

b) We Must Be Prepared To Respond To Opportunities To Harvest

- Mark 4:29, NIV – *“As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”*

3. Harvesting Requires Workers

a) We All Have A Part To Play In The Harvest

- 1 Corinthians 9:10, NIV – *“... when the plowman plows and the thresher threshes, they ought to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest.”*

b) We Must All Be In The Right Place

- Matthew 9:37-38, NIV – *(37) Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. (38) Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”*

4. Harvesting Requires Both The Spiritual And The Natural

a) Harvesting Is Connected To Passionate Worship

- Hosea 6:11, NIV – *“Also for you, Judah, a harvest is appointed.”*

b) Harvesting Is Connected To “Doing Good”

- Galatians 6:9, NIV – *“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”*
- Acts 10:38, NIV – *“... Jesus ... went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil ...”*

AN APOSTOLIC CHURCH IS A HARVESTING CHURCH!

A HEART FOR THE HARVEST

Part 2 – Principles For Harvesting

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REVIEW

- “You’ve got to learn how to build bridges, because until you learn how to build bridges, the wheat will never be healed.”

BENEFITS OF HARVESTING

1. Harvesting Is Wisdom

- Proverbs 10:5, NIV – *“He who gathers crops in summer is a wise son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son.”*
- Proverbs 11:30, NIV – *“(30) ... he who wins souls is wise.”*

2. Harvesting Guarantees Our Survival

- Leviticus 25:22, NIV – *“(22) While you plant during the eighth year, you will eat from the old crop ... until the harvest ... comes in.”*

3. Harvesting Brings Joy

- Deuteronomy 16:15, NIV – *“(15) ... For the LORD your God will bless you in all your harvest and in all the work of your hands, and your joy will be complete.”*

4. Harvesting Gives Us Opportunity To Celebrate

- Exodus 23:16, NIV – *“Celebrate the Feast of Harvest with the firstfruits of the crops you sow in your field. Celebrate the Feast of Ingathering at the end of the year, when you gather in your crops from the field.”*

KEY REQUIREMENT FOR HARVESTING

1. We Must Be Obedient If We Want A Good Harvest

- Deuteronomy 28:15, 38, NIV – “(15) ... if you do not obey the LORD your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees ... (38) You will sow much seed in the field but you will harvest little, because locusts will devour it.”

2. If We Are Obedient, We Can Expect Miracles During The Harvest

- Joshua 3:15-16, NIV – (15) Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water's edge, (16) the water from upstream stopped flowing ...”

PRINCIPLES FOR HARVESTING

1. Harvesting Requires First Sowing

a) We Must Sow

- Genesis 8:22, NIV – “As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest ... will never cease.”

b) We Must Sow The Right Kind Of Seeds

- Genesis 1:12, NIV – (12) The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

c) We Must Be Creative In Our Sowing

- Psalm 107:37, NIV – “They sowed fields and planted vineyards that yielded a fruitful harvest.”

d) We Must Accept The Fact That Sowing Is Hard Work

- Proverbs 14:4, NIV – “Where there are no oxen, the manger is empty, but from the strength of an ox comes an abundant harvest.”

e) We Must Be People Of Perseverance

- Galatians 6:9, NIV – “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

f) We Must Honour The Principle Of Rest From Sowing

- Exodus 23:10-11, NIV – “(10) For six years you are to sow your fields and harvest the crops. (11) but during the seventh year let the land lie unplowed and unused.”

- Exodus 34:21, NIV – “Six days you shall labor, but on the seventh day you shall rest; even during the plowing season and harvest you must rest.”

g) We Can Expect God To Be With Us In Both The Sowing And The Reaping

- 2 Corinthians 9:10, NIV – “Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.”

2. Harvesting Requires A Prepared People

a) It Is Always Harvest Time Somewhere

- John 4:35, NIV – “(35) Do you not say, ‘Four months more and then the harvest’? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.”