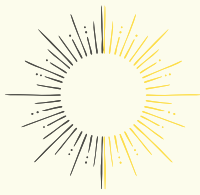


BE THE MISSION

HARVEST MISSION

40 Days of Devotionals



At Oak Gardens, ***we do life together***—and that means walking boldly into the mission Jesus has given us. **The Harvest Mission** Initiative is our united call to action: to reach our community and the world with the hope, love, and transforming power of Jesus Christ.


Rooted in **Matthew 9:37–38**, “***The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few,***” we believe the time to act is now. This is not just another church program—it is a Kingdom movement. Together, we will be faithful, focus, and fruitful, meeting both spiritual and practical needs, sowing seeds of faith, and seeing lives changed for eternity.

We are not called to sit on the sidelines; we are called to the field. Through prayer, outreach, discipleship, and compassion in action, we will labor side by side—bringing in the harvest God has prepared. The need is great. The workers are ready. The harvest is here.

Join in the mission of harvesting souls for the cause of Christ. Together, we will bring in the harvest.

The Kingdom of God needs you.

Dr. Paul Day – Senior Pastor
Oak Gardens Church

Psalms 107:37–38


³⁷ They sowed fields and planted vineyards
that yielded a fruitful harvest;
³⁸ he blessed them, and their numbers
greatly increased...

This verse paints a beautiful picture of God's people moving from survival to abundance. After seasons of wandering, hunger, and thirst (*described earlier in Psalm 107*), the Lord brings them to a place where they can plant, grow, and reap. What was once barren now blooms with life—and the harvest becomes a testimony of God's goodness.

For the Oak Gardens Church today, this is more than a farming metaphor. The fields are the mission fields—our communities, our workplaces, our neighborhoods, and the nations. The sowing is our faithful sharing of the gospel, acts of love, and investment in people's lives. The harvest is souls coming to Christ, disciples growing in faith, and lives transformed for His glory.

Notice that the verse doesn't just say they enjoyed the land. It says they sowed and they planted. A harvest doesn't happen by accident—it follows intentional effort, patient waiting, and persistent care. The same is true for the Oak Gardens Church.

We cannot expect a harvest if we are not willing to sow the Word, pray for growth, and tend the fields God has given us.

The Church's harvest is also a shared joy. No one farmer reaps alone; God calls the whole body to labor together. Some plant, some water, some reap—but God gives the increase (*1 Corinthians 3:6-7*). When we work in unity and faithfulness, we will see fruit that lasts. Let us, then, go out and joyfully sow, trusting that He will provide the increase.

Lord of the harvest, thank You for calling the Oak Gardens Church to be part of Your work. Teach us to sow generously, water faithfully, and trust You for the increase. May our lives and our church bear fruit that brings glory to Your name.

Amen.



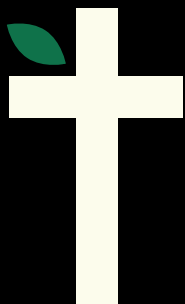
REFLECTIONS

Where have you seen God bring fruit from past seasons of planting? Have you paused to thank Him for the harvest?

How am are you stewarding the increase God has already given you —spiritually, relationally, or materially?

How are you currently sowing in the life of the Oak Gardens Church? Are you **Doing Life Together** by serving, giving, pouring into others?





September 30

2 Corinthians 9:10

10

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.

As the days shorten and a crispness fills the air, our minds turn to harvest. It's a season of reaping, of gathering in, a time to see the results of a season of labor. In this beautiful passage, the Apostle Paul uses the familiar imagery of sowing and reaping to illustrate a profound spiritual truth: God is the ultimate source of everything we have.

Paul reminds the Corinthian church—and us—that God is the one ***"who supplies seed to the sower."*** Before a farmer can even dream of a harvest, they must first have seed. It is the starting point of all potential growth. So often, we look at what is in our hands—our resources, our talents, our time, our money—and we think of it as ***"ours."*** But this verse challenges us to shift our perspective. Everything we possess is ultimately a seed supplied by the Divine Gardener. It has been placed in our hands not just for our own consumption, but for sowing.

What is the ultimate goal of all this sowing and increasing? Is it just to have more seed? Paul gives us the stunning conclusion: God will ***"enlarge the harvest of your righteousness."***

The final harvest God is most interested in is not material wealth, but a character that reflects His own. The ***"harvest of your righteousness"*** refers to the fruit of a life lived in right relationship with God and others. It is the tangible evidence of God's grace at work in us—acts of love, kindness, justice, and compassion.

When we are generous, we are not just moving resources around; we are participating in a spiritual act that cultivates righteousness in our hearts and in the world. Our giving becomes an act of worship, a declaration that our trust is in the Gardener, not the seed. The result is a beautiful harvest that has eternal value—a life that looks more and more like Jesus.



REFLECTIONS

In what areas of your life can you more clearly recognize God's provision as "*seed*" for sowing?

Are you holding onto your seed for consumption, or are you faithfully and cheerfully sowing it for a future harvest?

How can your acts of giving and service this week contribute to a "*harvest of righteousness*" in your life and in the lives of others?





