah 26:17-18)

Travail brings sorrow but it leads to the birth which brings joy:

A woman when she is in travail hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world. (John 16:21)

We are told in Isaiah 53:11 that God witnessed the travail of Jesus Christ and was satisfied. A vision was fulfilled that day on Calvary...a vision that had been promised since the fall of man into sin (Genesis 3:15). Through travail, the vision of redemption from sin became a reality.

Travail is a painful experience, but it is only through travail that the vision can be birthed:

...for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children. Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith the Lord: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb? saith thy God.
(Isaiah 66:8-9)

THE BIRTH:

The development of a spiritual vision has an expected end, just as a human embryo. That end is birth. Prematurity of birth and delay of birth can result in death, both in the natural birth process and in the birth of spiritual vision.

After birth in the natural world the child continues to grow and develop. After the birth of this spiritual vision it will continue to grow and develop. It will have new features and form, but they all must develop from that basic cell of spiritual life which is the vision.

THE VISION OF ABRAHAM

Abraham tried to bring forth his God-given vision through self-effort by the birth of Ishmael. He knew God wanted to make him a great nation and he thought an heir could not come through his wife, Sarah.

So he did something about it and Ishmael was born. But whose power was behind Ishmael, that of Abraham or that of God? Was the fulfillment of the vision through Ishmael man-made or God-made?

You can bring an Ishmael on the scene through your own efforts. Ishmael represents your plans and methods of trying to do God's will through natural abilities. But the heavenly vision, represented by Isaac, must be birthed by God.

Who is the source of spiritual vision?

When asked, "What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?", Jesus responded, "This is the work of God", indicating that He, Himself, was the source (John 6:28-29).

God did not want Abraham to be the source of the heavenly vision any more than He wants us to bring forth man-made or organizationally-made visions.

God is the source of spiritual vision. The vision which you will receive in this course is His plan. It is not a plan of man, a denomination, or an organization.

Scripture has no record of God speaking again to Abraham for thirteen years after the birth of Ishmael. Not until it was humanly impossible for Abraham to have a child did God again stir the vision within him. By then, self-effort had died.

Then came the birth of a vision, for in the perfect timing of God Isaac was miraculously born. But with the birth of God's plan [Isaac], Ishmael [self-effort] must be cast out.

It is time for your Isaac [God's plan] to be birthed in your spirit. In order for this to happen, Ishmael must be cast out.

It is a painful experience to cast out self-effort, your plans, ambitions, tradition, and organizational programs.

But God is saying to you as He did to Abraham, "Grieve not for Ishmael [self-effort], for in Isaac shall your seed be called." In Isaac the source of the vision was God.

ARE YOU READY?

Birth requires change. In the natural world, the child must leave the security of the womb.

When you were born again you had to leave the old life of sin. You had to let Jesus change your thought and action patterns.

To give birth to spiritual vision also requires change. It requires courage to step from the known into the unknown.

Are you ready to receive that spiritual vision? Are you willing to experience spiritual travail in order to birth something new and vital in your Christian life? If you are not willing you had better stop your study here, for once you glimpse the vision shared in these pages your life will never again be the same.

SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

2. Define spiritual vision.

3. Look at the names in List One, then read List Two. Choose the number of the sentence which relates to the person in List One in the blank provided in front of his name. The first one is done as an example for you to follow.

List One	List Two
<u> 2 </u> Paul	1. Tried to bring forth the vision through Ishmael.
<u> </u> Gehazi	2. "I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision."
<u> </u> Abraham	3. "What shall we do?"
<u> </u> God	4. "Shall I bring to the birth and not cause to bring forth?"
<u> </u> Jesus	5. "Depart from me for I am a sinful man."
<u> </u> Peter	6. God witnessed His travail and was satisfied.

4. Read the sentences in List Two. Put the number of the sentence which best defines the word in List One in the blank provided in front of the word.

List One	List Two
<u> </u> Conception	1. The time during which the vision grows within you spiritually.
<u> </u> Development	2. Right before the birth. The most difficult time when you must cease natural self-effort and let God bring forth the vision.
<u> </u> Travail	3. The start of the vision in your spirit as it is planted by God.
<u> </u> Transition	4. A time of spiritual birth pangs, intense physical, mental and spiritual labor.

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. Expand your knowledge of the process of travail, by studying the following Scriptures:

John 16:21: It brings sorrow, but it leads to the birth which brings joy.

I Thessalonians 2:9: It is labor, both in the natural and spiritual worlds.

Galatians 4:19: It results in Christ being formed in you.

Romans 8:22-25: It brings hope.

Isaiah 66:7-9: It is God's desire that spiritual travail results in birth [spiritual reproduction].

2. Think about this statement:

"A vision without a task is visionary.

A task without a vision is drudgery.

A task with a vision is what makes a missionary."

3. Wicked men give birth to evil plans:

He who is pregnant with evil and conceives trouble gives birth to disillusionment. (Psalms 7:14, The Living Bible)

4. To be "barren" in the natural world means you are unable to have children. Have you been "barren" spiritually?

Women of the Bible who had been barren for many years gave birth to great children after God touched them...

-Sarah birthed Isaac

-Rachel birthed Joseph

-Manoah birthed Samson

-Hannah birthed Samuel

-Ruth birthed Obed

-Elizabeth birthed John

CHAPTER TWO

THE VISION

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Explain the meaning of a "natural parallel of a spiritual truth."
- Identify the natural example of the harvest as a spiritual parallel of the vision God wants to birth in your spirit.
- Explain steps which lead to receiving the vision.

KEY VERSE:

Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. (John 4:35)

INTRODUCTION

The last chapter described the process of developing spiritual vision. This chapter identifies the vision Jesus wants to birth in your spirit and explains how to receive it.

The vision is the same with which He challenged His disciples over 2,000 ears ago. In order to understand the meaning of the vision it is necessary to identify one of the basic principles of God's Word. This principle concerns natural parallels of spiritual truths.

This chapter defines this principle and applies it to the vision God wants to conceive in you.

NATURAL AND SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

The written record of God's Word, the Bible, focuses on the subjects of people, promises, prophecies, and principles.

Much of the Bible is a record of people, how God dealt with them and their response to Him. There are also major portions of the Bible which record prophecies of future events and there are many promises given to God's people.

The Bible also contains important principles which you must identify in order to understand what God is saying to you through His Word. One of these great principles is that of natural parallels of spiritual truths. The word "parallel" means to be similar to something. When we speak of a "natural parallel of a spiritual truth" it means God uses a natural example to explain or represent a spiritual truth.

The parables of Jesus were natural examples of spiritual truths. In one parable He used the natural example of a woman placing a small bit of leaven in a lump of bread. The spread of the leaven throughout the bread illustrated the growth of the Kingdom of God in the world.

This is just one of many examples of parables in which He used a natural example to illustrate a spiritual truth.

This principle of natural and spiritual parallels is explained in I Corinthians:

...There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. (I Corinthians 15:44-46)

This is a great example of a natural parallel of a spiritual truth. The first man created by God was the natural man. His name was Adam. Jesus, who is referred to as the last Adam, was a spiritual man.

Adam was a natural example of the spiritual truth God was to reveal through Jesus Christ. By the natural man came sin and death. By the spiritual man came salvation and life.

That which is natural is something you can observe with your senses. You can see, hear, or touch it. That which is spiritual can only be observed with spiritual senses.

Natural examples can be recognized with physical senses but spiritual parallels can only be recognized through the revelation of the Holy Spirit.

Understanding this principle of natural parallels of spiritual truths increases your understanding of God's Word.

THE HARVEST

The vision with which Jesus challenged His disciples and which He desires to birth in your spirit was revealed by a natural parallel of a spiritual truth.

Jesus said to His disciples:

Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. (John 4:35)

Jesus was not speaking of the natural harvest in the fields that stretched before them at the time He spoke these words. He was speaking of a spiritual harvest.

He used the example of the natural harvest to give His followers a vision that would provide meaning and spiritual direction for their lives.

WHAT DID IT MEAN?

What did this natural example of the harvest mean in the spiritual realm?

Read John 4:3-35. Jesus was passing through Samaria on the way to Judaea. When He rested near a well His disciples went in search of food. While they were gone a Samaritan woman came to draw water from the well and Jesus shared the Gospel with her.

When His disciples returned with the food, Jesus said to them:

I have meat to eat that ye know not of...My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work. (John 4:32,34)

The most important thing to Jesus, more urgent than natural food and the necessities of life, was to do God's will and finish His work.

It was at this point in the conversation that Jesus used the example of the natural harvest. He used it to illustrate what He had just told His disciples: The most important thing in life is doing God's will and His work.

GOD'S WILL AND HIS WORK

What is God's will? What is His work? It is revealed in the vision of the harvest.

Jesus told His disciples to lift up their eyes and look at the natural fields of grain ready to harvest. He used these fields as an example of the spiritual fields of multitudes of men and women around the world who are ready to be harvested for the Kingdom of God.

The Samaritan woman with whom He had just talked was an example of this great spiritual harvest. She was ready to receive the Gospel and accepted it with great joy. Through "harvesting" this one woman, an entire city came to know Jesus:

And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on Him for the saying of the woman, which testified...

And said unto the woman, now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard Him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world. (John 4:39,42)

THE VISION TODAY

While standing in the middle of visible natural harvest fields that day, the disciples experienced the birth of a spiritual vision.

It is the same vision Jesus wants to birth in your spirit. He wants to give you a vision of the spiritual harvest fields of the world which are ready to be reaped for His Kingdom. When you recognize the reality of that vision and understand your responsibility in fulfilling it, your life will never again be the same.

Jesus clearly stated:

The field is the world... (Matthew 13:38)

Africa, Asia, Australia, North America, South America, Europe, the Islands of the sea...the harvest fields of the world are ripe with multitudes who have yet to hear the good news of the Kingdom of God.

The vision has not changed. It is the same as it was when Jesus birthed it in the lives of His disciples. The will of God is the same because the work of God is not finished.

There are untold millions yet untold. The vision is still the harvest fields of the world.

WHY THE HARVEST?

Why did Jesus use the example of the harvest to illustrate the spiritual vision He wanted to give His followers? There are many other natural parallels He could have used. Why did He choose the harvest?

The harvest was an example to which His disciples could easily relate. The history of God's people, Israel, dated back to Adam who was first to till the ground. Agriculture continued developing to the time of Moses when it became the basis of the economy.

At the time of Christ's ministry the economic cycle of Israel centered on agriculture. Harvesting was a continuous activity throughout the year. Flax and barley harvesting occurred in April-May, the wheat harvest about six weeks later in June-July. Apples, figs, almonds, and the first grapes were gathered in June. Olives, dates, and summer figs were harvested in August and September, pomegranates and pistachio nuts in October. Olives in northern Galilee and winter figs were gathered in November.

Not only did the economy center on the harvest, it was also at the heart of the religious system of Israel. The three main religious feasts God established for His people related to the harvest. The Passover came in the season of the barley harvest (Exodus 23:16). Seven weeks later, at the time of the wheat harvest, was the feast of Pentecost (Exodus 34:22). The feast of Tabernacles was observed the seventh month which was the period of the fruit harvest (Exodus 34:22).

Since the entire calendar, economy, and religious system revolved around the harvest the disciples could easily understand this example.

But even more important, there were certain guidelines for sowing and reaping which affected the natural harvest. These natural laws also applied to spiritual harvesting. The disciples of Jesus could easily apply these principles to spiritual harvesting because of their familiarity with them in the natural world. Applying these natural principles spiritually would bring forth an abundant spiritual harvest. We will study these principles later in this course.

Most important, the disciples recognized the urgency represented by the example of the natural harvest. When a crop was ripe it must be harvested immediately or it would ruin. It was a matter of reap or rot.

If the harvest was great and there were not enough workers available to reap it, the crop would be lost. Of the spiritual parallel to this natural problem Jesus said:

The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few. (Matthew 9:37)

RECEIVING THE VISION

When Jesus spoke to His followers about the vision of the harvest He outlined five steps to enable them to receive the vision:

(1) SAY NOT YE (2) THERE ARE YET FOUR MONTHS then cometh harvest? (3) BEHOLD, I SAY UNTO YOU, (4) LIFT UP YOUR EYES, and (5) LOOK ON THE FIELDS; for they are white already to harvest. (John 4:35)

STEP ONE: "Say not ye..."

Many believers spend their entire lives talking about the harvest. They are like a labor crew trying to gather a harvest while sitting in a barn. They go to the barn [church] each Sunday morning and study bigger and better methods of agriculture [spiritual harvest]. They sharpen their harvesting sickles and then go home.

They come back that night to study better methods of agriculture, sharpen their sickles, and go home again. They are back for a midweek meeting to learn bigger and better methods, sharpen their sickles, and return home. They do this week after week until the weeks turn into months and months into years, yet nobody ever goes out into the fields to gather the harvest.

When Jesus said, "Say not ye" He meant that talking about spiritual harvest was not enough. You must become involved in the actual harvesting process. That does not mean everyone is to leave their jobs, seek financial support from the church, and travel to other nations as preachers of the Gospel. But each believer is to be involved in some way in the harvest. For some, it will be the fields that are right outside the doors of their home and church. It will be the harvest in their school, on their job, and in their local community or village. For others, the harvest will be a foreign field. The point is that each believer is to be participating in and not just talking about the harvest.

STEP TWO: "Yet four months..."

In order to become part of this harvest time vision you cannot delay it. You cannot wait until some future time to become involved. Souls are dying in sin now. For many, tomorrow will be too late:

Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe; come, get you down; for the press is full, the vats overflow; for their wickedness is great.

Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision. (Joel 3:13-14)

STEP THREE: "I say unto you..."

God's ways are different from those of man:

For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8-9)

Men talk about spiritual harvest. They delay it. But what God says is different than what man says. He says...

STEP FOUR: "Lift up your eyes..."

The eyes of the disciples were distracted. They were not focused on the vision of the spiritual harvest fields.

In order to receive this spiritual vision you must take personal action. You must lift up your spiritual eyes from the natural distractions of life. You must lift them from your personal problems, from discouragement, from business and worldly concerns.

You must lift your eyes from the circumstances of life to...

STEP FIVE: "Look on the harvest."..

Turning your eyes from distractions to the harvest field is not enough. You must really look at the harvest. You must see the world through the eyes of God.

Many do not have spiritual vision because they have not really looked. They have not recognized their personal responsibility to the harvest fields. They have not considered the conditions of the harvest fields of our world today.

TO RECEIVE THE VISION...

- You must not just talk about it.
- You can not delay it.
- You must listen to what God says, the challenge He presents when He cries, "Whom shall I send and who will go for us?" (Isaiah 6:8).
- You must lift your eyes from the distractions of the world to the harvest field.
- You must look at the fields of the world through the eyes of God.

SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

2. What is meant by a "natural parallel of a spiritual truth"?

3. The natural example Jesus used to give His disciples a spiritual vision was the example of the _____.

4. In the example of the harvest the field is the _____.

5. List three reasons why Jesus chose the natural example of the harvest to give His followers a spiritual vision.

6. List five steps given in John 4:35 which enable you to receive spiritual vision.

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

FOR FURTHER STUDY

This chapter emphasized personal involvement in the vision of the harvest.

Read the story known as the parable of the "Good Samaritan" in Luke 10:25-35. This parable illustrates attitudes of involvement with human need. It is an example of the various attitudes of believers towards the vision of the spiritual harvest fields of the world.

Notice the attitudes of the thief, the priest, the Levite, the innkeeper, and the Samaritan in the parable. Also observe the attitude of the lawyer who originally asked the question which resulted in Jesus telling the parable.