8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Before launching into their ministry, the disciples were given a clear promise—but power that transformed timid followers into bold witnesses. Acts 1:8 isn't just a historical moment. It's a commissioning for every believer who longs to live with intentional impact.

The disciples had walked with Jesus. They had heard His teachings and seen His miracles. Their testimony was firsthand. Our testimony is just as real. We have experienced His grace, His forgiveness, and His transforming work in our own lives. The power of the Holy Spirit doesn't just give us the courage to speak; it makes our very lives a testament to the truth of the Gospel. We become living proof that Jesus is who He says He is.

In our daily lives, we often face challenges that can make us feel inadequate or hesitant to share our faith. Yet, this promise reassures us that we are not alone in our mission. The Holy Spirit empowers us, infusing our hearts with courage and our words with truth. We are called to be witnesses—not just through our words but also through our actions and resources, reflecting the love and grace of Jesus in every interaction.

As we consider our "Jerusalem," we think of our immediate surroundings—family, friends, and community.

Are we intentionally sharing the hope we have in Christ with those nearest to us? Expanding to "Judea and Samaria," we are reminded to reach out to those who may be different from us, embracing the call to love beyond boundaries and prejudices.

Finally, to the "end of the earth," we are inspired to think globally, praying and supporting missions that spread the Gospel far and wide. As we embrace the power of the Holy Spirit, let us step boldly into our roles as witnesses, knowing that God has equipped us to share His message of hope and redemption with the world. May our lives be a testament to His love, reaching hearts wherever we go.



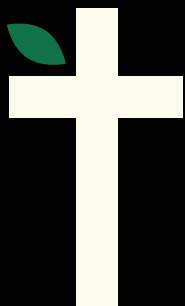
REFLECTIONS

Are you relying on the Holy Spirit for power each day?

In what ways can you be a better witness to those around you?

How can you be more intentional about reaching beyond your comfort zone into your "*Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth?*"





October 2

Galatians 6:9

⁹ So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.

"...for at the right time we will reap a harvest..." This is the anchor for our weary souls: God's timing. Our world screams for instant gratification. We want to see the results of our labor now.

But God operates on a perfect, eternal schedule. The *"right time"* is His time. It is the moment when the soil of a heart is finally ready, when the circumstances have aligned perfectly, when the impact will be the greatest. Trusting in His timing requires us to release our grip on our own expectations and timetables and to have faith that nothing we do for Him is ever wasted.

Here is the condition, the challenge, and the encouragement all in one. The harvest is not just a possibility; it is a certainty, but it is conditional upon our perseverance. Giving up is the only thing that guarantees we will not see the harvest. To *"not give up"* is an act of faith. It is choosing to believe that God's promise is more real than our fatigue. It is watering the seeds of our good deeds with prayers and trusting that, even when we can't see it, God is working beneath the surface.

God's timing isn't always ours. The harvest may not arrive when we expect it, but it's never missed. Every act of goodness in His name—every selfless deed for others, good word you speak, heart you pour into—is a seed that He waters.

Hold on. Do not lose heart. The Farmer is watching over His field. Your acts of love, integrity, and service are not in vain. A harvest of righteousness, blessing, and glory is coming. It will arrive at the perfect, proper time. Don't give up just before the dawn.



Turn the page for reflections



REFLECTIONS

In what area of your life do you feel most
"weary in doing good?"

How can you shift your focus from the lack of immediate
results to the promise of God's *"proper time?"*

What does this verse reveal about God's timing
and the idea of spiritual harvest?





October 3

Genesis 8:22

²² **"As long as the earth remains, there will be planting and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night."**

God's promise encompasses the great cycles of the natural world: ***"seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night."*** These are not random occurrences; they are the steady, dependable rhythms of grace He has woven into the fabric of creation. The sun rises and sets, the seasons turn, and the potential for harvest follows the act of sowing.

In a world that often feels chaotic and unpredictable, these rhythms are a constant, physical sermon of God's character. He is not a fickle or forgetful God. He is a God of order, faithfulness, and unwavering consistency. Just as we can trust that spring will follow winter, we can trust that God's promises are just as reliable. This natural law is a reflection of a spiritual law: God's faithfulness endures forever.

The guarantee of ***"seedtime and harvest"*** is more than an agricultural principle; it is a spiritual one. Because God has promised that a time for reaping will follow a time for sowing, we are freed to sow in faith. We can invest our time, our love, our resources, and our prayers into the lives of others and the work of the Kingdom, trusting that our labor is not in vain.

Sometimes, the ***"seed"*** we sow disappears into the ground, and we see no immediate result. We pray for a loved one, and nothing seems to change. We give generously, and our own needs press in. We serve faithfully, and we feel weary. In these moments, we can stand on the promise of **Genesis 8:22**.

The God who ensures the seasons turn is the same God who will bring a harvest from our faithfulness. Our role is to be faithful sowers; the timing and the nature of the harvest are in His unfailing hands.



REFLECTIONS

How does the reliability of the seasons and the cycle of day and night encourage your trust in God's unseen spiritual promises?

In what area of your life do you feel you are in a "**seedtime**" season, waiting for a "**harvest**?"
How does this promise help you persevere?

Knowing that God guarantees a harvest, what "**seed**" can you sow in faith this week?