Character Attitude

The Lawyer	Saw a question for discussion.	
The Thief	Saw a person to exploit.	
The Priest and Levite	Viewed the need as a problem to avoid and ignore.	
The Inn-keeper	Saw a customer to be served for pay; had an attitude of "What can I get	out of it?"
The Samaritan	Saw a person dying, a harvest perishing, and responded to the need with	personal involvement.

CHAPTER THREE

HIS EYES BEHOLD THE NATIONS

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Explain what it means to see the world through the eyes of God.
- Understand the present condition of the spiritual harvest fields of the world.
- Make a personal commitment to join the team of international harvesters being raised up by God throughout the world.

KEY VERSE:

His eyes behold the nations. (Psalms 66:7)

INTRODUCTION

The last chapter stressed the importance of lifting your spiritual eyes and looking on the harvest fields of the world.

The disciples did not have the same vision which Jesus had. This is why He urged them to lift their eyes and look in order to see the great need as He saw it.

You must see the world as God sees it. This is essential if you are to develop proper spiritual vision.

This chapter focuses on the harvest fields of the world. The Bible states of God that "His eyes behold the nations." What does God see when He views the harvest fields of the world?

RUSTY SICKLES, EMPTY FIELDS

God views the world as a harvest field:

The field is the world... (Matthew 13:38)

The cry comes to the ears of God from the people of the world:

The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.
(Jeremiah 8:20)

The spiritual harvest fields of the world resemble the natural fields over which the prophet Joel cried:

Be ye ashamed, O ye husbandmen; howl, O ye vinedressers; for the wheat and for the barley; because the harvest of the field is perished. (Joel 1:11)

When God's eyes behold the nations of the world, He sees a spiritual harvest perishing because of the lack of harvesters. Jesus never said there would be a lack of sowers of the Gospel. He said there would be a lack of laborers to reap the spiritual harvest:

The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few. (Matthew 9:37)

Presently, North America has 94% of the world's ministers serving 6% of the population. This means only 6% of the ministers are trying to reach 94% of the population in the remainder of the world.

There are approximately three billion people representing over 16,000 culturally distinct people groups yet to be reached with the Gospel. There are over 2,000 languages for which there is no translation of God's Word.

For every 10,000 villages in India, 9,950 have no Christian witness. In Japan the total Christian population is estimated at only one percent.

In Latin America there are at least five million people in jungle lowlands who have not been reached with the Gospel. There are 750 million Muslims with only approximately 500 Protestant missionaries ministering among them.

The need in other nations of Africa, Asia, South America, and the Middle East is similar to these examples.

This is what God sees as He views the nations of the world.

THE GAP

The Bible states:

For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. (I Timothy 2:5)

The need for a mediator indicates there is a gap between two parties who cannot accept each other.

When God looks at the world, He sees multitudes of people standing in a spiritual gap. The reason for the gap between God and man is sin.

Jesus Christ is the mediator between sinful man and a righteous God. Neither can accept the other without the mediator. Jesus made it possible for man to be redeemed from sin and accepted by a righteous God.

Multitudes still wait for the message of the mediator who can bridge the gap between them and God. The Great Commission Jesus gave was for His followers to enter the gap. He spoke of going to Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth.

They were to start where they were and evangelize Jerusalem. Reaching Judaea and Samaria would require cross-cultural evangelism. Samaria differed theologically and culturally from Jerusalem. The far regions of the earth represented an even greater challenge. But each region represented the gap.

At first Christ's disciples were hesitant to bridge the gap between Jew and Gentile due to cultural and theological differences. Until persecution came, they did little to extend the Gospel to regions outside of Jerusalem (Acts 8:4).

If you are to fulfill the Great Commission and reap the harvest you must get out of cultural, theological, and denominational ruts. You may even have to leave your geographical location. You must enter the gap to share the good news of the mediator between God and man.

ANOTHER GAP

In addition to the gap of sin between man and God there is another great spiritual gap. This is the gap between the challenge of Jesus to reach the world with the Gospel and the failure of His people to fulfill that challenge.

Until you receive a vision of the spiritual harvest fields you will never fully understand your role in the Kingdom of God. It is the cause which gives purpose and direction to Christian life. The vision of spiritual harvest should be central to your life. For many it is only a minor concern.

We tend to talk about the things we love. We talk about our husband or wife, friends, sports, and hobbies. We also talk of things that concern us such as politics, finances, and business. But how often do we speak of lost souls? How much concern do we give each day to the multitudes still waiting in the gap, the harvest perishing in the fields?

Paul speaks of using the most routine activities such as eating and drinking for the glory of God (I Corinthians 10:31). Every activity of your life can be centered on the vision of spiritual harvest. When this happens it gives new challenge, purpose, and direction to your life as a believer. Every day becomes an exciting quest to see how you can be part of fulfilling the vision.

When you recognize your personal responsibility to the multitudes in the gap and the vision of the harvest bursts into your spirit, you become part of a special network. This network is a group of believers from many nations who have joined together to see the world through the eyes of God and fulfill His plan to spread the Gospel.

In recent times, this movement has been referred to as "World Christians." They are believers who at the end of each day can confidently say:

"I know this day my life has counted strategically for Christ's global cause, especially for those currently beyond the reach of the Gospel."

This is the challenge of spiritual harvest. This is seeing the world through the eyes of God.

OPEN DOORS

Men view some nations as closed to the Gospel. When a nation is referred to as "closed" to the Gospel message it usually means the government will not accept Christian missionaries and seeks to stop the spread of the Gospel within its borders.

But there are no limits recognized by God. He sees no "closed" countries. It is true that some nations are closed to the traditional missionary because the government will not grant visas to those who want to enter the nation and preach the Gospel message.

But when the "front door" closes to a nation, so to speak, there is always a "back door." Teams of manual laborers are entering closed nations to build schools, clinics, and agricultural projects. While there, they share the Gospel message.

Other believers are entering nations as teachers, medical workers, and literacy instructors. Modern communication devices are beaming the Gospel message beyond closed borders. Teams of international intercessors are penetrating the entire world through prayer.

Within "closed" nations local believers are assuming responsibility for the spread of the Gospel in their own countries through underground evangelistic networks. So called "closed countries" cannot be used to ignore your responsibility. The harvest cannot be stopped by governments. Your enemies are not political leaders.

Your concern is with the principalities and powers behind these things which are opposing God's worldwide purpose:

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. (Ephesians 6:12)

Catch the vision of an unlimited world. Look at the harvest fields. Weep over the cities as Jesus did. See the world through the eyes of God. His vision is global and His purpose is eternal from the foundations of the world.

SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

2. What is the estimated number of people in the world who are yet to be reached with the

Gospel? _____

3. Approximately how many language groups still do not have the Bible translated in their language? _____

4. What does it mean to "see the world through the eyes of God"?

5. What is the cause of the gap between man and God which requires the mediator, Jesus Christ? _____

6. Write T in front of each statement that is TRUE. Write F in front of each statement that is FALSE.

- a. _____ Closed countries can not be reached with the Gospel message.
- b. _____ The main enemies we are fighting in the spread of the Gospel are the governments controlling the nations.
- c. _____ Jesus said there would be a lack of harvesters in the spiritual harvest fields of the world.

7. What does it mean to be a World Christian?

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Read about Isaiah's vision recorded in Isaiah 6:1-9.

It was an...

- Upward vision [height]: He saw the Lord.
- Inward vision [depth]: He saw himself and his own spiritual condition.
- Outward vision [breadth]: He saw the world.

It was also a vision of...

- Holiness: Of the Lord.
- Hellishness: "I am undone" [unclean].
- Hopelessness: "Who will go for us?"

Note these key words...

- Woe: A word of confession (verse 5).
- Lo: A word of cleansing (verse 7).
- Go: A word of commission (verse 9).

PART TWO: CONCEPTUALIZATION

Understanding The Concept Of Purpose Behind The Vision

CHAPTER FOUR

THE WORLD IN THE WORD

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Explain the plan of God for the nations of the world as purposed from the beginning of time.
- Trace this vision as it is revealed in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

KEY VERSES:

Having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself:

That in the dispensation of the fulness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in Heaven, and which are on earth; even in Him. (Ephesians 1:9-10)

INTRODUCTION

Part One of this course presented the first step in "Strategies for Spiritual Harvest." It dealt with "Visualization" in which the vision was identified. These chapters progressed through birth of a vision, identifying the vision, and seeing the world through the eyes of God.

This chapter deals with "Conceptualization", the second step in "Strategies for Spiritual Harvest." It presents the concept of purpose behind the vision of the harvest. It is the unifying theme of the world in God's Word that reveals His global purpose.

GOD'S PURPOSE

From the beginning of time God had a divine purpose on which He based His relation with and His promises and prophecies to mankind.

God has revealed His purpose to believers:

Making known to us the mystery (secret) of His will (His plan, of His purpose). And it is this: In accordance with His good pleasure (His merciful intention) which He had previously purposed and set forth in Him,

He planned for the maturity of the times and the climax of the ages to unify all things and had them up and consummate them in Christ, both things in Heaven and things on earth. (Ephesians 1:9-10, The Amplified Bible)

God's divine purpose from the beginning of time has been to unify all of heaven and earth in Jesus Christ. His vision is global in nature and...

The Lord is not slack concerning His promise...but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. (II Peter 3:9)

God's purpose is salvation for the world. Because it is His purpose, it must become our purpose. We must make His global cause a priority.

There are many needs in the world including hunger, poverty, sickness, and social injustice. Traditional missions have been involved in all of these areas, and rightly so, for the Bible teaches such concern.

But the vision of the harvest fields, of reaping men and women for the Kingdom of God, must remain a priority. The other needs are met once communities of responsible believers are established.

Missions involves all levels of human need but spiritual harvesting, the winning of lost men and women to Jesus Christ, must be to us as it is to God: The priority purpose.

THE OLD TESTAMENT

God's purpose can be traced from Genesis to Revelation. His Word is a history of how He dealt with individuals and nations to fulfill His purpose.

The Great Commission was first given when God said to Adam and Eve...

Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it...
(Genesis 1:28)

Adam and Eve were to populate the earth with descendants who were as they were: Created in the image of God, living souls in fellowship with a living God. Physically they were to produce children. Spiritually they were to produce believers.

Later God established an everlasting covenant with Abraham. This covenant was global in nature for He said to Abraham:

And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.
(Genesis 22:18)

...and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.
(Genesis 28:14)

From Abraham came the nation of Israel. God used Israel as a witness to surrounding nations. The nations of the earth were blessed as God revealed Himself to them through Israel.

During the time of the plagues in Egypt God told Pharaoh that the judgments were sent to show him that God was above all others:

For I will at this time send all my plagues upon thine heart, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people: that thou mayest know that there is none like me in all the earth. (Exodus 9:14)

When Israel faced the challenge of the flooded Jordan River, God dried up the waters so that the people of the earth might recognize His hand:

That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the Lord, that it is mighty: that ye might fear the Lord your God for ever.
(Joshua 4:24)

When David met Goliath on the battlefield he said God would give him the victory so the entire earth might know there was a God:

This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee,

and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.
(I Samuel 17:46)

After the Kingdom of Israel was established, Solomon caught the vision of the global purpose of God he expressed the desire that...

...all the people of the earth may know Thy name, to fear Thee, as do Thy people Israel. (I Kings 8:43)

David issued a call to the harvest fields of the nations of the world when he cried:

Declare His glory among the heathen, His wonders among all people.

Say among the heathen that the Lord reigneth... (Psalms 96:3,10)

Two of the Old Testament prophets, Daniel and Jonah, ministered cross-culturally. This means they took the Gospel message to nations other than their own.

Daniel was a witness to God while serving as an official in Babylon. Jonah was a missionary to Ninevah.

Isaiah declared that Israel was God's witness among the nations:

Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled: Who among them can declare this and shew us former things?...

Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am He: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.

I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no Saviour.

I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed...therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, that I am God. (Isaiah 43:9-12)

The entire record of the Old Testament is a history of God using Israel as a witness to the nations of the world.

The Old Testament reflects God's divine purpose as He dealt with individuals and nations to bring them to the knowledge of the true and living God.

THE NEW TESTAMENT

The Old Testament prepared the way for the fulfillment of God's purpose in the coming of Jesus Christ. The New Testament records the ministry of Jesus as He fulfilled God's will and purpose. When Jesus challenged His disciples with the vision of the harvest He said:

My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me and to finish His work.
(John 4:34)

The entire life of Jesus was dedicated to harvesting men and women for God. It was the purpose of His life to reach the fields of the world:

And He said unto them, I must preach the Kingdom of God to other cities also; for therefore am I sent. (Luke 4:43)

When Jesus went back to Heaven, He left us with the Great Commission which is the mandate behind the vision of spiritual harvest. It is recorded in five different places in the New Testament:

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in Heaven and in earth.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.
(Matthew 28:18-20)

And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature.

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

They shall take up serpents: and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.
(Mark 16:15-18)

Then opened He their understanding, that they might understand the Scriptures.

And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things.

And, behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.
(Luke 24:45-49)

...As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. (John 20:21)

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

As believers, it is our responsibility to fulfill God's purpose as we are now His witness to the nations of the world.

The book of Acts records the birth and early life of the Church. The central theme is summarized in the phrase "ye shall be witnesses unto Me" (Acts 1:8). The pattern of this expanding witness can be traced throughout the book of Acts:

Witness to the Jews: Acts 1:1-8:3

Witness to both Jews and Gentiles: Acts 8:4-12:25

Witness to Gentiles: Acts 13:1-28:31

The early church was born in a great demonstration of power as recorded in Acts 2. God began the process of creating a new body of people, the Church, through which His witness would flow to the nations of the world:

And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ;

To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the Church the manifold wisdom of God.

(Ephesians 3:9-10)

God's purpose is that by the Church His plan of redemption through Jesus will be made known throughout the world.

The Epistles in the New Testament explain the position, order, privileges, and duties of members of the Church. A well-ordered Church capable of not only articulation [teaching] but of demonstration [showing] of the power of God was to provide the labor force in the harvest fields of the world.

In Revelation 1-3, John recorded the lifestyle of seven local churches at the end of the first century. Through this record we view the condition of the Church two generations after Pentecost.

Some of the churches had forgotten their purpose. Some were cold spiritually and had no power. But regardless of the condition of the church reflected in these chapters, the divine purpose of God had not changed:

Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me. (Revelation 3:20)

To any man....from any nation, tribe, and tongue...God desires to reveal Himself. From the beginning of time, God's purpose has not changed.*

* Harvestime International Institute offers a course entitled "Developing a Biblical World View" which further details God's purpose for the nations of the world as revealed in His Word.

SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verses from memory.

2. Write T in front of each statement that is TRUE. Write F in front of each statement that is FALSE.

- a. ____ God has not revealed His divine purpose to man.
- b. ____ God's purpose is to unify all things in Jesus Christ.
- c. ____ In the Old Testament record, God used Israel as a witness to the nations of the world.
- d. ____ In the New Testament the Church is the body of people through which God desires to extend the Gospel to the world.

3. What is the divine purpose of God? Give at least one Scripture reference to support your answer.

Reference: _____

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. Study Revelation chapters 1-3 which are God's message to seven churches in Asia.

Make a list of the qualities in these churches which God commends. How would these qualities aid the churches in their extension of the Gospel?

Make a list of the problems in the churches which God identifies. How would these problems prevent the church from fulfilling its purpose as a witness to the nations of the world?

2. Continue your study of the world in the Word. During the next year read the entire Bible with the global cause of God in mind.

Identify all of the verses which concern God's dealings with the nations of the world. Use a special colored pen or pencil to underline these verses in your Bible.

Some words to watch for which will help you identify the verses are listed below:

- Earth
- World
- Nation or nations
- Gentiles (which means every nation other than Israel)
- Heathen

PART THREE: OBJECTIFICATION

Objectives For Fulfilling The Vision

CHAPTER FIVE

RUSTY SICKLES, EMPTY FIELDS

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Identify things which prevent harvest in the natural world.
- Apply these natural principles to spiritual harvest.

KEY VERSES:

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. (Galatians 6:7-8)

INTRODUCTION

Part One of this course introduced the vision of the harvest. Part Two identified the purpose behind the vision. This section, Part Three, deals with "Objectification." It presents the plan which leads to "Expectation", the fulfillment of the vision.

This chapter examines reasons for poor spiritual harvest. It is just as important to know how NOT to do something as it is to know how to do it.

Thomas Edison, a famous inventor in the United States, conducted 1,500 experiments which failed before he discovered electricity. When asked about these experiments he said they were important because "I learned 1,500 ways not to produce electricity." He did not have to waste future time and effort in unproductive methods.

You do not have to experiment with spiritual harvest. God has identified the reasons for poor harvest in His Word. It is important you understand these so you do not waste spiritual effort. That is the subject of this lesson.

The next two chapters concern "Strategies For Harvest", principles which result in effective spiritual harvest. Chapter Eight, "Reaping For Results", identifies the methods and tools for spiritual harvest.

THE "IF-BUT" PRINCIPLE

There is an important principle in God's Word called the "If-But" principle. God has given many promises to His people and most of them are based on the "If-But" principle. Deuteronomy 28 is one example of this principle. God promises:

And it shall come to pass, IF thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all His commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth.
(Deuteronomy 28:1)

The chapter lists the blessings God's people will experience IF they will serve Him. Among those blessings are promises of abundant harvest in the natural world:

...and blessed shalt thou be in the field...

Blessed...shall be the fruit of thy ground... (Deuteronomy 28:3-4)

But verse 15 warns:

BUT it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all His commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee. (Deuteronomy 28:15)

Among the curses for turning from the ways of the Lord is poor harvest in the natural world:

Cursed shalt thou be in the field...cursed shall be the fruit of thy land.

Thou shalt carry much seed out into the field, and shalt gather but little in...Thou shalt plant vineyards, and dress them, but shalt neither drink of the wine, nor gather the grapes, for the worms shall eat them.

Thou shalt have olive trees throughout all thy coasts, but thou shalt not anoint thyself with the oil; for thine olive shall cast his fruit...

All thy trees and fruit of thy land shall the locust consume.
(Deuteronomy 28:16,18,38-42)

This chapter in Deuteronomy illustrates the "If-But" principle. God's promises are conditional upon our response.

NATURAL AND SPIRITUAL PARALLELS

The Bible reveals principles which will result in abundant harvest in the natural world. It also warns of ruined crops and poor harvest if these principles are not followed.

These principles apply to actual sowing and reaping in the natural world but they are also parallels of great spiritual truths.

Understanding these principles will result in a harvest in terms of reaching the world with the Gospel. But applying these principles in every area of life will also result in the blessing of God financially, materially, physically, and emotionally.

SATAN'S INTEREST IN THE HARVEST

Satan has an interest in spiritual harvest. Jesus said to Peter:

Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you like wheat.

(Luke 22:31)

Satan wants to sift all that is good from your life so that only waste remains. He does not want you to reap a spiritual harvest.

To help you identify strategies Satan has designed to sift the harvest from your life, God warned of things which prevent spiritual harvest.

In order to apply strategies for effective harvest it is first necessary to eliminate things that prevent harvest in your life.

You must deal with these negative factors. It is like preparing the ground for planting in the natural world. The ground must be broken up and the rocks and thistles removed before it is ready to receive the seed.

REASONS FOR POOR HARVEST

These are reasons for poor spiritual harvests:

DISOBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WORD:

The passage from Deuteronomy 28 previously discussed illustrates one reason for poor spiritual harvest: Disobedience to God's Word. God promised abundant harvest IF His people would observe His commandments. BUT if they would not, then the harvest would perish.

In Isaiah chapter five God speaks of Israel as a vineyard. Through disobedience to His Word (verses 13 and 20) they became unfruitful. When you disobey God's Word it results in spiritual famine:

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord:

And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it. (Amos 8:11-12)

FORGETTING GOD:

Another reason for poor harvest is forgetting God by not acknowledging His rightful place in your life:

Because thou hast forgotten the God of thy salvation, and hast not been mindful of the rock of thy strength, therefore shalt thou plant pleasant plants and shalt set it with strange slips:

In the day shalt thou make thy plant to grow, and in the morning shalt thou make thy seed to flourish: but the harvest shall be a heap in the day of grief and of desperate sorrow. (Isaiah 17:10-11)

It is not enough to know about God, you must know God. You must accept His plan of salvation, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.

If you do not rightfully acknowledge God you can work night and day and yet not bring forth spiritual harvest. Israel was an example of a people who forgot God:

They soon forgot His works; they waited not for His counsel.

They forgot God their Saviour, which had done great things in Egypt.
(Psalms 106:13,21)

Because of this, Israel suffered both in the natural and spiritual harvests.

As many who forget God, Israel did not recognize the reason they were experiencing poor harvests:

And they shall eat up thine harvest...they shall eat up thy vines and thy fig trees...And it shall come to pass, when ye shall say, Wherefore doeth the Lord our God all these things unto us? then shalt thou answer them, Like as ye have forsaken me, and served strange gods in your land, so shall ye serve strangers in a land that is not yours. (Jeremiah 5:17-19)

Amos clearly described the reason for poor harvest in chapters 4 and 5 of his writing:

And also I have withholden the rain from you, when there were yet three months to harvest; and I caused it to rain upon one city, and caused it not to rain upon another city...and the piece whereupon it rained not withered...

I have smitten you with blasting and mildew; when your gardens and your vineyards and your fig trees and your olive trees increased, the palmerworm devoured them; yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the Lord.
(Amos 4:7,9)

In addition to identifying the problem Amos gives the solution:

Seek ye Me, and ye shall live... (Amos 5:4)

IMPROPER SOWING:

God warned His people:

Thou shalt now sow thy vineyard with divers seeds: lest the fruit of thy seed which thou hast sown, and the fruit of thy vineyard, be defiled.
(Deuteronomy 22:9)

...Therefore shalt thou plant pleasant plants, and shalt set it with strange slips:

In the day shalt thou make thy plant to grow, and in the morning shalt thou make thy seed to flourish; but the harvest shall be a heap in the day of grief and of desperate sorrow. (Isaiah 17:10-11)

In these verses God speaks of "mingled seed" and "strange" slips [small plants or seedlings]. He said they would appear to be growing but in the time of harvest would be cursed.

The New Testament calls the "seed" the Word of God. What you sow in your life affects spiritual harvest. If you sow His Word you will have abundant harvest.

If you consider the traditions of man, organization, or denominations more important than or equal to the Word of God, then you are mingling seed. Many denominations look like healthy spiritual plants. They have large congregations and beautiful buildings in which to conduct their meetings. But they have mingled God's Word with their own traditions or revelations. Their spiritual harvest is cursed. This is how cults begin. They "mingle" the seed of the Word with their own ideas. In the end the harvest is a sorrow.

The Word of God is the incorruptible seed which brings forth the harvest of the new birth in the lives of men and women:

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. (I Peter 1:23)

UNCONCERN:

Proverbs speaks of a son who sleeps during harvest:

...but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame.
(Proverbs 10:5)

The harvest is a very busy time. It is the most important time, for if the harvest is not gathered rapidly it will rot in the fields.

In the natural world in Bible times every member of a family assisted in the fields during harvest. A son who spent his time sleeping during this period was a shame to his family.

We are in the most crucial time of spiritual harvest as we near the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Yet many of the children of God are sleeping. They have not joined the Body of Christ in the harvest fields. Their sickles are rusty and the fields are empty.

Proverbs speaks of the results of such unconcern:

I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding;

And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down.

Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction.

Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:

So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man. (Proverbs 24:30-34)

Unconcern results in spiritual unfruitfulness.

Jeremiah speaks of leaders destroying the harvest because of their unconcern:

Many pastors have destroyed my vineyard, they have trodden my portion underfoot, they have made my pleasant portion a desolate wilderness...the whole land is made desolate because no man layeth it to heart.
(Jeremiah 12:10-11)

Unconcerned leaders result in unconcerned followers. The vision of the harvest must be communicated by our spiritual leaders or the fields will lie desolate because "no man layeth it to heart."

SELF-EFFORT:

You cannot bring forth spiritual harvest by self-effort. Observe the results of self-effort in the following verse:

In the day shalt THOU make THY plant to grow, and in the morning shalt THOU make THY seed to flourish: but the harvest shall be a heap in the day of grief and of desperate sorrow. (Isaiah 17:11)

Chapter One stated that the vision God desires to give cannot be brought forth by self-effort. The only way it will come is by eliminating things which prevent spiritual harvest and applying God-given strategies for harvest.

Hosea spoke of poor harvest resulting from self-effort. Israel had trusted in their own way and their mighty men (Hosea 10:13). As long as you depend on your ways, methods, or your "mighty men" you will fail to see spiritual harvest. You must do God's work in God's way.

CURSED REPRODUCTIVE PROCESS:

One of the results of the fall of man into sin was that God cursed the reproductive process of the natural world. Women bring forth children in sorrow. The ground brings forth thorns and thistles and it takes much work to make it produce fruit (Genesis 3:16-19). These curses on the reproductive system were the result of sin.

In the spiritual world when you are living in sin there is a curse on the spiritual reproductive process of your life. It is only by salvation from sin through the blood of Jesus Christ that the curse will be lifted. You cannot claim the blessings of spiritual harvest as long as you are living under the curse of sin.

REGARDING CIRCUMSTANCES:

The circumstances of life can prevent spiritual harvest:

The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing. (Proverbs 20:4)

He that observeth the wind shall not sow: and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap. (Ecclesiastes 11:4)

In the natural world if the farmer waited for perfect conditions he would never sow or reap. Regardless of the wind, the clouds, or the cold, the farmer works his field.

In the spiritual world if you wait for perfect circumstances to enter the harvest fields you will never go. The circumstances of life...your problems, your financial situation, your lack of education...must all be ignored.

UNDIRECTED EFFORT:

You can spend all your life busily doing good works and never do the work of God. This is undirected spiritual effort:

For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind: it hath no stalk: the bud shall yield no meal: if so be it yield, the strangers shall swallow it up. (Hosea 8:7)

There are many good works and worthy causes in life. People will misuse your talents and abilities for these causes if you permit them to do so.

But in order to bring forth a spiritual harvest good works are not enough. Jesus said:

My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work.
(John 4:34)

The key to spiritual harvest is not busily doing good works but it is doing the work of God. Your spiritual effort must be directed towards His divine purpose or it will be like seed sown in the wind which is carried away and gives no yield.

PESTS AND DISEASE:

In the natural world there are pests and diseases which attack plants and destroy the harvest. Pests are things which attack the plants from the outside such as bugs, grasshoppers, weeds. Disease attacks plants from the inside, destroying the root and growth systems.

Believers also face pests and disease in the spirit world. Satan attacks from without through circumstances of life and from within through the mind which affects the will and emotions.

Farmers find it necessary to prune their fruit vines. They cut off the growth that has come from within the vine which saps its life. They do this to make the vine more fruitful.

This is also necessary in the life of believers. There are things that come from within that prevent us from being fruitful (Mark 7:15). God prunes these things to increase our fruitfulness. John chapter 15 tells of this process.

The real problem with spiritual pests and disease is actually not the circumstances or the thought processes in the mind. The problem is with the spiritual powers behind these:

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. (Ephesians 6:12)

In the natural world, plants are sometimes treated with chemicals to kill the pests and cure the diseases. In the spiritual world, the armor of God protects the spiritual harvest of your life:

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. (Ephesians 6:13-17)

IMPROPER HARVESTING:

Improper harvesting ruins the crop:

Does he who plows for sowing plow continually? Does he continue to plow and harrow his ground after it is smooth?

When he has leveled its surface, does he not cast broad the seed of dill or fennel, and scatter cummin [a seasoning], and put the wheat in rows, and barley in its intended place, and spelt [an inferior kind of wheat] as the border?

And he trains each of them correctly, for his God instructs him correctly and teaches him.

For the dill is not threshed with a sharp threshing instrument, nor is a cart wheel rolled over the cummin; but the dill is beat off with a staff and the cummin with a rod by hand.

Does one crush bread grain? No, he does not grind it continuously, but when he has driven his cart wheel and his horses over it, he scatters it-tossing it up to the wind-without having crushed it. (Isaiah 28:24-28, The Amplified Bible)

There are proper methods for preparing the ground and for planting the seed in the natural world. There are also various methods for harvesting depending on the crop. Fitches and cummin come out of the husk easily, so only a staff and rod is used. Bread corn requires more force so a threshing instrument must be used.

When you are harvesting the lives of men and women for the Kingdom of God, some will come easily to knowledge of the Lord. Others will take more effort to harvest.

Improper harvesting ruins the crop. Too much force bruises the tender plants. Too little effort fails to bring forth other crops. The same God who gives wisdom for reaping the natural harvest will provide wisdom to harvest spiritual crops.

UNCULTIVATED GROUND:

If the ground is not properly prepared, the harvest will be poor. Read the parable of the sower in Mark 4:12-20, Matthew 13:1-23, and Luke 8:4-15. In these parables the Word of God is compared to seed in the natural world. The Word is sown in the hearts of men and women.

The thing that varies in these accounts is not the sower, the seed, or the method. The thing that affected the harvest was the condition of the soil. Some of the ground is not cultivated but is full of spiritual stones and weeds such as the cares of the world, riches, and lusts of other worldly things. The harvest from this uncultivated spiritual ground is poor.

But some of the seed is sown on good ground which represents hearts spiritually prepared to receive it. The result is abundant harvest:

And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the Word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred. (Mark 4:20)

The seed of the Word sown on fertile soil brings forth the greatest harvest.

Some people are receptive to the Gospel while others are resistant. If you are not experiencing harvest, uncultivated soil may be the problem. It must be properly prepared. The prophet Hosea commands:

Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord, till He come and rain righteousness upon you.

Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; ye have eaten the fruit of lies: because thou didst trust in thy way, in the multitude of thy mighty men. (Hosea 10:12-13)

Uncultivated ground in the spiritual world represents unrighteous ground. Hosea tells God's people they have reaped iniquity because they have plowed wickedness into the spiritual ground of their lives. The wickedness sown which results in a harvest of iniquity includes:

Discord:

...A wicked man...soweth discord. (Proverbs 6:12,14)

Iniquity:

He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity... (Proverbs 22:8)

Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same. (Job 4:8)

Strife:

A froward man soweth strife... (Proverbs 16:28)

Flesh:

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting... (Galatians 6:7-8)

Now the works of the flesh are...these: Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like.

(Galatians 5:19-21)

To assure proper spiritual harvest, you must break up the spiritual ground of your life and remove these hindrances. As Hosea recommended, we must "seek the Lord until He comes and rain righteousness" upon us.

UNRIGHTEOUS FOUNDATIONS:

When there was a poor harvest in the natural world, the prophet Haggai told God's people to examine their ways:

Ye have sown much, and bring in little...Consider your ways...Ye looked for much and lo, it came to little. (Haggai 1:6,7,9)

God's people had sown much seed but the harvest was little. Haggai told them they must rebuild both in the natural and spiritual worlds in order to have a good harvest.

Why was rebuilding necessary?

In the natural world, Israel had delayed building God's house and emphasized building their own homes. They had put their own concerns ahead of God's command.