NOTES

James 2:14–17

14

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them?

15

Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food.

16

If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?

17

In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

Jesus doesn’t separate mission from compassion. In this passage, He reveals that every act of mercy—feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, visiting the imprisoned—is not just humanitarian; it’s deeply spiritual. It’s missional.

Supporting missions isn’t only about sending people across borders. It’s about seeing Christ in the overlooked, the marginalized, the forgotten. When we give, go, or pray for missions, we’re not just helping people—we’re ministering to Jesus Himself.

This passage reframes our understanding of mission work. It’s not reserved for the “called few.” It’s the daily invitation to embody Christ’s love wherever brokenness exists. Whether we’re packing meals, funding a missionary, mentoring a refugee, or praying for unreached tribes—we’re participating in the heartbeat of God.

Supporting missions is one of the most direct ways we can fulfill the command of **Matthew 25**. It is a beautiful opportunity to look beyond our own world and see the face of Jesus in the faces of people everywhere.

Let us commit ourselves to serve those around us, ensuring that our support for missions reflects the heart of Jesus. When we care for “the least of these,” we are serving Him directly. Today, ask God to open your eyes to the needs around you and give you the courage to respond. In supporting missions, we not only share God’s love but also grow in our own faith, becoming His hands and feet in the world.



REFLECTIONS

Have you unintentionally offered words without follow-through? What held you back?

What opportunities to give/serve have you overlooked or delayed because of discomfort or busyness?

How does your daily choices reflect the heart of Christ and affirm your faith?





October 5

1 Corinthians 3:6

⁶ I planted the seed, Apollos watered it,
but God has been making it grow.

In the world of agriculture, the harvest is a time of celebration and gratitude. Farmers tend their fields with diligence, planting seeds with hope and nurturing them with care. Yet, at the end of the season, they know that the true source of growth lies beyond their efforts. Similarly, in our spiritual lives, we are called to plant seeds of faith and love in the hearts of those around us.

The Apostle Paul's words remind us that our role in God's kingdom is part of a larger process. We may plant seeds through our actions and words, sharing the Gospel and embodying Christ's love. Others may come alongside us, watering those seeds with encouragement and prayer. Yet, it is ultimately God who gives the growth.

This truth should bring us both profound humility and incredible relief. It brings humility because we can never take credit for the harvest. Any fruit that comes from our labor is a result of God's sovereign work. It brings relief because the ultimate responsibility for growth rests not on our shoulders, but on His. Our job is not to produce results; our job is to be faithful. We are called to be faithful planters and faithful waterers, and then we have the privilege of standing back in awe as we watch God, the Lord of the Harvest, bring the increase.

Reflect today on the seeds you've planted. Perhaps it's a kind word to a friend, an act of service, or sharing your faith. Celebrate the effort you've put in, but also remember that the results are in God's hands. Trust Him to bring the harvest in His perfect timing.

As we labor in love, let us keep our eyes on the ultimate goal: that through our efforts, lives are transformed. May we rejoice in the promise that every seed, no matter how small, has the potential for a bountiful harvest when nurtured by the Creator.

Amen.





REFLECTIONS

In this season of your life, do you see yourself more as a *"planter"* or a *"waterer?"* How can you be faithful in that specific role?

How does the truth that *"God gives the growth"* free you from the pressure to perform or the pride of success in your ministry to others?

Think of the people who have *"planted"* and *"watered"* in your own life. Take a moment to thank God for them.



NOTES

Hosea 10:12

12

I said, 'Plant the good seeds of righteousness, and you will harvest a crop of love. Plow up the hard ground of your hearts, for now is the time to seek the Lord, that he may come and shower righteousness upon you.'

In this verse, God invites us into the transformative process of spiritual renewal. The metaphor of planting and harvesting speaks volumes about our lives and the choices we make daily. Just as a farmer prepares the soil, we are called to examine our hearts and clear away the stubbornness and apathy that often takes root within us.

Hosea speaks to a nation that had grown spiritually complacent, urging them to break up the hardened soil of their hearts. And yet, embedded in this call to repentance is a profound image of harvest—a harvest not of crops but of character, connection, and God's unfailing love.

The call to *"plant the good seeds of righteousness"* urges us to actively engage in actions that reflect God's love and justice. This isn't merely about avoiding wrongdoing; it's about sowing seeds of kindness, forgiveness, and grace. What we choose to cultivate in our lives will ultimately yield a harvest—either of love or of bitterness.

Moreover, the invitation to *"plow up the hard ground of your hearts"* is a reminder that change begins with us. It may require discomfort, digging deep into our fears and doubts, but the promise of a bountiful harvest awaits those who seek the Lord earnestly.

As we reflect on this verse, let us commit to a season of intentional sowing. Let us seek God with open hearts, believing that He will shower righteousness upon us. In turn, may our lives bear witness to the abundant love that flows from our Creator. Embrace this season of harvest with anticipation, knowing that what we plant today will shape our tomorrow.



REFLECTIONS

What areas of your life feel like *“unplowed ground”*—neglected, resistant, or dry?

What does *“sowing righteousness”* practically look like in your daily life?

Where have you seen the fruit of *“unfailing love”* in your walk with God—and what helped cultivate it?





October 7

Mark 16:15

15

**And then he told them,
“Go into all the world and preach
the Good News to everyone.”**

In the world of agriculture, the harvest is a time of celebration and gratitude. Farmers tend their fields with diligence, planting seeds with hope and nurturing them with care. Yet, at the end of the season, they know that the true source of growth lies beyond their efforts. Similarly, in our spiritual lives, we are called to plant seeds of faith and love in the hearts of those around us.

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Amen.



REFLECTIONS

In what ways do you currently “go” with the gospel in your everyday life?

Who are the people within your sphere of influence who haven’t encountered the gospel personally?

Do you see yourself as part of the Great Commission even if you’re not crossing cultural borders?



1 Chronicles 29:11–12

¹¹ Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. Everything in the heavens and on earth is yours, O Lord, and this is your kingdom. We adore you as the one who is over all things.

¹² Wealth and honor come from you alone, for you rule over everything. Power and might are in your hand, and at your discretion people are made great and given strength.

When we think of harvest, we often focus on what we've planted and how we've worked. But 1 Chronicles 29 shifts our attention back to the true source of all blessing: the Lord. In these verses, King David praises God not only for His power but for His ownership of everything—the earth, the kingdom, the strength, and the increase.

These verses remind us: every harvest begins and ends with God. Whether it's a harvest of provision, souls, opportunities, or spiritual growth, He is the one who gives the seed, sustains the season, and supplies the outcome.

In the spirit of harvest, we are called to examine the fruits of our lives. Are we sowing seeds of kindness, love, and generosity? Are we nurturing our relationships and investing in our communities? Just as a farmer prepares the soil and plants with hope, we too must invest our time and energy into the things that matter most.

When we recognize that God owns it all, we move from pride to praise. Instead of saying *"look what I've done,"* we say, *"look what the Lord has provided."* And because all belongs to Him, we can freely give back what He has entrusted to us—whether in offerings, missions, or service—knowing He will continue to supply.

As we gather our physical harvest, let us not forget to harvest the fruits of the Spirit within us—joy, peace, patience, and kindness. Let us offer these gifts back to God, acknowledging that all we are and have is from Him. In doing so, we align our hearts with His will and empower our lives to produce an abundant harvest for His glory.



REFLECTIONS

How might your worship deepen when you acknowledge that everything belongs to Him?

Are you living as a steward of God's resources or as if you own them?

How can you lead others in recognizing and responding to God's greatness?





October 9

1 Chronicles 16:24

24

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.

The heartbeat of 1 Chronicles 16:24 is this: God's glory is too great to be hidden. His marvelous deeds are too powerful to be kept within the walls of one people, one language, or one land. He is the God of all nations, and His story is meant to be told to all peoples. This verse is more than poetic praise—it's a divine directive. David's words inspire the people of God to become storytellers of glory, echoing who God is and what He's done across every boundary and barrier.

When we declare God's glory, we're doing more than speaking about Him—we're revealing Him through our lives. In discipleship, this means shaping environments and relationships where God's character isn't just taught but experienced. It means testimonies told over tables, prayers whispered in small groups, and deeds of compassion that shout louder than sermons. When we speak of His faithfulness, we invite others to witness His goodness. Each conversation becomes a canvas where His love and grace can be painted vividly for all to see.

This call to action transcends our comfort zones. It encourages us to engage with diverse cultures and communities, reminding us that God's glory is not limited to our own experiences, but is a universal truth meant for every heart. Let us also be attentive to the beauty in creation, recognizing that every leaf, bird, and rooster sings of His majesty.

As we go forth today, let us be diligent in declaring God's glory. May our lives be living testimonies of His marvelous works. In doing so, we not only honor Him but also invite others to join in the celebration of His greatness!

To declare His glory among the nations doesn't always start globally—it starts intentionally. And from there, as the truth of His marvelous deeds spreads, the ripple reaches the nations.



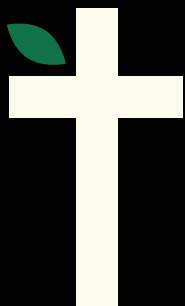
REFLECTIONS

How do you personally define “*declaring God’s glory?*”
What does that look like in your daily life, not just in church settings?

How do your relationships reflect the character of God?

Do you rely more on words or actions when declaring God’s glory? How can you align both to be more consistent and compelling?





October 10

Luke 10:2

2

...So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields...

As we reflect on this message from Jesus, we are reminded of the urgency and importance of our mission in the world. The Lord of the Harvest sees the hearts of those who are lost and in need of His love and salvation. He understands the vastness of the harvest—the countless souls yearning for hope, purpose, and renewal.

Jesus doesn't just point out the need; He gives us the solution: pray. Not just for the harvest, but to *"the Lord of the harvest"*—the One who owns it all, sees it all, and sends laborers into it. This reminds us that missions and ministry are never our own idea. We don't initiate the harvest; we simply join God in what He's already doing.

The Lord of the Harvest is active. He is not waiting for us to dream up plans—He is already at work preparing hearts, aligning moments, and inviting us to step into His purposes. Our job is not to force fruit, but to pray, obey, and go where He sends.