In the spiritual world, the foundation of their lives was wrong. They had been sowing and reaping in the spirit world with unholy hands:

...So is this people, and so is this nation before Me, says the Lord; and so is every work of their hands; and what they offer there on the altar is unclean because they who offer it are themselves unclean. (Haggai 2:14, The Amplified Bible)

A right work or sacrifice offered by unholy hands is not acceptable. The foundation was wrong. God said to Israel:

Yet I had planted thee a noble vine, wholly a right seed; how then art thou turned into the degenerate plant of a strange vine unto Me? (Jeremiah 2:21)

Because of this improper spiritual foundation God cursed the harvest:

I smote you with blasting and with mildew and with hail in all the labours of your hands. (Haggai 2:17)

The Living Bible states that the result of unrighteousness was that "everything you did went wrong."

Haggai told God's people that the foundation of the Lord's temple must be relayed. He said if they would rebuild in both the natural and spiritual worlds God would bless them:

But now note this: From today...and from this day onward, I will bless you. Notice, I am giving you this promise now before you have even begun to build the Temple structure, and before you have harvested the grain, and before the grapes and figs and pomegranates and olives have produced their next crops: From this day, I will bless you. (Haggai 2:18-19, The Living Bible)

From the day that Israel began to rebuild the temple in the natural world and the foundation of righteousness in the spirit world God started to bless them. The result was abundant harvest in both worlds.

If you will rebuild the foundations of your life on righteousness, from this day God will begin to bless you. You will reap abundantly in every area of life.

Harvestime International Institute offers a course entitled "Foundations of Faith", dealing with the importance of proper spiritual foundations in the Christian life.

The subject is so great that it cannot be covered here but it is important to note some basic principles because they affect the spiritual harvesting process. The proper foundation which brings abundant harvest is:

Built On A Rock Which Is Immovable:

He is like a man which built a house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. (Luke 6:48)

That Rock Is Jesus Christ:

There is no other rock; I know not any. (Isaiah 44:8)

The Foundation Is Based On Righteousness:

The uncompromisingly righteous has an everlasting foundation.
(Proverbs 10:25, The Amplified Bible)

It Is A Good Foundation:

Laying in store for themselves a good foundation...(I Timothy 6:19)

It Is Eternal:

Laying in store for themselves a good foundation for the future [eternal] so they may grasp that which is life indeed. (I Timothy 6:19, The Living Bible)

It Is Based On God's Word:

God's Word stands firm like a rock [foundation]; nothing can shake it.
(II Timothy 2:19)

The Foundation Stands On Two Principles:

But the firm foundation laid by God stands sure and unshaken, bearing this seal and inscription: The Lord knows those who are His and let everyone who names himself by the name of the Lord give up all iniquity and stand aloof from it. (I Timothy 2:19) The Amplified Bible

The two principles upon which the foundation stands are:

1. Redeemed men: ☐ The Lord knows those who are His.
2. Living redeemed lives: ☐ Let everyone who names himself by the name of the Lord give up all iniquity and stand aloof from it.

This is the proper foundation for spiritual harvest.

FEW LABORERS:

If there are few laborers in the harvest field, the yield will be poor. The harvest will rot before it can be reaped. Jesus said:

...The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He would send forth labourers into His harvest. (Luke 10:2)

THE RESULTS

Things that prevent harvest have tragic results in the spirit world:

The field is wasted, the land mourneth; for the corn is wasted: the new wine is dried up, the oil languisheth.

Be ye ashamed, O ye husbandmen; howl, O ye vinedressers, for the wheat and for the barley; because the harvest of the field is perished.

The vine is dried up, and the fig tree languisheth; the pomegranate tree, the palm tree also, and the apple tree, even all the trees of the field are withered. (Joel 1:10-12)

In the natural world, poor harvest results in sadness...

And gladness is taken away, and joy out of the plentiful field; and in the vineyards there shall be no singing, neither shall there be shouting...
(Isaiah 16:10)

In the spiritual world poor harvest also results in a loss of joy and gladness:

Is not the meat cut off before our eyes, yea, joy and gladness from the house of our God? (Joel 1:16)

If we wonder why there is no joy in our lives, if we question why singing and the victory shout have vanished from our churches... it is the result of poor spiritual harvest.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

We have identified the factors which prevent spiritual harvest. We have discovered the reasons for lack of spiritual joy and victory.

What can you do to reverse the cycle of poor spiritual yields and bring abundant harvest in your life?

When the natural harvest was poor in Israel, Joel told God's people to:

Turn ye even to me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:

And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness... (Joel 2:12-13)

You must turn to God in repentance for disobedience to His Word and unconcern over spiritual harvest. You must ask Him to remove the spiritual pests and diseases which have prevented fruitfulness.

You must repent of self-effort and ask Him to direct your efforts to the fulfillment of His purpose for the nations of the world.

You must break up the uncultivated ground and rebuild the foundation of your life on righteousness.

Joel advised the spiritual leaders to repent and call a fast:

Gird yourselves, and lament, ye priests: howl, ye ministers of the altar... Sanctify ye a fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the elders and the inhabitants of the land into the house of the Lord your God, and cry unto the Lord. (Joel 1:13-14)

If you are a Christian leader and your church has not been reaping spiritual harvest take the following steps:

- Call an assembly of your elders and your membership.
- Come together before God in fasting and repentance.
- Ask God to give you a vision of abundant spiritual harvest.
- Then unite in purpose to fulfill that vision.

SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verses from memory.

2. Write T in front of the statements which are TRUE. Write F in front of the statements which are FALSE.

- a. ____ Deuteronomy 28 is an example of the "If/But" principle of God's promises.
- b. ____ Satan has no interest in spiritual harvest.
- c. ____ Self-effort is important in reaping spiritual harvest.
- d. ____ You should carefully observe the circumstances before you sow spiritually.
- e. ____ Doing good works is not enough to bring forth spiritual harvest.
- f. ____ Your problem is not really with bad circumstances but with the spiritual powers behind these circumstances.
- g. ____ A right work offered with unholy hands is not acceptable.

3. What are some of the wicked things we sow which bring a spiritual harvest of iniquity:

4. What are the two principles of the foundation based on Jesus Christ?

_____ living _____

5. Give one reference showing the results of poor spiritual harvest.

6. Give one reference showing what you can do to reverse the trend of poor spiritual harvest.

7. List the things which prevent harvest that were discussed in this chapter.

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Study the following references to identify other reasons for poor spiritual harvest:

OLD TESTAMENT

Leviticus 19:19
Deuteronomy 22:9; 28
Job 4:8
Psalms 105
Proverbs 6:12,14,19; 10:5; 16:28; 20:4; 22:8; 24:30
Ecclesiastes 11:4
Song of Solomon 2:15
Isaiah 16:10; 17:10-11; 28:24-28; 32:9-20
Jeremiah 2; 5:17-19; 8:13-14; 12:10-11
Hosea 8:7; 10:12-13
Joel 1
Amos 4,5
Micah 6
Haggai 1

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 13:1-23
Mark 4:2-20
Luke 8:4-15; 10:2; 22:31
II Corinthians 9:6
Galatians 6:7-8
James 5:4

STRATEGIES FOR SPIRITUAL HARVEST

PART I

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Use Biblical strategies which yield abundant spiritual harvest.

KEY VERSES:

They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.

He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him. (Psalms 126:5-6)

INTRODUCTION

The previous chapter identified things that prevent spiritual harvest. This and the following chapter details strategies which assure abundant spiritual harvest.

Strategies are principles, methods, and plans to follow in order to reach a certain goal. They are revealed in God's Word as natural principles which are parallels of spiritual truths.

STRATEGIES OF HARVEST

Here are the strategies of harvest:

EACH PLANT IS CAPABLE OF REPRODUCTION:

In the natural world when God created the earth He made each plant capable of reproducing itself:

And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, WHOSE SEED IS IN ITSELF, upon the

earth; and it was so. (Genesis 1:11)

Just as each plant in the natural world is capable of reproduction, each believer has the ability to reproduce spiritually. Within YOU dwells the potential to be spiritually reproductive. Great knowledge of spiritual things is not necessary in order to become part of the cycle of spiritual harvest. Jesus told a parable which illustrates this truth:

And He said, So is the Kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground.

...and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how.

But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come. (Mark 4:26,27,29)

It is not necessary to understand the theology behind the growth and development of the seed of God's Word in human hearts. It is not required that you have understanding of deep theological truths.

What IS necessary is that you become a participant in the cycle of spiritual harvest.

SOWING IS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO REAP:

In the natural world, you must sow seed in order to reap a crop. In the spiritual world you must also sow in order to reap. God provides the spiritual resources for sowing:

And God, who provides seed for the sower and bread for eating will also provide and multiply your resources for sowing...
(II Corinthians 9:10, The Amplified Bible)

God multiplies your spiritual talents and abilities to make you reproductive.

God multiplies your financial resources so you can invest in His work. He does not multiply your finances for you to accumulate great fortunes. The purpose is that you can reinvest the blessings in His Kingdom.

YOU DO NOT HARVEST IN THE SAME SEASON YOU SOW:

In the beginning God established a seasonal principle in the natural world:

While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest...shall not cease.
(Genesis 8:22)

Sowing is necessary in order to have a harvest. But the harvest does not come in the same season as the sowing. Some who receive the vision of spiritual harvest become discouraged because they do not understand this principle.

There is a time of sowing but then you must wait for the seed of the Word to germinate in the hearts of men and women. There is a time to patiently cultivate. You do not harvest in the same season in which you sow.

Psalms I speaks of this process in the life of believers:

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season... (Psalms 1:3)

If there are fruitful seasons of life this means there are also periods which appear unfruitful. These are periods of preparing the ground, sowing, and cultivating. But these seasons of "unfruitfulness" are necessary to bring the harvest.

This makes the principle of timing an important key to harvest. You must wait patiently during the time of growth and development. But you must also recognize when it is harvest time and act promptly before the crop perishes:

But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come. (Mark 4:29)

In summary, there is...

A time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted.
(Ecclesiastes 3:2)

YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW:

Seed reproduces after its own kind in the natural world. If you plant apple seeds you will harvest apples. The same is true in the spirit world:

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. (Galatians 6:7)

Sowing to the flesh brings a corrupt harvest while sowing in righteousness results in a good harvest.

YOU MUST SOW REGARDLESS OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES:

Those who regard circumstances will never become part of the vision of the harvest. Their circumstances will defeat them just as a farmer who neglects his field because of the cold, wind, and clouds:

He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap. (Ecclesiastes 11:4)

An important strategy of spiritual harvest is that of sowing regardless of the circumstances of life:

Happy and fortunate are you who cast your seed upon all waters when the river overflows its banks; for the seed will sink into the mud and when of the waters subside will spring up; you will find it after many days in an abundant harvest... (Isaiah 32:20, The Amplified Bible)

You must sow beside all waters which means in all circumstances of life. Even when the rivers of difficult circumstances overflow the banks of your life, you must continue sowing. God has promised it will bring abundant harvest.

YOU HARVEST IN PROPORTION TO THE AMOUNT SOWN:

Remember this: He who sows sparingly and grudgingly will also reap sparingly and grudgingly, and he who sows generously and that blessing may come to someone, will also reap generously and with blessings.

(II Corinthians 9:6, The Amplified Bible)

This principle applies in every area of your spiritual life. If you give grudgingly of your time, talents, and finances to the work of God, then your harvest will be small. If you sow generously, you will reap abundantly. There are different levels of productivity in spiritual harvest described in John 15. You can bring forth:

-Fruit:John 15:2

-More fruit:John 15:2

-Much fruit:John 15:4

-Permanent fruit:John 15:16

God's desire is that you bring forth much fruit and that it is permanent.

Peter identified some qualities you should develop in your life in order to be fruitful:

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

For if these things be in you and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(II Peter 1:5-8)

Peter warns that if these qualities are not developed you will lack spiritual vision:

But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. (II Peter 1:9)

YOU CAN SOW WHERE YOU DO NOT REAP and
REAP WHERE YOU DO NOT SOW:

When Israel entered the promised land God said they would eat of vineyards which they had not planted. They would reap a harvest which they had not sown.

The same is true in the spirit world. You can reap the harvest others have sown:

And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth.

I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours. (John 4:37-38)

For centuries believers have sown their lives in the harvest fields of the world. As we near the return of the Lord their sowing is bringing a great harvest in the nations of the world. You enter into their labors when you reap where you have not sown.

But you may also be part of the sowing process and never reap the harvest.

Paul speaks of this:

I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.

For we are labourers together with God... (I Corinthians 3:6-9)

YOU WILL REAP THE HARVEST IF YOU ARE FAITHFUL:

Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. (Galatians 6:9)

Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and the latter rain. (James 5:7)

If you are faithful God has promised you will reap the harvest. Do not become weary in the task He has given you to do.

IN ORDER TO REPRODUCE, THE SEED MUST DIE:

A seed looks dead. There are no green leaves, no tender shoots or branches. In order to grow it must be buried.

This is a natural parallel of a great spiritual truth. Spiritual life depends on sacrificial death:

Every time you plant seed, you sow something that does not come to life (germinating, springing up and growing) unless it dies first.

(I Corinthians 15:36, The Amplified Bible)

In order to bring forth life it was necessary for Jesus to die on the cross. His ministry seemed to be in vain because it ended in death.

But it was His sowing time. What an abundant harvest has resulted from His death from that one kernel of wheat which fell into the ground. Through His death millions have found life.

Spiritual life requires sacrificial death. It requires death to sin. It requires death to worldly desires and pleasures.

Jim Elliott, martyred for the cause of Christ in an attempt to reach the Auca Indians of Ecuador with the Gospel, wrote in his diary: "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."

In natural life, the ultimate contradiction is death because death brings eternal life to the believer. The only real death is when you do not have anything worth dying for. Be sure the thing you are living for is worth dying for.

At times there will be no visible evidence of harvest. It may appear you are losing your life for a vision which is dying.

But you must remember:

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

(John 12:24)

Jesus did not die in vain. Through His death came life. Through his death, salvation came to the Auca Indians as others stepped forward to take his place and reach them with the Gospel.

The seed is not dead. Within it is the life force of God. But in order to bring forth life it must die. Hosea speaks of the results of investing your life in this manner:

And I will sow her unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to them which were not my people, Thou art my people; and they shall say, Thou art my God. (Hosea 2:23)

This verse summarizes the purpose of applying the strategies of spiritual harvest. You labor so God can say to those who were not His people "Thou art my people; and they shall say, Thou art my God."

SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verses from memory.

2. Define "strategies."

3. List nine strategies for spiritual harvest discussed in this chapter.

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

FOR FURTHER STUDY

PARABLES OF THE VINEYARD

There are several parables in the Bible which concern the vineyard and reveal additional information about spiritual harvest. The parable of the sower (Matthew 13, Mark 4, Luke 8) is covered elsewhere in this course. Other parables of the vineyard are listed below for further study.

BASKET OF SUMMER FRUIT: Amos 8:1-2

What natural example did God show Amos? _____

What was the meaning of this example? _____

What was the great famine which God sent as judgment on Israel because they would not obey His Word? (verses 11-12) _____

GOD'S VINEYARD: Isaiah 5:1-7

This parable refers to the nation of Israel. God had planted Israel in the spirit world to be reproductive and bless the nations of the world. But Israel had not been fruitful. What was the result of the spiritual harvest in Israel? (verse 4)

What was the judgment on the vineyard? (verses 5-6)

What are the contrasts in verse 7? God looked for _____

but found _____.

He looked for _____ but found _____ (of unrighteousness).

What were the reasons Israel was in this spiritual condition? (verses 13,20)

GOD'S VINEYARD: Matthew 21:28-41; Mark 12:1-9; Luke 20:9-16

This New Testament parable also concerns God's vineyard. It is a record of how God sent His prophets to Israel and they rejected them. Finally He sent His own Son, Jesus Christ, and He too was rejected.

What was the response of the husbandmen (Israel) to the servants God sent?

What was their response to the Son? _____

What was the judgment God sent? _____
(The others to whom He would give it were the Gentiles).