We are not expected to muster up the strength, the strategy, or the workers on our own. We are to ask the One who owns the field to send forth His workers. This is a prayer of dependence, a prayer that acknowledges our limitations and His sovereignty. It is a prayer that aligns our hearts with His, a prayer that expresses our desire to see His kingdom come.

Let us, therefore, take heart. The harvest is indeed plentiful, and the Lord of the harvest is faithful. Let us be a people of prayer, and let us be a people who are ready to step into the fields, trusting that He who called us will equip us for the work He has prepared for us to do.

Lord, open our eyes to the fields around us and give us courage to bring in the harvest.



REFLECTIONS

What does it mean to be a “*worker*” in God’s harvest field in your current context?

Where has God placed you that might be part of His harvest field?

How often do you pray to the Lord of the harvest for more workers? Are you willing to be the answer to your own prayer?





You know the saying, ‘Four months between planting and harvest.’ But I say, wake up and look around. The fields are already ripe for harvest.

Jesus speaks these words just after His encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well—a moment that shattered cultural boundaries and awakened a village to the reality of the Messiah. While the disciples were focused on food and logistics, Jesus was focused on souls.

This verse is a wake-up call. It challenges the mindset of delay and distraction. Jesus says, *“Look now.”* The harvest isn’t coming later—it’s already here. People are ready to receive truth, hope, and love. But we must lift our eyes from the ordinary and see with spiritual clarity.

Jesus is still asking His followers to open their eyes. It’s easy to assume that people aren’t ready, or that evangelism is for another time. But Jesus contradicts that delay. The harvest is not in the distance—it’s all around us.

- *A co-worker who’s searching for truth*
- *A neighbor burdened with loneliness*
- *A teenager struggling with identity*
- *A relative asking deeper questions*

When we see with Kingdom eyes, we recognize these not as interruptions or future projects, but as ripe fields—ready now. Jesus removes the excuse of *“later.”* Time is precious, and the opportunity to share the gospel is not guaranteed tomorrow. The harvest doesn’t wait for our perfect timing. It requires faithful laborers now.

In relational discipleship, this means being present, intentional, and expectant. The conversations we have, the prayers we offer, the time we invest—they’re not just seeds. They’re part of the harvest process. And sometimes, the harvest comes faster than we expect.



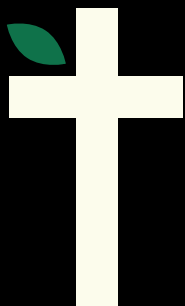
REFLECTIONS

What distractions keep you from seeing the spiritual harvest around you?

How can you shift from a mindset of *“later”* to a posture of readiness and responsiveness?

How can you lift your eyes to see people the way Jesus does?





October 12

Psalms 85:12

12

**"The Lord will indeed give what is good,
and our land will yield its harvest."**

As the seasons turn, our minds often go to the concept of harvest—a time of gathering the fruits of a long season of labor. It's a tangible picture of diligence meeting provision, of seeds sown in faith sprouting into abundance. The psalmist, in this beautiful verse, captures the essence of this divine partnership. The harvest is not merely a result of human effort, but a direct consequence of a greater promise: the Lord's goodness.

The verse begins with a foundational truth: ***"The Lord will indeed give what is good."*** This is not a hesitant hope, but a confident declaration. It assures us that the source of all abundance, every good and perfect gift, is God Himself. Before a single seed is planted or a field is tilled, the potential for a harvest begins with Him. His nature is to give, to bless, and to provide. Sometimes, in the midst of our striving and working, we can forget this important truth. We see the sweat of our brow and the work of our hands and can mistakenly believe the fruit is ours alone. This verse gently re-centers our perspective, reminding us that our effort is merely cultivating the goodness that God has already promised to give.

Building on that promise, the psalmist continues, ***"and our land will yield its harvest."*** This is the visible outcome of God's invisible grace. When we align our lives with Him—when our hearts, minds, and actions become the ***"land"*** that He tends—a harvest is the natural result. This isn't just about a physical crop. It's about a spiritual yield: the fruit of the Spirit like love, joy, peace, and patience. It's the harvest of righteousness, where our lives produce actions and attitudes that honor God. It's the harvest of answered prayers, of wisdom gained through trials, and of relationships restored through forgiveness.

In moments of uncertainty, let's hold onto the promise that God is nurturing our efforts. Just as a farmer relies on the sun and rain, we can rely on God's unwavering love and care. Let us be diligent in our cultivation, knowing that the harvest will come in its due time. Trust in Him, for He is the Lord of the harvest.



REFLECTIONS

What is the *"land"* of your life looking like today?

Where do you need to trust that God will
"give what is good"?

Is the soil of your heart prepared to receive the
good things God promises to give?



Luke 4:18

18

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free"

Jesus reads this passage from Isaiah in the synagogue, declaring His mission—and ours. It's not just a poetic moment; it's a manifesto. The Spirit's anointing isn't for comfort or status—it's for commission. Jesus was sent to proclaim, to heal, to liberate. And as His followers, we're invited into that same mission.