THE FIG TREE: Luke 13:6-9

When the owner of the vineyard came to gather fruit from the fig tree, what did he find?

What did he want to do? _____

What was the response of the keeper of the vineyard? _____

The fig tree represents Israel. What do you think this parable means?

WORKERS IN THE VINEYARD: Matthew 20:1-16

What was the pay of the workers hired early in the day? _____

What was the pay of the workers hired late in the day? _____

What was the problem which arose between the workers?

What is the principle which Jesus illustrated with this parable? (verse 16)

THE TWO SONS: Matthew 21:28-31

When the father asked his sons to work in the vineyard:

How did the first son answer him? _____

What did the first son actually do? _____

How did the second son answer him? _____

What did the second son actually do? _____

What was the principle Jesus taught through this parable? _____

THE HARVEST: Matthew 9:37-38; Luke 10:2; John 4:34-38, 12:24

On several occasions Jesus used the natural example of the harvest to illustrate spiritual truths. What is the greatest need in the harvest field?

What is one thing we can do about this need (Matthew 9:38)?

What is the principle of harvest Jesus taught in John 12:24?

What truth do you learn about sowers and reapers in John 4:36-38?

THE TARES: Matthew 13:24-30

What kind of seed was sown in the field? _____

What happened while the workers slept? _____

What was the solution to the problem of the tares which had been sown? (verse 30)

Why did the owner decide on this solution? (verse 29)

Is it our responsibility to separate tares from wheat? _____

THE MUSTARD SEED: Matthew 13:31-32; Mark 4:31-32; Luke 13:18-19

The mustard seed is the _____ of all seeds.

What type of plant is it when it is grown? _____

What spiritual truth was Jesus illustrating with the story of the mustard seed?

In Matthew 17:20 Jesus used the mustard seed as an example of faith. What are the effects of a small amount of faith?

CHAPTER SEVEN

STRATEGIES FOR SPIRITUAL HARVEST

PART II

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Explain spiritual parallels of the natural principles of plant development.
- Apply these parallels as strategies for spiritual harvest.

KEY VERSE:

For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.
(Isaiah 61:11)

INTRODUCTION

This chapter continues the study of strategies for spiritual harvest. It concerns a final principle of harvest: Seeds develop in response to certain external conditions.

In the natural world there are certain conditions required for growth and development of seeds. These natural conditions are parallels of spiritual factors necessary for development of the seed of the Word of God in order for it to bring a spiritual harvest.

CONDITIONS FOR GROWTH

LIFE:

Growth is impossible without life. There must be life in the seed, or it will not grow. Jesus was the visible revelation of the Word of God, the Seed, and in Him was life:

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. (John 1:4)

For as the Father hath life in Himself; so hath He given to the Son to have life in Himself. (John 5:26)

Jesus came to plant this seed of life in you to make you reproductive:

I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly. (John 10:10)

His life is in you. When you plant the seed of His Word, you know that...

For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

So shall my Word be that goeth forth out of my mouth; it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it. (Isaiah 55:10-11)

PROPER SOIL:

You have learned in this course, that uncultivated ground prevents abundant harvest. Proper soil is necessary for a good harvest:

And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the Word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred. (Mark 4:20)

When you harvest in the spirit world you must concentrate your efforts on good ground. You must prepare the ground and sow the seed of the Word properly. Both are necessary if harvest is to come (Hosea 10:12; Jeremiah 4:3).

According to the parable of the sower (Mark 4:3-20), if there is no harvest then the variable is the ground. This is an important principle of harvest. Unresponsive ground should not be neglected. Someone should sow, cultivate, and recognize when it is time to call in harvesters (Luke 13:6-9). But this is not the place to concentrate the spiritual forces. Jesus never said there would be a lack of sowers but a lack of harvesters. The spiritual labor forces should be concentrated where the ground is responsive and yielding a harvest.

Timing is of great importance in harvest. Harvesters are not needed when the seed has just been sown or when the crop is still green. But there is that brief, strategic moment in which the harvest of the good soil is ripe. It is then that many harvesters are needed. If all the laborers are busy with unresponsive spiritual fields and there are no harvesters available, then the opportunity is lost forever.

WATER:

Water is necessary if a seed is to germinate and produce in the natural world. God promised:

For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty and floods upon the dry ground. (Isaiah 44:3)

This pouring out is an anointing of the Holy Spirit of which water is a symbol:

I will pour out of my Spirit upon your seed. (Isaiah 44:10, The Amplified Bible)

He that believeth on me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (John 7:38)

The water of the Holy Spirit causes the seed of the Word of God to take root in the hearts of men and women who are dead in sin:

For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease.

Though the root thereof wax old in the earth, and the stock thereof die in the ground;

Yet through the scent of water it will bud, and bring forth boughs like a plant. (Job 14:7-9)

LIGHT:

It is response to light that stimulates plant growth in the natural world. It is the light of God that results in development of the spiritual harvest:

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. (John 1:4)

I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. (John 8:12)

The light of God brings spiritual life.

AIR:

An important substance called carbon dioxide is drawn in by the natural plant from the air which surrounds it. Air is necessary for plants to grow. In the Bible the Holy Spirit is compared to air or a wind:

The wind breathes where it will and thou canst hear the sound of it: But knowest nothing of the way it came or the way it goes. So it is when a man is born of the breath of the spirit. (John 3:8, Knox Translation)

The Holy Spirit breathes life into the seed of the Word which results in spiritual growth.

SPACE:

In the parable of the sower, competition for space caused some plants to die:

He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the Word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the Word, and he becometh unfruitful. (Matthew 13:22)

The competition of the things of the world can choke the seed of the Word of God and prevent spiritual fruitfulness.

ROOT SYSTEM:

Roots are necessary to anchor and supply nutrients to the plant. Psalms I tells how to develop the root system in your spiritual life:

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth

forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. (Psalms 1:1-3)

REST:

The plant rests during a period called "dormancy." Dormancy is a period of rest for the plant. Dormancy usually occurs right before a period of very rapid growth. The plant looks like it is dead. But it is not dead. The seed of life is still alive within.

When you plant the seed of the Word of God in the lives of men and women there is often a period of dormancy during which you can see no growth. You may think you have failed in your mission. But the seed has not died.

Just as in the natural world, spiritual dormancy precedes the period of rapid growth and development of spiritual harvest. Wait patiently for the harvest:

Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

(James 5:7)

ATTACHED TO THE VINE:

In order to bear fruit in the natural world a branch must be attached to the main plant. If the branch is broken off from the main life-giving vine or trunk it will not bear fruit.

Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. In order to bear spiritual fruit, you must maintain your relationship to Him:

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

Abide in me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. (John 15:1-4)

PRUNING:

Pruning is necessary in the natural world if a plant is to remain reproductive and bear fruit. When a farmer prunes a plant he cuts off the unproductive branches in order to make the plant produce more fruit. He removes everything which would hinder the growth of the plant.

Pruning is also necessary in the spiritual world. Spiritual pruning is correction by God. The Bible also calls it chastisement. When God prunes, He removes from your life everything which would hinder your spiritual growth. This process is necessary if you are to bear spiritual fruit:

Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.
(John 15:2)

Sometimes you do not reap the benefits of pruning because you blame Satan when God is actually the one bringing circumstances into your life to correct [prune] you. The purpose of God's correction is given in Hosea 6:1:

Come, and let us return unto the Lord: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. (Hosea 6:1)

The chastisement of pruning results in a return to God. Only by returning to Him will you become spiritually reproductive.

CLIMATE:

Climate is important to plants in the natural world. Sometimes plants are kept in buildings called "hot houses" at specific temperatures in order for them to grow. They are protected from the real world outside. If you take a "hot house" plant and move it outside, it will soon die because it has lived only in a controlled environment. It cannot withstand the environment of the real world.

Spiritually speaking, we do not want "hot house" Christians who look good in controlled settings but are unable to reproduce when they come in contact with the real world. The seed of God's Word sown in your own life and the lives of those to whom you minister should produce growth despite the most difficult of spiritual climates.

SUMMARY

This chapter concludes the strategies for spiritual harvest. A review of the principles reveal the following spiritual parallels of natural truths:

- Each plant is capable of reproduction.
- Sowing is necessary in order to reap.
- You do not harvest in the same season you sow.
- You must sow regardless of the circumstances.
- You harvest in proportion to the amount sown.
- You can sow where you do not reap and reap where you do not sow.
- You will reap the harvest if you are faithful.
- In order to reproduce, the seed must die.
- Seeds develop in response to certain external conditions.

Understanding and applying these strategies will result in abundant spiritual harvest. The next chapter will show you how to reap that harvest.

SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

2. What was the final principle of harvest taught in this chapter?

3. List the ten natural conditions for growth discussed in this chapter and applied to spiritual harvest:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

FOR FURTHER STUDY

In the last two chapters spiritual parallels of natural principles of sowing and reaping have been analyzed. Jesus presented a similar study in the parable of the sower. Compare the three accounts of this parable in Matthew 13:3-9; Mark 4:3-20; and Luke 8:5-15.

1. What was the spiritual parallel of the natural seed which was sown?

(Luke 8:11) _____

2. The different types of soil represent the responsiveness of people to the Word of God. Complete the following chart which describes the types of soil and the results of sowing the seed:

Type Of Soil Results From The Seed Sown In This Soil

3. What happens when someone hears the Word and does not understand it?

(Matthew 13:19)_____

4. What causes the seed in stony places to die?

(Matthew 13:20-21; Luke 8:6,13)_____

5. What are the things which are compared to thorns which choke out the Word?

(Matthew 13:22; Mark 4:18-19; Luke 8:14)_____

6. What happens when the Word is choked out by the thorns? (Matthew 13:22).

He becomes_____.

7. Does the parable indicate there are different results when the seed in good ground is

harvested? (Matthew 13:23)_____What are the results?_____

8. What happened to the seed which fell by the wayside?

(Mark 4:4; Luke 8:5)_____

What is the spiritual parallel of this? (Mark 4:15) _____comes immediately and takes away the Word which was sown.

9. What are the characteristics of people's hearts who are like the good ground? (Luke 8:15)

They have an_____ and _____ heart.

10. What three responses are made by people who are like good ground? (Luke 8:15)

11. IMPORTANT: These various responses to the Word of God do not apply only to accepting the Gospel message. They apply to any truth of the Word which God plants in our lives.

The vision of the harvest has been planted in your life. Has it been planted in good spiritual ground? What will be the results of it?

Has it fallen by the wayside? If so, the vision has been snatched away by Satan because you have not made it a priority purpose of your life.

Has it fallen on stony ground? You may have received the vision of the harvest with joy but it has not really taken root in your heart. When hard times come you will fall away from the vision. Has it been planted among thorns? Are you too concerned with cares, riches, pleasures, and lust of this life? Are these temporal things more important than the vision? If so, you will never bring forth a harvest. Has the revelation of the harvest fallen on good ground? Have you received and will you keep the vision? If so, you will bring forth fruit and become spiritually reproductive.

CHAPTER EIGHT

REAPING BY REVELATION

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Explain God's methodology of multiplication.
- Identify the spiritual tool which enables reaping by revelation.
- Go beyond blessing to experience spiritual power.

KEY VERSE:

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

INTRODUCTION

It is not enough to know strategies for spiritual harvest. You must also understand the method and tool for harvesting. The method is the way you use the strategies you have learned. You must do God's work His way. His way is that of divine revelation and results in spiritual reproductivity.

And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand and when ye turn to the left.

Then shall He give the rain of thy seed, that thou shalt sow the ground withal; and bread of the increase of the earth, and it shall be fat and plenteous... (Isaiah 30:21,23)

This is reaping by revelation from God rather than by man's methods.

STEWARDS OF THE MYSTERY

Believers are "stewards of the mysteries of God." A steward is one in charge of something on behalf of another. A mystery is something not known by others. God has given us a commission to...

...make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God.

According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Ephesians 3:9-11)

God has revealed to the church the mystery of salvation through Jesus Christ. By the church He is making known this mystery to the universe:

Having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself;

That in the dispensation of the fulness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in Heaven, and which are on earth; even in Him. (Ephesians 1:9-10)

The church is the instrument through which the mysteries of God are revealed to sinful humanity. Our mission is one of "reaping by revelation."

A SEED SHALL SERVE HIM

The natural cycle of harvest is based on the principle of multiplication. The seed is sown and produces a harvest. Within the fruit of that harvest are the seeds of further reproduction:

And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind.
(Genesis 1:12)

These seeds can multiply and bring forth another harvest. The cycle is unending. In this natural cycle is a great spiritual truth. It is one of the reasons Jesus used the harvest to illustrate the vision of reaching the world with the Gospel.

Just as each grain or fruit harvested has the capacity for reproduction in the natural world, so it is in the spiritual world.

Jesus was referred to as a seed:

All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the Lord: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee.

A seed shall serve Him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation. (Psalms 22:27,30)

When Jesus died on the cross for the sins of all mankind, the seed of His life was planted. What a rich harvest it has yielded as multitudes have been saved from sin to salvation and from death to life. Each born-again believer is like a seed in the natural world. Within each one is life and the capacity to reproduce. This is true both in the natural and spiritual worlds.

THE WORLD WAS REACHED

It was a great vision with which Jesus challenged His followers. The harvest fields of the world spread before them. They had no modern technology such as printing presses, radios, televisions, and computers to enable their task. They had no rapid transportation such as buses, cars, trains, or airplanes. Yet the Bible records that in a short time they literally turned the world upside down for Jesus Christ:

And when they found them not, they drew ...certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also. (Acts 17:6)

The vision was accomplished by men who understood God's method of multiplication and knew how to harvest spiritually.

All over the world there are ripened spiritual harvest fields but souls are perishing despite modern technology. The reason is that many have not understood the method and tool for reaping in revelation harvest.

THE METHOD

Modern churches have tried many methods to spread the Gospel and increase church membership. They have used contests, prizes, and special programs to attract a crowd. They have used many man-made plans in trying to accomplish spiritual work. Spiritual work is done by spiritual methods. God would not leave His followers with such a great vision to fulfill without providing a method to make it become reality.

The method can be seen in the natural parallel of the fruit of the harvest which has the ability to reproduce. It is summarized in II Timothy 2:2:

And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.
(II Timothy 2:2)

The world was not reached by just the eleven disciples of Jesus Christ. Every believer was a reproducing Christian. The world today will never be reached by only the professional ministers and missionaries. There are not enough of them. Ninety-nine percent of the church is composed of laymen. This is the labor force that must be motivated if we are to reach three billion souls for Jesus Christ.

The Bible records that great persecution came against the early church in Jerusalem and...

...they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles...

Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the Word. (Acts 8:1,4)

The apostles, who were the church leaders and full time ministers, remained in Jerusalem. It was the scattered believers who went everywhere preaching the Word. Each believer was reproducing other believers and discipling them in the Kingdom of God. Those scattered were fishermen, tentmakers, and seamstresses by occupation, but their main concern was the spread of the Gospel message.

When Saul was persecuting the early church it is recorded that he not only entered the temples but also into "every house" to arrest believers (Acts 8:3). This was because every home was a center of spiritual harvest. With every believer reproducing and every home a center of evangelism, closing the church doors would not stop the spread of the Gospel.

Just as every believer in the early church was reproductive, every home had a special mission. For example, the following events occurred in the homes of believers:

- Acts 2:1,46: Pentecost came in the upper room of a house. After Pentecost the believers met daily in homes.
- Acts 9:11,17: Annanias went to the house of Judas and ministered to Paul. This resulted in the spread of the Gospel to the Gentiles.
- Acts 10-11: While praying in a home Peter received a revelation which resulted in the extension of the Gospel to the Gentiles.
- Acts 12:12, 16:15, 21-24, 40: Prayer meetings of believers were held in the home of Mary, Lydia, Jarius.
- Acts 20:20: Paul not only taught publicly but also in homes.
- Acts 21:8-14: Prophetic revelation was given to Paul in the house of Philip.
- Acts 28:30-31: Paul preached and taught in a rented house.
- Romans 16:5; I Corinthians 16:15,19; Colossians 4:15; Philemon 2: References are made to the churches in the homes of Priscilla and Aquilla, Stephanas, Nymphas, and Archippus.