This speaks not only to material poverty but to spiritual poverty—to all who recognize their deep need for God. He came to **"proclaim freedom for the prisoners,"** not just those in physical jails, but those imprisoned by sin, addiction, fear, and hopelessness. He came to bring **"recovery of sight for the blind,"** opening eyes to spiritual truth and healing physical ailments. He came **"to set the oppressed free,"** breaking the chains of injustice, abuse, and demonic influence.

Being mission-minded means living with spiritual intentionality. It's seeing people not as projects, but as beloved souls. It's stepping into brokenness with hope, into darkness with light, and into silence with the good news of Jesus. Being mission-minded means living with the awareness that we are sent people — sent into our communities, our cities, our workplaces, and even the nations to reflect the heart of Jesus.

Since we are to continue this mission. Reflect on your own surroundings—who are the **"poor,"** the **"prisoners,"** the **"blind,"** and the **"oppressed"** in your community? It may be the neighbor facing economic hardships, the friend grappling with addiction, or the child struggling with identity.

Today, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal those around you who are in need. Commit to taking tangible actions, whether through prayer, support, or advocacy. Let us be vessels of God's grace, bringing good news and freedom to those waiting for a glimmer of hope.



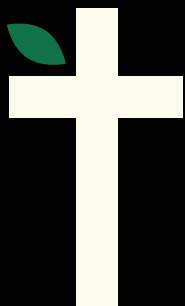
REFLECTIONS

Are you actively proclaiming freedom, healing, and hope in your relationships and community?

Where do you see God inviting you to expand your reach—whether through discipleship, service, or advocacy?

What rhythms or habits will help you stay aligned with Jesus' mission?





8

Then I heard the Lord asking, “Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?” I said, “Here I am. Send me.”

Isaiah’s response to God’s call is one of the clearest pictures of a mission-minded heart in all of Scripture. After encountering the holiness of God and receiving His cleansing grace, Isaiah doesn’t hesitate. When the Lord asks, “*Whom shall I send?*” Isaiah immediately says, “*Here am I. Send me!*” This is the posture of a heart on mission — available, surrendered, and ready.

Being mission-minded means living with an awareness that God is still asking the same question today. He is still seeking hearts that are willing to go — across the street, across the campus, across the office, or across the world — wherever there are people who need to know Him.

Isaiah wasn’t volunteering because he was perfect. He had just confessed his unclean lips. But God had cleansed him, and now he was ready. God doesn’t look for the most qualified — He looks for the most willing.

Being willing means recognizing that we are part of something greater than ourselves. It is acknowledging that God is at work in the world, and He invites us to participate in His mission. Just as Isaiah stood before the Lord, we too are called to listen for His voice and respond with open hearts.

Let us reflect on our willingness to serve. Are we ready to share the hope we have in Christ? Are we willing to stand in the gap for those who are lost? As we meditate on Isaiah’s response, let us surrender our fears and doubts, trusting that God equips those He sends. In this surrender, we find our purpose—being the hands and feet of Jesus in a world that desperately needs His light.



REFLECTIONS

Are you more focused on being equipped or being available?

How does your view of God shape your willingness to be sent?

How can you cultivate a lifestyle—not just a moment—of saying *“Here am I. Send me?”*



Psalms 67:5-6

⁵ **May the nations praise you, O God.
Yes, may all the nations praise you.**

⁶ **Then the earth will yield its harvests,
and God, our God, will richly bless us.**

As we meditate on *Psalm 67:5-6*, we are reminded of the profound connection between praise and the harvest. The psalmist calls for all nations to lift their voices in worship, recognizing that our praises are intertwined with the blessings bestowed upon us. When we acknowledge God's goodness, we open our hearts to the bountiful provisions He offers.

The mention of the earth yielding its increase speaks to the natural rhythm of growth, both in nature and in our own lives. Just as the farmer waits patiently for the crops to mature, we too must cultivate a spirit of patience and expectation.

God's blessings often come in seasons, and it is essential to trust that He is at work, even when we cannot see the immediate results.

Moreover, this passage emphasizes the communal aspect of God's blessings. When we praise Him together, we participate in a larger story of redemption and grace. Our harvest is not merely for our own benefit; it is meant to be shared. As we receive from His abundance, we are called to extend generosity to others, reflecting God's love and kindness.

As we look for a harvest in our own lives—whether it's in our careers, our families, or our spiritual growth—let us first cultivate a harvest of praise. Before we see the fruit, let's offer the worship. By lifting our voices in thanksgiving and adoration, we don't just prepare for the blessing; we invite the Blesser Himself to work in and through us, bringing forth an abundance that can only come from Him.. May we rejoice in His blessings and be motivated to share them with the world around us, so that all peoples may come to know and glorify our great God.



REFLECTIONS

Is your life marked by consistent praise, even in seasons of waiting or uncertainty?

How does your worship invite others to encounter God's goodness?

What is one step you can take this week to cultivate a harvest-minded lifestyle rooted in praise?



Acts 20:35

³⁵ **And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'**

To be on mission is to live with a purpose that transcends our individual desires. Paul's farewell to the Ephesian elders encapsulates this ethos. He reminds us that our lives should reflect the heart of Christ, grounded in service to others.

This not only involves sharing our resources but also our time, talents, and love.us, so that all peoples may come to know and glorify our great God.

When we embrace this attitude, we shift our focus from self to others. We begin to see every encounter—whether with friends, family, or strangers—as an opportunity to bless someone else. Each act of kindness becomes a ripple in the ocean of God's love, creating waves of change in our communities

Jesus taught us the joy of giving. It's in the selfless acts that we discover true fulfillment. As we commit ourselves to helping the weak and marginalized, we align our lives with God's mission. Here, we find our own strength renewed, our spirits lifted, and our hearts expanded. A person on mission isn't waiting for the *"perfect"* opportunity to serve; they create opportunities by living with open eyes and ready hands. They see the weak, the hurting, the lost—and they respond with the love and truth of Christ.

Today, consider how you can be Christ-minded and on mission in your daily life. Whether through volunteering, offering a listening ear, or sharing a meal, remember that it is indeed more blessed to give than to receive.

Let this truth guide you, propelling you into a life of service, reflection, and purpose.



REFLECTIONS

How does your understanding of giving change when you think about your motivations? Are you giving out of obligation, or is it an expression of your values?

In what ways can you reflect on the impact of your giving? How does it affect the lives of those around you, and how does it enrich your own life?

True giving often costs us something—time, energy, comfort. Ask God to stretch your capacity to give joyfully and sacrificially.



Colossians 3:1-3

¹ Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand.

² Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.

³ For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.

Harvest-time isn't just a season—it's a mindset. It's the moment when what was planted in faith begins to bear fruit. In *Colossians 3*, Paul calls believers to live as those who have already been raised with Christ. That resurrection reality means we're no longer sowing into the soil of the world—we're harvesting from the life of heaven.

To live in harvest-time is to walk with expectancy. It's to believe that what God has planted in you—truth, character, calling—is ready to be cultivated and shared. But Paul reminds us: the harvest doesn't come by focusing on earthly things. It comes by setting our hearts and minds on Christ, who is seated in authority and glory.

Living with this harvest-time mentality changes everything. It gives us purpose in the mundane, hope in our suffering, and stability in a chaotic world. We are no longer living for this world; we are living in this world with our hearts and minds set on the glorious, eternal harvest that awaits us.

When our identity is rooted in Him, our purpose shifts. We stop chasing temporary gain and start investing in eternal impact. We become laborers in the field of souls, ambassadors of reconciliation, and carriers of kingdom fruit.

Remember, our true identity is found in Christ, and our lives are hidden in Him. As we embrace this harvest time, let us invest in what lasts—relationships, acts of service, and deepening our faith. May we rejoice in the abundance God provides, knowing that our greatest harvest is not just in what we gain, but in who we become through Him.



REFLECTIONS

Take a moment to evaluate your own thoughts.
What have you been ***"setting your mind"*** on this week?

What is one ***"earthly thing"*** (*a worry, a desire, a frustration*) that you can consciously surrender to God right now?

In this season, reflect on what you have sown in your life.
Are you nurturing seeds of love, kindness, and faith?.



NOTES

1 John 5:14

14

And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him.

As we navigate our spiritual journey, the promise of 1 John 5:14 reminds us of the deep connection we have with our Creator. Confidence in approaching God is not merely about boldness; it's rooted in understanding His will for our lives. When we align our prayers with His purpose, we unlock the abundant harvest of spiritual blessings.

In the realm of faith, our requests are seeds sown into the fertile soil of God's love. Each prayer, each petition, becomes an invitation for God to work in and through us. This is the essence of spiritual harvest—transformative growth cultivated by our trust in Him. As we seek His will, we discover that our desires begin to mirror His, producing fruit that nourishes our souls and those around us.

Harvest isn't accidental. It's the result of intentional sowing, watering, and waiting. And prayer is the tool that tills the soil of hearts, prepares the ground for breakthrough, and invites God's power into the process. When we pray according to His will—whether for salvation, healing, reconciliation, or spiritual growth—we're praying in rhythm with the heart of the Father.

This kind of prayer isn't passive—it's bold. It's the kind that believes God is already at work and that our intercession is part of the harvest strategy. Whether you're praying over your small group, a ministry, your church, or your community, know this: He hears you. And when He hears, He moves.

Let your confidence in God's promises guide your heart. Trust in the process, and remember, every prayer is a step toward experiencing the fullness of His grace.



REFLECTIONS

Are your prayers aligned with God's will for spiritual harvest?

What does "*confidence*" in prayer look like in your daily walk with God?

How do you discern whether your prayers align with God's will?

What does it look like to trust that God hears you even when the harvest feels delayed?





Matthew 6:33

33

Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

Harvest-time is a season of focus, urgency, and reward. But in the busyness of life, it's easy to chase provision instead of the Provider, results instead of righteousness, and success instead of seeking.

Jesus redirects our focus in **Matthew 6:33**. He tells us what to seek first—not food, clothing, money, or earthly comfort—but His kingdom and His righteousness. This isn't a suggestion; it's a divine strategy for fruitfulness.

In the context of harvest, this verse reminds us that if we want to see true, lasting results, we must first align our hearts with God's will and ways. A harvest-minded believer doesn't just run into the field—they kneel before the King. They prioritize prayer, purity, and purpose over panic and performance.