Every home was a center of spiritual reproduction. Every believer was reproducing.

Your home is not to be a center of defensive spiritual warfare where you constantly must be protecting from the attack of the enemy. It is to be a stronghold of offensive spiritual warfare advancing the Gospel message and claiming enemy territory for God.

TEACH ONE TO REACH ONE

The method is simple: Each believer reproducing other believers, teaching faithful men who are able to teach others. Just as in the natural example of the fruit of the harvest, the cycle is unending. But the results of this plan make it easy to understand how the early church "turned the world upside down" with the Gospel message.

Look at the chart on the following page. This chart uses the period of a year as the average time necessary to reach a person with the Gospel and train him to be a reproductive Christian. In reality, the process could take more or less time depending on the people involved.

But using one year as an average time, if a believer would reach just one person and disciple them each year and have them pledge to disciple one person each year thereafter, the world could easily be reached with the Gospel message. The chart shows that during the first year the Christian is discipling one person. At the end of that year, there are now two faithful people (the believer and the person he has disciplined).

During the next year, each of them reach one person. At the end of the second year, there is a total of four people, each of whom will reach one person the following year. Look at the top of the chart and observe the results of this process if it is followed over a period of years.

If you are a member of a local church, take the total membership of your church and multiply it by 131,072. Your answer is the number of people your church could harvest in the next 17 years if each member was reproducing.

	DISCIPLER(S)	DISCIPLE(S)	TOTAL
YEAR 17	65,536	65,536 =	131,072
YEAR 16	32,768	32,768 =	65,536
YEAR 15	16,384	16,384 =	32,768
YEAR 14	8,192	8,192 =	16,384
YEAR 13	4,096	4,096 =	8,192
YEAR 12	2,048	2,048 =	4,096
YEAR 11	1,024	1,024 =	2,048
YEAR 10	512	512 =	1,024
YEAR 9	256	256 =	512

YEAR 8	128	128	=	256
YEAR 7	64	64	=	128
YEAR 6	32	32	=	64
YEAR 5	16	16	=	32
YEAR 4	8	8	=	16
YEAR 3	4	4	=	8
YEAR 2	2	2	=	4
YEAR 1	1	1	=	2

God has always used men and women to fulfill His will. God's method for harvesting requires men. Man searches for better methods, but God seeks for better men. The world takes able men who are talented and tries to give them character. God says to take men of character, faithful men, and He will develop them into able men.

As a steward of the mysteries of God, all that is required is that you are faithful:

Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.
(1 Corinthians 4:1-2)

It is not required that you are educated or talented. It is only required that you are faithful.

Faithful men and women committing the Gospel to other faithful men and women who are able to teach others...this is God's revelation for reaping the harvest.

THE TOOL

In the natural world there are not only strategies for harvest and methods of using these strategies, there are also tools for harvest. The tools may vary from a simple sickle to complex machinery.

God has also provided a tool for spiritual harvest. Jesus said:

...All power is given unto Me in Heaven and in earth.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations...

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.

(Matthew 28:18-20)

There are four important references to the word "all" in this passage. Believers are commissioned to:

- Teach ALL nations
- ALL things

These two duties are our responsibility. They are a summary of the vision of the harvest.

God's responsibility is to:

- Provide ALL power to enable our task.
- To be with us alway (ALL the way).

Jesus told His disciples:

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

The power of the Holy Ghost was the tool which Jesus gave His followers to fulfill the responsibility of the vision of the harvest. To be effective, the method of multiplication must be empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Many experience blessings of the Holy Spirit. They feel the anointing, they rejoice, and they speak in other tongues. But the true evidence of the Holy Spirit is not just blessing or speaking in unknown tongues. The true evidence of the Holy Spirit is power. This power is not political power or physical power. It is spiritual power.

You must not be satisfied to experience only the blessings of the Holy Spirit. You must go beyond blessings into the revelation of God's power.

DIRECTED POWER

Undirected power is dangerous. The same mighty flow of a waterfall which can provide water and energy can destroy an entire community if it is not channeled properly.

The power with which Jesus endued His followers was directed power to enable them to be witnesses to the world. It was the tool they were to use to fulfill the vision.

God is the source of this power:

God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this, that power belongeth to God. (Psalms 62:11)

Believers are commanded to receive this power:

Tarry ye until ye be endued with power from on high. (Luke 24:49)

The word "endued" means to be clothed with power. God wants to cover you spiritually with His power to enable you to be witnesses to the world.

THE PURPOSE OF POWER

The power of the Holy Spirit is necessary to make you an effective witness because it is the Word of power:

His power will take the words you speak and make them effective:

...His word was with power...And they were all amazed and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! for with authority and power he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out. (Luke 4:32,36)

His power confirms the Word:

And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the Word with signs following. (Mark 16:20)

God confirms His Word with signs following. You cannot wait for miraculous signs before you begin sharing the Word of God. You must start sharing His Word and then He will work with you confirming the words you have spoken.

Think of the impact on the spread of the Gospel if every believer witnessing and every minister preaching had the demonstration of powerful signs confirming the Word as it goes forth! Here is what this power does:

IT BRINGS HEALING:

His power will be present with you to heal:

And the power of the Lord was present to heal them. (Luke 5:17)

IT BRINGS DELIVERANCE:

As you enter the harvest fields of the world the power of God will bring deliverance to suffering humanity:

When He called unto Him His twelve disciples, He gave them power

against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease. (Matthew 10:1)

IT PROVIDES PROTECTION:

God's power protects as you labor for Him:

Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions...
(Luke 10:19)

IT VERIFIES THE GOSPEL:

To "verify" means to prove something. The power of the Holy Spirit proves the reality of God's Word:

And a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His miracles which He did on them that were diseased. (John 6:2)

It was the powerful miracles of Jesus which brought people to Him.

Men and women will not be drawn to the Gospel through organization, denomination, or a great speaker. They will come because of demonstration of the power of a living God.

IT DIRECTS PEOPLE TO GOD:

Paul wrote:

And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. (I Corinthians 2:4,5)

Paul had a good education and could have spoken with the wisdom of man. Instead, he ministered in the power of God and the demonstration of the Holy Spirit.

His reason? That the faith of the people should not be based on the wisdom of men but on the power of God.

ALL POWER

Jesus said:

Behold, I give you power...over ALL the power of the enemy.
(Luke 10:19)

All power was given to Jesus (Matthew 28:18). Through the Holy Spirit He has delegated that power to believers. As you enter the harvest field your method is multiplication. Your tool is power.

POSSESSING THE POWER

In every promise of God there are two parts: The promise and possessing the promise.

Jesus promised all power. Your responsibility is to accept possession of that power. To do this you must:

RECOGNIZE IT IS FOR TODAY:

In John 11 when Jesus came to raise Lazarus from the dead, Martha met Him and said:

Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. (John 11:21)

Jesus told her:

Thy brother shall rise again. (John 11:23)

Martha said to him:

I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection in the last day.
(John 11:24)

Jesus answered with a statement which contains a powerful principle:

I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. (John 11:25)

Martha believed her brother would have been healed in the past if Jesus had come in time. She also believed her brother could be raised in the future resurrection.

But when Jesus used the words "I Am" to answer Martha He was revealing an important truth. There is no such thing as a past or future day of miracles. In every age there is power to meet the needs of the people. In every age, God is (I Am) sufficient to meet the need. "Martha, today is the day of miracles. I am (present tense) the resurrection and the life."

There are some who say the day of miracles is past. They do not accept the power of the Holy Spirit. The Bible warns of those...

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. (II Timothy 3:5)

The Amplified Bible translates it that they have a form of godliness but are "strangers to the power of it."

They are like the fig tree which Jesus cursed. They have the outward appearance of godliness but there is no fruitfulness. Just as the fig tree did not have the flow of sap to produce fruit, they have no flow of the power of God and are not spiritually productive.

UNDERSTAND THE SOURCE:

The source of the power is God:

I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me ye can do nothing.

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you. (John 15:5,7)

You are the branch. Jesus is the vine. The life comes from the vine. The branches just bear the fruit. You do not produce the fruit, you just bear it.

Jesus is the one who works the works. When Jesus was questioned, "What shall we do that we might work the works of God?" He did not give them a course on divine healing or show them how to perform a miracle. He answered:

This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him whom He hath sent.
(John 6:29)

He was the work of God. He was the source of the power, the miracles, and the healings.

The power is not in man or anything man possesses. The fulfillment of the promise of power is in God Himself and His Word.

Jesus is the vine which provides the support. We are the people of the branch. From the vine flows the power which will fulfill the vision.

ACCEPT THE AUTHORITY:

When you are given the responsibility to do something you must also have the authority to do it.

Jesus gave believers the responsibility of the harvest and the authority to carry out this responsibility, but you must personally accept this authority. Jesus said "all power" [authority] was given to Him. He delegated that power [authority] to you. You must accept it and use it properly to extend the Gospel.

Believers must also acknowledge this power in their churches. In a parable given by Jesus He said:

Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.

Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. (Luke 14:21,23)

God's plan for the church is that it be the center for demonstration of His power. In many cases it has become the recreation center, the sewing circle, or the social center.

If we do not have the power of God flowing in our churches, then the poor, the blind, and those lost in sin will exit through our doors unchanged. They will leave in the same condition in which they came.

The church is composed of individuals. If the church is to experience the flow of the power of God, then its members must experience that power individually.

PETER: BEFORE AND AFTER

The power of God is the tool that will change you from being an ineffective reaper to one who knows how to reap in revelation harvest. Consider the example of the Apostle Peter.

We find a sleeping Peter in the greatest hour of the ministry of Jesus Christ (Mark 14:32-34). We find a cowardly Peter denying He even knew Jesus (Matthew 26). We see a man who turned his back on the call to harvest and to be a fisher of men. He went back to his own selfish pursuits (John 21).

But then suddenly there bursts on the Biblical record a new Peter. The first time this man boldly speaks the Gospel message, 3,000 are saved. The next time he preaches, 5,000 are added to the church. What happened to change this running, fleeing, cursing man into a powerful leader of the early church?

Peter received an experience of power. It was a power that enabled him to say to a crippled man:

...Look on us...In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up; and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. (Acts 3:4,6-7)

You do not tell suffering humanity to "look on us" unless you know you have something to meet their need. You do not take a crippled man by the hand and lift him to his feet unless you know you have a power greater than your own. Peter had nothing in himself but he had the power of God flowing through him. God's power puts cripples on their feet, it doesn't just help them exist in a crippled condition.

The experience of power transforms fishermen like Peter into fishers of men.

THE EXPANDING CIRCLE

Jesus outlined the pattern of the ever expanding circle resulting from the powerful witness of the Gospel:

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

The strategies for harvest were revealed in His Word:

-The method was multiplication.

-The tool was the power of the Holy Spirit.

-The power was directed. It was given to enable the disciples to become witnesses.

-The target of the power was the nations of the world, an ever expanding circle...Jerusalem, then Judaea, Samaria, and the uttermost part of the earth.

Starting where they were, using the method of multiplication and the tool of power, the Gospel would be extended to the ends of the earth.

POSSESSING THE PROMISE

The promise is claimed often by believers:

...lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.

(Matthew 28:20)

But remember, in each promise of God there is a condition for possessing that promise. This promise was made to a special group of believers. It was made to those who would fulfill the vision of the harvest:

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.

(Matthew 28:19-20)

To those who are willing to see the vision...To those who are willing to go forth with a powerful witness to the nations of the world...To them He has promised...I am with you all the way...

SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

2. What Scripture reference reveals God's method of multiplication?

3. What is the tool of harvest?

4. List three steps for possessing the promise of power.

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

FOR FURTHER STUDY

God's method of multiplication given in II Timothy 2:2 was to be applied first in Jerusalem and then spread throughout the world. You must first begin to reap the harvest right where you are and then God will expand your vision and ministry. The following suggestions will assist you in "Reaping By Revelation" in your "Jerusalem."

1. Study the book of Joshua. Look for the principles God gave Joshua to enable Israel to possess the land of Palestine. Can you apply some of these principles to possess your own community for God?

2. Set objectives to reach your community with the Gospel. Objectives are a statement of your goals or plans. What will you do? By when? Choose objectives that will enable you to reach people currently beyond the reach of the Gospel. This was the priority of Paul in Romans 15:20-21. Some objectives you might consider:

-Visit each home in your area and share the Gospel message personally with your neighbors.

-Set new financial goals for giving to local and international evangelistic efforts.

-Consider a ministry to a minority group in your area which is not being reached with the Gospel.

-Start a specialized ministry in a rest home, prison, or hospital. Consider a ministry with drug addicts, to the poor, the alcoholic, or unwed mothers. Minister to special groups such as the women, men, children, couples, families, or the military.

3. Extend your ministry from your "Jerusalem" to the nations of the world. Begin to penetrate the world through prayer:

-Obtain a world map and pray over the nations of the world. Claim the heathen for your inheritance and thank God for making you a blessing to the nations.

-If you have a daily newspaper available, pray over the headlines which reflect problems in the various nations. Pray for government leaders, missionaries, ministers, and fellow believers.

PART FOUR: EXPECTATION You Become Part Of The Vision

CHAPTER NINE

BREAKING THE YOKE

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Identify the three-fold yoke of bondage.
- Describe the three-fold yoke of God.
- List the steps that bridge the gap between the yoke of bondage and the yoke of God.
- Identify spiritual results of breaking of the yoke of bondage.

KEY VERSES:

Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light. (Matthew 11:28-30)

INTRODUCTION

This course has covered:

Visualization: Identifying the vision.

Conceptualization: Understanding the concept of purpose behind the vision.

Objectification: Objectives for fulfilling the vision.

This final section of the course concerns Expectation in which you become part of the fulfillment of the vision.

God's desire is to bring you to an expected end:

For I know the thoughts I think toward you saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.
(Jeremiah 29:11)

That expected end is fulfillment of the vision, finishing the work of God:

My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work.
(John 4:34)

Whenever you enter into something new, it always requires leaving the old. Birth requires leaving the security of the womb.

God is asking you to take a new step of faith:

But the Lord says, Do not cling to events of the past or dwell on what happened long ago. Watch for the new thing I am going to do. It is happening already - you can see it now. (Isaiah 43:18, The Living Bible)

You may have been bound by doctrine which claims the power of God is no longer for today. You may have thought the extension of the Gospel to the world was the responsibility of ministers or missionaries. You may have been bound by tradition or denominations which prevented you from joining hands with the rest of the Body of Christ in the harvest fields of the Lord.

But God has given you a new vision. You are becoming part of a new network of spiritual laborers bound together by unity of purpose.

A NEW NETWORK

The Bible records two separate incidents involving the use of a net in the natural world which illustrate a great spiritual truth.

The first event occurred at the beginning of Christ's earthly ministry and is recorded in Luke 5. The disciples had been fishing all night and caught nothing. Jesus told them:

Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a draught.
(Luke 5:4)

Peter said:

Master, we have toiled all the night and have taken nothing; nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. (Luke 5:5)

When they let down the net they caught so many fish that it broke and they had to call their partners in another boat to come help them. The catch was so great that it filled both boats and they began to sink. Peter was amazed at this but Jesus told him:

Fear not, from henceforth thou shalt catch men. (Luke 5:10)

The catch Peter was experiencing in the natural world was nothing compared to the great harvest he would reap in the spirit world as he became a fisher of men.

A similar incident is recorded at the end of Christ's ministry in John 21. The disciples had fished all night and caught nothing. At Christ's command they cast in the net and, once again, it was filled with fish. But this time was different than the first. The net did not break:

Simon Peter went up and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three; and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken. (John 21:11)

These two events actually happened in the natural world, but they were parallels of a great spiritual truth. The first time the net broke but the second time it did not. What made the difference?

The first net was an example of the efforts of man. Peter was a fisherman by trade. He knew the natural methods and the tradition of fishermen. Through the broken net Jesus showed him that the efforts of man could not fulfill the vision and work of God.

When Peter realized the great work to which God was calling him he cried out:

Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. (Luke 5:8)

Peter would become a fisher of men. The old network could not accommodate the great spiritual harvest. Peter would have to abandon the traditions of man. He must cross the line of separation between Jew and Gentile. The old network must be broken and he must become part of a new network.

Jesus did not come to destroy the old, but to fulfill it through the new. He did not destroy the law, but added new meaning to it. He did not abolish the blood sacrifice for sin, but fulfilled it through the shedding of His own blood for the remission of sin.

Jesus warned about putting new wine into old wineskins. The old wineskins would not be able to hold the new wine just as the net could not hold the fish. The challenge of the Great Commission cannot be accomplished with anything less than a new net in the spirit world.

Between the first and the second fishing trips, a new network had been created. These natural fishing incidents were parallels of what had happened in the spirit world.

This new spiritual network can accommodate the vision which Jesus gave. But to enter it, one must step from the old into the new. The old yoke must be broken. The old net must be destroyed in order for the new net to hold.

THE YOKE

Yokes were used all over the ancient world to unite animals together to labor in the harvest fields. They are still used for this purpose in many nations today.

Jesus spoke of the yoke when He said:

Come unto Me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me: for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

For My yoke is easy and My burden is light. (Matthew 11:28-30)

The vision He has given is of the harvest field. Today that field represents three billion people who have never received the Gospel message...And He tells us this challenge is "easy" and "light"?

That is exactly what He is saying. But the old network, the old yoke, cannot accommodate the vision. You cannot fulfill it in yourself. You cannot do it through the efforts of man. You must become part of the new network and be yoked together with Him.

THE YOKE OF BONDAGE

We are all under a yoke of some type. You are either under the yoke of bondage or you are under the yoke of God.

The yoke of bondage is three-fold. You can be in bondage to either sin, self, or man.

THE YOKE OF SIN:

I am the Lord your God, which brought you forth out of the land of Egypt [sin] that ye should not be their bondmen; and I have broken the bands of your yoke, and made you go upright. (Leviticus 26:13)

The yoke of Egypt means the yoke of sin. You must have the yoke of sin broken in your lives if you are to come under the yoke with Jesus.

THE YOKE OF SELF:

The yoke of bondage can be a bondage to self:

For that which I do I allow not; for what I would, that I do not; but what I hate, that do I. (Romans 7:15)

Selfishness and pride are examples of the yoke of self.

THE YOKE OF MAN:

The yoke of man is bondage put on you by others:

For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne and lay them on men's shoulders but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. (Matthew 23:4)

The yoke of man can include the bondage of guilt, tradition, denomination, or impossible standards of behavior imposed by others.

The three-fold yoke of bondage of sin, self, and man speaks of imposed labor, heaviness, and restlessness.

THE THREE-FOLD YOKE OF GOD

The yoke of God speaks of a united labor instead of imposed labor. It speaks of lightness instead of heaviness. It is a yoke of rest instead of restlessness.

The three-fold yoke of God is easy, light and restful:

Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light. (Matthew 11:28-30)

THREE STEPS TO BRIDGE THE GAP

Jesus provided three steps to bridge the gap between the yoke of bondage and the yoke of God. It is the way out of the old into the new:

Come: You must willingly come to Him. This destroys the yoke of sin.

Take: You must take His yoke. In doing so, the yoke of man is destroyed.

Learn: By learning of Him you destroy the yoke of self.

The yoke of God is not simply imparted by Him. It is shared by Him.

BREAKING THE YOKE

It is God's desire that every yoke of sin, self, and man in your life be broken. It is necessary if you are to fulfill the vision.

In one Old Testament record, Israel was surrounded by the enemy army of the Assyrians. God spoke to Israel and declared:

The Lord of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand:

That I will break the Assyrian in my land, and upon my mountains tread him under foot: Then shall His yoke depart from off them, and his burden depart from off their shoulders. (Isaiah 14:24-25)

God wanted to break the yoke from off the neck of Israel. But His purpose extended beyond Israel to the nations of the world:

This is the purpose that is purposed upon the whole earth: And this is the hand that is stretched out upon all the nations. (Isaiah 14:26)

What was God's purpose? His purpose was that the yoke of bondage be broken from the nations of the world.

A few chapters later it is recorded that:

The angel of the Lord went forth and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred and fourscore and five thousand: and when they arose early in the morning, behold they were all dead corpses. (Isaiah 37:36)

God wants every yoke in your life to become as a dead corpse. He wants to destroy it in order to bring you under the yoke with Him.

HOW WILL IT BE BROKEN?

...and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing. (Isaiah 10:27)

-It will not be destroyed by deep teaching. It will not be destroyed by psychology or education. -It will not be destroyed through counseling or through an organization or denomination.

-It will be destroyed by the anointing of the Holy Spirit which is the power of God.

But God's purpose for breaking the yoke extends beyond your life to the nations of the world. He wants to break the yoke of bondage in your life to enable you to fulfill the vision of breaking the yoke from the nations of the world:

This is the purpose that is purposed upon the whole earth: And this is the hand that is stretched out upon all the nations.

For the Lord of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? And His hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back? (Isaiah 14:26-27)

RESULTS OF BREAKING THE YOKE

God said:

Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens and to let the oppressed go free and that ye break every yoke? (Isaiah 58:6)

Then He listed the results of breaking the yoke:

Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and He shall say Here I am...

Then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noon day;

And the Lord shall guide thee continually and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones, and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.

And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places; thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, the restorer of paths to dwell in. (Isaiah 58:9-12)

The results of the breaking of the yoke of bondage are:

-You will know the voice of God. We will call, and the Lord will answer, "Here I am." (Verse 9)

-You will be successful in the fulfillment of your vision. Your light will rise in obscurity which speaks of success. (Verse 10)

-The Lord will guide you continually. (Verse 11)

-He will be your provision. (Verse 11)

-You will be reproductive. (Verses 11-12)

-You will be like a watered garden which is fruitful. You will be reproductive and those you produce in the spirit world will be reproductive. They will rise up to rebuild the old structures on the right foundation.

God promised Israel in the natural world:

And the tree of the field shall yield her fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase, and they shall be safe in their land, and shall know that I am the Lord, when I have broken the bands of their yoke... (Ezekiel 34:27)

The same is true in the spirit world. The breaking of the yoke results in spiritual productivity.

The old network is inadequate, broken, and empty. It cannot accommodate the abundant harvest. The old yokes of tradition, denomination, self-effort, and unconcern must be broken. New foundations, new yokes, a new network are necessary to enter the gap between sinful man and a righteous God. The vision will only be fulfilled by men and women who have experienced the anointing which breaks the yoke.

SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verses from memory.

2. What are the three yokes of bondage?

3. List three words that describe the yoke of God.

4. What are the three steps you must take to bridge the gap between the yoke of bondage and the yoke of God?

5. List five results of breaking the yoke recorded in Isaiah 58.

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

FOR FURTHER STUDY

What are some of the yokes of bondage which have prevented you from doing the work of God?

_____ Sin

_____ Denomination

_____ Fear

_____ Lack of natural talents and abilities

_____ Guilt

_____ Self-effort

_____ Other: _____

Read this passage: Isaiah 14:24-27

Claim this promise: Isaiah 10:27

Pray this prayer:

Lord, I thank you for the vision of the harvest field which you have birthed in my spirit.

I ask you to break every yoke of bondage in my life. In the name of Jesus, break the yokes of _____, _____, _____ and _____ (name the yokes which are in your life).

Yoke me together with Jesus. Create a new network in my life that will bring forth abundant harvest.

I thank you now for the anointing which has broken every yoke of bondage.

In Jesus Name,

Amen

CHAPTER TEN

BLESSING THE NATIONS

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Identify spiritual qualities of Abraham which enabled him to bless the nations.
- Recognize you are an heir to the promises of Abraham.
- Understand your responsibility as an heir to bless the nations of the world.

KEY VERSE:

And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. (Galatians 3:29)

INTRODUCTION

Abraham was chosen by God to be the father of many nations. Through him all the nations of the earth were to be blessed:

And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice. (Genesis 22:18)

The New Testament reveals that all believers are heirs to the promises God gave Abraham. To be an "heir" means you have inherited from him:

Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the Gospel unto Abraham saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.
(Galatians 3:7-9)

You are an heir because you have become the seed of Abraham through Jesus Christ:

And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promises. (Galatians 3:29)

As seed of Abraham you are an heir of the promise of salvation. But as an heir you are also under commission to bless the nations of the world with the good news of the Gospel.

You are told to claim your inheritance:

Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.
(Psalms 2:8)

Through Abraham the nations of the world were to be blessed. Through Jesus the nations are your inheritance also.

SPIRITUAL QUALITIES

The following are spiritual qualities Abraham had which enabled him to be a blessing to the nations and how these qualities relate to the vision of the harvest:

HE WAS FULLY PERSUADED:

Abraham believed the vision God had shown him. He was fully persuaded that through him God would bless the nations of the world:

And being fully persuaded, that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform. (Romans 4:21)

For the vision of the harvest to become a reality, you must be fully persuaded. God has promised abundant harvest. He has provided the strategies and the methodologies. You are called as a laborer to bless the nations of the world.

HE INVESTED IN SPIRITUAL THINGS:

Abraham invested his whole life in that which was not visible in the natural world.

God had given Abraham the promise of a beautiful land, yet he himself never set foot in this country:

And He gave him none inheritance in it, no not so much as to set his foot on: Yet He promised that He would give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him, when as yet he had no child. (Acts 7:5)

A land was promised which Abraham had not seen. It was promised to a son he did not have. Yet Abraham did not doubt God. He invested his life in the plan of God in order for the promise of God to be fulfilled in future generations.

The vision of the harvest is eternal in nature. You will spend your whole life invested in that which is not visible. But the results are eternal. Generations to come will be blessed because you fulfill the vision.

HE WAS OBEDIENT TO THE CALL:

When Abraham was called by God to go out to a place which he would later receive for an inheritance, he obeyed:

By faith, Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. (Hebrews 11:8)

It is not enough to be called to the vision of the harvest. You must respond in obedience to that calling.

And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice. (Genesis 22:18)

HE WAS WILLING TO STAND ALONE:

God speaks of Abraham:

Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah that bare you: for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him. (Isaiah 51:2)

Abraham was called alone. He had to leave his homeland and his family in answer to that call.

When you are called by God unto salvation it is an individual matter. Each person must respond personally to that call. The call to the harvest field is similar. Like Abraham, you are called alone. You must make the decision. Responding to the vision may involve leaving home and family. Certainly it will involve stepping out from among unconcerned believers who have not yet caught the vision.

HE HAD SPIRITUAL VISION:

Abraham had a spiritual vision:

For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. (Hebrews 11:10)

His vision was based on spiritual things. His vision was of a city whose builder was God. It caused him to stay in a strange land, dwelling in tents, separated from his home and family. The vision changed his life.

The vision of the harvest has changed your life. You will never again be the same. You cannot be content with the temporal things of life. You seek an eternal cause.

HE KNEW GOD INTIMATELY:

Abraham was called, "the friend of God":

And the Scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. (James 2:23)

It will require an intimate personal relationship with God in order for you to fulfill the vision. You must learn His ways and be able to hear His voice. You must become the friend of God.

HE WAS FULL OF HOPE:

Paul speaks of Abraham:

Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.
(Romans 4:18)

Although he had no son, Abraham received a promise to be the father of many nations. In the natural it looked hopeless. But in the face of hopelessness Abraham believed in hope.

No matter what your circumstances, no matter how hopeless your situation, know that God has called you to the vision of the harvest and it will be fulfilled.

Face hopelessness with assurance that "what He has promised, He is able also to perform" (Romans 4:21).

HE HAD STRONG FAITH:

He [Abraham] staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strong in faith, giving glory to God. (Romans 4:20)

Abraham had such faith that he praised God for the fulfillment of the vision even before it happened. He was completely sure God was able to do anything He promised (Romans 4:20).

The greatness of the vision to which God has called you is overwhelming... Three billion people yet without the Gospel message. These are the heathen. They are your inheritance. Through you they are to be blessed.

But do not stagger at the promise of God. Do not look to the greatness of the task before you, but look to the greatness of God. God has promised abundant spiritual harvest. Be like Abraham who...

...believed God even though such as promise just couldn't come to pass. (Romans 4:18, The Living Bible)

HE WAS RIGHTEOUS:

Because Abraham believed God:

...it was imputed to him for righteousness. (Romans 4:22)

As you learned previously in this course, the foundation of your labor in the harvest must be righteousness.

HE WAS HUMBLE:

Paul states that Abraham gave glory to God (Romans 4:20).

Abraham knew the fulfillment of the vision would come only through God. He alone must receive the glory.

God has given you a great vision in the harvest fields of the nations of the world. But the fulfillment can only come through Him. You cannot receive glory for the vision or for results of the harvest. The glory must go to God for a vision fulfilled.

HE WAS PEACEFUL:

In Genesis 13 the servants of Lot and Abraham had several disagreements over water rights. Abraham arrived at a peaceful solution to the problems.

The message at the birth of Jesus delivered by the angels was one of peace. The Gospel you take to the nations is a message of peace for it is only through God that true peace will come.

HE WAS PROMPT TO DO GOD'S WILL:

When God spoke to Abraham that the sign of the covenant between him and God was to be circumcision, the Bible records that the same day God spoke, Abraham had all the men in his family circumcised (Genesis 17).

Some time later God fulfilled His promise to Abraham and he and his wife, Sarah, had a son. After the birth of Isaac, God gave Abraham a difficult test. He told him to sacrifice his son (Genesis 22).

In Isaac was the future of the promise of God. He was the heir through whom Abraham's descendants were to come. Isaac was to bring forth the nation of Israel through which the world was to be blessed. Yet God asked Abraham to offer his son as a sacrifice.

The Bible records in Genesis 22:3 that after Abraham received this message from God, "he rose up early" in the morning to obey the instructions. Even when God's will was difficult, Abraham did not delay. When God spoke he acted immediately. Because of his obedience, God provided another sacrifice and Isaac's life was spared.

Labor in the harvest field will not always be easy but when God speaks you must act. When you step forward in obedience God will always move in your behalf.

It is interesting to note that Abraham never referred to God's instructions regarding Isaac as a sacrifice. He called it worship. The highest form of worship is to look beyond Isaac, that which we love, to God.

God has given you a vision and it has changed your life. But never can the vision become more important than God. Your first responsibility is relationship to Him.

God tested Abraham to see if it was Isaac who occupied his highest devotion or God. It must always be God who occupies your devotion. The vision can never replace the Giver of the vision.

HE WAS MOBILE FOR GOD:

Abraham lived a simple life which enabled complete mobility for God. He could move quickly at God's command (Genesis 12).

HE NEVER LOOKED BACK:

Abraham did not desire the old life left behind, but looked to the new things God would do:

But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. (Hebrews 11:6)

HE WALKED IN REVELATION KNOWLEDGE:

Abraham acted upon revelation from God instead of human reasoning:

And the Lord said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do.
(Genesis 18:17)

HE DID NOT LOOK TO HIS NATURAL ABILITIES:

God's promise to the nations sprang from one as "good as dead." In the natural, Abraham had no ability to fulfill God's plan:

Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable. (Hebrews 11:12)

HE SOUGHT GOD:

Genesis 12 records how Abraham built an altar and called on the name of the Lord.

HE ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR OTHERS:

Read the story of Abraham and Lot in Genesis 14. If you are to be a "world Christian", then you must assume responsibility for those in need in the world around you.

HE WAS GENEROUS:

Abraham paid tithes of all he had:

And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all. (Genesis 14:20)

HE WAS WILLING TO DWELL IN A STRANGE LAND:

By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise. (Hebrews 11:9)

He was willing to respect the culture of others. For example, he bowed before the people of the land as was the custom:

And Abraham bowed down himself before the people of the land.
(Genesis 23:12)

HE REPRODUCED MEN OF LIKE DEDICATION:

This is seen in the life of his servant, Eleazar (Genesis 24).

HE GAVE THE GLORY TO GOD:

And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself.

And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the Lord, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth,

That I will not take from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich:

Save only that which the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men which went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion. (Genesis 14:21-24)

Always remember, the glory must always go to God.

THE VISION FULFILLED

Abraham, a man with a spiritual vision...He was a man through whom the nations of the world were to be blessed. And the vision was fulfilled:

Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars by the sky in multitude, innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore. (Hebrews 11:12)

When the vision was given to Abraham, his past had been unproductive and his present was unproductive. But he did not accept the deadness of his own body and of Sarah's womb.

Perhaps your past has been spiritually unproductive and your present is unfruitful. But now you have received a vision of the harvest.

As Abraham, look with the eyes of faith into the future knowing that "He who has promised is able also to perform it."

SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

2. Give two references which show believers are the heirs of Abraham:

_____ and _____

3. We are heirs to the promise of _____.

4. We are heirs to the responsibility of _____

5. List the spiritual qualities of Abraham which enabled him to fulfill the vision of blessing the nations of the world.

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)
FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. Below is a summary of the spiritual qualities of Abraham which resulted in his blessing the nations of the world. If you are to fulfill the vision of blessing the nations, you must develop similar spiritual qualities in your life. Review each spiritual quality. Describe the extent to which the quality is evident in your own spiritual life:

Quality	To what extent is this quality evident in my own life?
Fully persuaded	<hr/>
Investing in spiritual things	<hr/>
Obedient	<hr/>
Willing to stand alone	<hr/>
Spiritual vision	<hr/>
Know God intimately	<hr/>
Hope	<hr/>
Faith	<hr/>
Righteous	<hr/>
Humble	<hr/>

Quality	To what extent is this quality evident in my own life?
Peaceful	<hr/>
Prompt to do God's will	<hr/>
Mobile for God	<hr/>

Never look back

Walk in revelation knowledge

Do not look to natural abilities

Seek God

Assume responsibility for others

Generous

Reproduce men of like dedication

Give glory to God

Willing to dwell in a strange land

2. On the basis of this analysis, what action can you take in the following areas to develop the spiritual qualities which you are lacking?

My daily Bible study:

My daily prayer life:

My home and family:

My church:

My plans for the future:

My involvement with the vision of the harvest:

My finances:

CHAPTER ELEVEN

THE VISION BECOMES REALITY

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this chapter you will be able to:

- Identify the type of individuals God calls as harvesters.
- Claim God's promise of abundant spiritual harvest.
- Make the vision a reality in your life.

KEY VERSE:

And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. (Galatians 6:9)

INTRODUCTION

When you started this course you began an experience which would lead from vision to reality.

From the birth of the vision of the harvest you have seen the world through the eyes of God and understand His purpose for the nations of the world. You have learned of things which prevent harvest and the strategies, methods, and tools for effective harvest. You have broken the yokes of bondage and tradition and received a new experience of God's power.

In this final chapter the vision becomes reality as you become part of its fulfillment.

WHO DOES GOD USE?

Who does God use to fulfill the vision of the harvest? What type of man or woman does He call to extend the Gospel to the nations of the world?

Read Mark chapter 16 in your Bible. This chapter contains the answer to these questions. In this chapter we find the women who were followers of Jesus going to the tomb to anoint His dead body. When they arrived at the tomb they found...

...a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment, and they were affrighted.

And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted; Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth which was crucified; He is risen: He is not here; behold the place where they laid Him. (Mark 16:5-6)

The women went to share the good news with the disciples. Even though Jesus had appeared in visible form to Mary Magdalene, the disciples would not believe He had been resurrected (Mark 16:11). Later Jesus appeared to two of the disciples as they were walking in the country. When they told the others, they did not believe them (Mark 16:12-13).

Finally Jesus appeared to the disciples and...

Upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen Him after He was risen. (Mark 16:14)

Right after He spoke to them of their unbelief Jesus said:

Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.
(Mark 16:15)

Surely He must have made a mistake! These were the people who had gone to anoint a dead body instead of celebrating His resurrection. These were the people who slept during His greatest hour of crisis, denied Him, and hid in fear.

Jesus spent three years preparing these men for His death and resurrection, yet they deserted Him in the hour of crisis and refused to believe eye witness reports of His resurrection. One minute Jesus is correcting them because of their unbelief. The next, He is challenging them with the vision of the spiritual harvest fields in the nations of the world.

How could He possibly leave the future of the Gospel in the hands of these disciples?

Because He was not looking at them as they were. He was not looking at their past performance or their present condition. He was seeing them as they would become when endued by the power of the Holy Spirit.

God is not looking at your past, your failures, your doubts, or unbelief. He is looking at what He knows you can become through the power of the Holy Spirit.

THE MEN GOD USES

Let us look at the men God used down through history to fulfill His purposes.

JACOB:

God had to choose between Jacob, a man who desired the birthright so much he would cheat for it, and Esau, who so lightly regarded it that he would forfeit it for a bowl of soup. Yet he used Jacob to bring forth the nation of Israel.

ABRAHAM:

Abraham was to be the father of many nations. When he received this revelation from God, he fell on his face and laughed in unbelief (Genesis 17:1-3). Later, this great man of faith lied to the enemy and claimed Sara was his sister because he feared for his life. In spite of this, Abraham was called the "friend of God" and became the father of many nations.

MOSES:

His disobedience kept him from the Promised Land, yet he liberated two million people from bondage in Egypt and led them through the wilderness according to the plan of God.

DAVID:

He took another man's wife and murdered the man to cover his sin, yet he was called "a man after God's own heart" and God gave Him the kingdom.

GIDEON:

Gideon was harvesting wheat in hiding for fear of the enemy when God called Him to be the deliverer of Israel (Judges 6).

ORDINARY PEOPLE

God uses ordinary people to fulfill His will. When Jesus performed His first miracle of turning water into wine, He asked ordinary men to fill ordinary water pots. When He multiplied bread and fish He gave it to ordinary men who then fed the multitude. When Jesus was about to perform what was perhaps the greatest miracle in His ministry, that of raising Lazarus from the dead, He depended on men to move the stone from the entrance of the grave. Didn't the same God who raised Lazarus have the power to remove the stone from the entrance?

Yes, but God has always used men to fulfill His plan. His methods are men. God calls ordinary men and makes them extraordinary. He moves men and women from spectators to participators in His plan.

- All you ordinary people who thought you couldn't be used of God...
- You ordinary people who thought you couldn't be part of a miracle...
- All who have denied and failed Him...

God is not looking at your past or present performance. He is not seeing you as you view yourself. He is looking at you as you will become as you accept the challenge to go to the harvest fields of the world. He is seeing you as you will be when endued with the power of the Holy Spirit.

God is not depending on your faith, education, talents, or your level of spirituality. He is not depending on anything that you are. He is depending on what He knows you can become if you will surrender your life totally to His will and purposes.

The world of the early church was not reached through great preaching. It was reached by men and women who were as human as we are but they turned their eyes from their own failures and caught the vision of the harvest. They realized that when they were weak in the natural, they were strong spiritually. God promised:

...My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness. (II Corinthians 12:9)

AN ABUNDANT HARVEST

To those who catch the vision and fulfill the work and will of God, there are promises of abundant harvest:

For the seed shall be prosperous; the vine shall give her fruit, and the ground shall give her increase, and the heavens shall give their dew...
(Zechariah 8:12)

He will turn the wilderness into fertile fields:

He turneth the wilderness into a standing water, and dry ground into watersprings. And there He maketh the hungry to dwell, that they may...sow the fields and plant the vineyards which may yield fruits of increase. (Psalms 107:35-37)

God will even bring harvest to the least fruitful places:

There shall be an abundance of grain in the soil on top of the mountains... [the least fruitful place in the land]. (Psalms 72:16)

Age is no barrier to His plan:

They shall still bring forth fruit in old age... (Psalms 92:14)

You may go forth weeping in travail to birth this vision, but...

They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.

He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him. (Psalms 126:5-6)

You cannot comprehend the abundance of this end-time harvest:

Is the seed yet in the barn? yea, as yet the vine, and the fig tree, and the pomegranate, and the olive tree hath not brought forth: from this day will I bless you. (Haggai 2:19)

God speaks of a harvest so great that it is continuous:

Behold the days come, saith the Lord, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed. (Amos 9:13)

You will not even finish threshing out the harvest until the next harvest is upon you.

This is why the need for laborers is so urgent. The plowman is overtaking the reaper. The vision of the harvest is before you.

-Claim the promise of abundant harvest.

- Claim the heathen for your inheritance.
- The fields of the world are before you. Lift up your eyes and look.

THE FINAL HARVEST

There will come that day of final harvest when God commands His angels:

The time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. (Revelation 14:15)

From all over this world the procession will come.

From Africa, Australia, Asia, North and South America, Europe, and the Islands of the Sea... Harvesters streaming into the throne room of God.

Men and women who have made the vision a reality...Those who lived with the vision as central to their reason for being... Those who died embracing its promises.

And they bring with them the sheaves from the harvest of the earth:

After this I beheld, and lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne and before the Lamb clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb...and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshiped God.

Saying, Amen: Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be unto our God forever and ever. Amen.

(Revelation 7:9-12)

SELF-TEST

1. Write the Key Verse from memory.

2. List three Bible references which promise abundant harvest.

3. Name five men discussed in this chapter whom God used despite their failures.

4. What verse tells of the final harvesting of the earth done by the angels of God?

(Answers to tests are provided at the conclusion of the final chapter in this manual.)

FOR FURTHER STUDY

The course you have just completed is first in a series offered by Harvestime International Institute. The purpose of the series is to teach what Jesus taught to transform ordinary people into reproductive believers who reached their world with the Gospel. These courses will equip you to fulfill your new vision of reaping the spiritual harvest. Write to the address on the cover of this manual for further information on these training materials.

ANSWERS TO SELF-TESTS

CHAPTER ONE:

1. Where there is no vision, the people perish. (Proverbs 29:18)

2. Spiritual vision involves seeing beyond the natural world into the spiritual world. It is understanding the divine purpose of God and recognizing your part in His plan. It is a clear image of what God wants you to achieve which directs each step of your Christian life towards that goal.

3. 2,3,1,4,6,5

4. 3,1,4,2

CHAPTER TWO:

1. Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. (John 4:35)

2. When we speak of a natural parallel of a spiritual truth it means God uses a natural example to explain or represent a spiritual truth.

3. The example was the harvest.

4. The field is the world. Matthew 13:38.

5. You may have listed any of the following reasons. The harvest was an example to which His disciples could easily relate because:

- The economy of Israel was based on agriculture.
- The religious festivals revolved around the harvest.
- Harvesting was a continuous activity throughout the year.
- There were natural principles for sowing and reaping which applied to spiritual harvesting.
- The disciples recognized the urgency represented by the example of the natural harvest.

6. John 4:35:

Say not ye: Do not just talk about the harvest.
Yet four months: Do not delay it.
I say unto you: Listen to what Jesus says.
Lift up your eyes: Turn them from distractions.
Look on the fields: See the world through the eyes of God.

CHAPTER THREE:

1. His eyes behold the nations. (Psalms 66:7)
2. Approximately three billion people.
3. About 2,000 languages.
4. To see the world as a spiritual harvest field in need of laborers.
5. Sin.
6. a.F b.F c.T
7. A World Christian is one who makes each day of his life count for Christ's global cause, especially for those currently beyond the reach of the Gospel.

CHAPTER FOUR:

1. Having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself;
That in the dispensation of the fullness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in Him. (Ephesians 1:9-10)
2. a.F b.T c.T d.T
3. Your answer should include one of the following points and at least one of the references:

God's purpose from the beginning of time has been to unify all of heaven and earth in Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 1:9-10)

He is not willing that any should perish, but that all men of every nation should repent and come to a knowledge of Jesus Christ. (II Peter 3:9)

CHAPTER FIVE:

1. Be not deceived, God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.
For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. (Galatians 6:7-8)
2. a.T b.F c.F d.F e.T f.T g.T
3. Discord, Iniquity, Strife, Flesh.
4. Redeemed men living redeemed lives.
5. Isaiah 16:10 or Joel 1:10-12,16
6. Joel 1:13-14; 2:12-13

7. Review the subheadings of this chapter:

Disobedience to God's Word. Regarding circumstances.	
Forgetting God.	Undirected effort.
Improper sowing.	Pests and disease.
Unconcern.	Improper harvesting.
Self-effort.	Uncultivated ground.
Cursed reproductive processes.	Unrighteous foundations.
	Few laborers.

CHAPTER SIX:

1. They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.

He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him. (Psalms 126:5-6)

2. Strategies are principles, methods, or plans to follow in order to reach a certain goal.

3. If you missed any of these strategies, review the subheadings of the entire chapter.

- Each plant is capable of reproduction.
- Sowing is necessary in order to reap.
- You do not harvest in the same season you sow.
- You reap what you sow.
- You must sow regardless of the circumstances.
- You harvest in proportion to the amount sown.
- You can sow where you do not reap and reap where you do not sow.
- You will reap the harvest if you are faithful.
- In order to reproduce, the seed must die.

CHAPTER SEVEN:

1. For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations. (Isaiah 61:11)

2. Seeds develop in response to certain external conditions.

3. If you missed any of these conditions for growth, review the subheadings of the entire chapter: Life; Proper soil; Water; Light; Air; Space; Root system; Rest; Attached to the vine; Pruning; Climate

CHAPTER EIGHT:

1. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. (Acts 1:8)

2. II Timothy 2:2

3. Power.

4. Recognize it is for today; Understand the source; Accept the authority personally and in your church.

CHAPTER NINE:

1. Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light. (Matthew 11:28-30)

2. Sin, self, man.

3. Easy, light, restful.

4. Come unto Him, take His yoke on you, learn of Him.
5. You will know the voice of God; You will be successful in the fulfillment of your vision; The Lord will guide you continually; He will be your provision; You will be reproductive.

CHAPTER TEN:

1. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. (Galatians 3:29)
2. Galatians 3:10 and Galatians 3:29.
3. Salvation.
4. Blessing the nations of the world.
- 5.

Fully persuaded	Full of hope
Invested in spiritual things	Strong in faith
Obedient to the call	Righteous
Willing to stand alone	Humble
Man of vision	Man of peace
Knew God intimately	Prompt to do God's will
Mobile for God	Never looked back
Walked in revelation knowledge	Sought God
Assumed responsibility for others	Generous
Reproduced men of dedication	Gave glory to God
Did not look to his natural abilities	
Willing to dwell in a strange land	

CHAPTER ELEVEN:

1. And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. (Galatians 6:9)
2. You could have used any of the following references: Psalms 72:16; Psalms 92:4; Psalms 107:33-37; Psalms 126:5-6; Amos 9:13; Haggai 2:19; Zechariah 8:12
3. Jacob, Abraham, Moses, David, Gideon.
4. Revelation 14:15