When we seek the Kingdom first, we're not neglecting our needs—we're entrusting them. The promise is clear: ***"and he will give you everything you need"*** God doesn't ignore the harvest; He multiplies it when our focus is rightly placed.

When we seek Him first, God promises to take care of the rest. He knows what we need, and He knows the harvest that is waiting. He is the Lord of the Harvest—and when we put His kingdom first, He multiplies our efforts, sustains our strength, and brings increase in due season.

Seeking God's kingdom means prioritizing our relationship with Him above all else, trusting that He will provide for our needs. Harvest-time is a season of thankfulness, where we acknowledge God's faithfulness.



REFLECTIONS

Are there areas of your life where you have been seeking provision or comfort more than God's reign and righteousness?

How do you respond when God's priorities challenge your personal plans or preferences?

How can you encourage others to seek the Kingdom first in their own harvest journey?



Romans 10:13–14

¹³ For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

¹⁴ But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?

As Christians, we are entrusted with a profound mission: to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. These verses remind us that salvation is available to all, but it hinges on our willingness to share the message of hope. Paul reminds us of two powerful truths here—first, the gospel is for everyone, and second, God uses us to carry it.

The mission of Christ didn’t end at the cross or the empty tomb. It continues today through the voices, lives, and love of His people. Our role as believers is not merely to enjoy the grace of God for ourselves but to be active participants in His redemptive plan.

Christ’s mission is not an optional add-on to the Christian life—it is the Christian life. We are not merely recipients of grace; we are carriers of it. In the workplace, at school, in our neighborhoods, online, distant lands—wherever our feet and resources can go, His mission goes with us.—many are longing for the truth, yet many have never heard it. How can they respond if we remain silent? Each day brings opportunities to demonstrate Christ’s love through our actions and words.

Whether it’s through sharing our testimonies, serving in our communities, or simply being a source of encouragement, we reflect Christ and His mission. Let us pray for boldness and clarity as we engage with those who need to hear the Gospel. May we be instruments of His peace, committed to proclaiming His love, so that every person may know the salvation that comes from calling on His name.

Together, let’s fulfill the great commission with passion and purpose, recognizing that we are on Christ’s mission every day.



REFLECTIONS

In what ways are you currently living as someone
“sent” by Christ?

What steps can you take to grow in confidence &
clarity as a messenger of Christ

How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to take the
next step in obedience today?





1 John 3:17

¹⁷ **If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God’s love be in that person?**

Christ’s mission wasn’t abstract—it was embodied. He didn’t just preach love; He became love in action. And now, as His followers, we’re called to do the same. 1 John 3:17 pierces through passive Christianity and calls us to a faith that moves, gives, and sacrifices. John reminds us that love in Christ is practical, not theoretical. It sees needs and acts. It hears cries and responds. It does not turn away because it’s inconvenient or uncomfortable.

Being intentional with Christ’s mission means we choose—every day—to align our actions, resources, and priorities with His heart for the lost and hurting. The gospel is both a message and a demonstration. When we meet needs in Jesus’ name, we open doors for hearts to hear the truth of His salvation.

Too often, mission is treated as a special event, a trip, or something *“the church”* organizes. But John’s challenge is deeply personal: when you see a need, what will you do? Will you walk past, or will you step in? Will you talk about God’s love, or will you embody it?

Intentional mission requires eyes that look for opportunities, hands that are ready to serve, and hearts that are willing to give. This is not about doing good for recognition—it’s about doing good because the love of God compels us.

Every intentional act of love—whether feeding the hungry, encouraging the discouraged, or sharing the gospel—becomes a seed planted in someone’s life that God can grow into salvation. Our mission is often accomplished in the simple, powerful act of unclenching our fists and opening our hands to a brother or sister in need wherever they are.



REFLECTIONS

How often do you pray for God to open your eyes to the needs around you?

What resources (**time, money, skills, relationships**) has God entrusted to you—and how are you using them for His mission?

How do you reconcile your faith with the social injustices you witness in the world, and what role can you play in promoting change?



Leviticus 19:9-10

⁹ "When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest.

¹⁰ Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the Lord your God."

In a culture driven by maximizing yield, God's command in Leviticus is radically countercultural. He tells His people: Don't harvest everything. Leave room. Make space. Let others benefit from your abundance.

This wasn't just agricultural—it was missional. God was shaping a community where compassion was built into the economy, where generosity wasn't optional, and where the poor and the outsider were dignified with access. Today, God's People are still called to leave room in the harvest. Whether it's our time, our resources, our influence, or our spiritual fruit—we're not meant to consume it all. We're meant to share it.

In the same way, the harvest God gives us today—whether it's our resources, time, talents, or even the spiritual fruit in our lives—is not meant to be hoarded. Christ's mission calls us to share what He has entrusted to us, especially with those who cannot repay us. This is Kingdom living: holding the blessings of God with open hands so others can experience His goodness.

This principle applies to the spiritual harvest as well. When God blesses our church with new believers, restored families, or answered prayers, we're called to make space for others—especially those who might feel like outsiders. The edges of our *"fields"* are the moments where we intentionally welcome, include, and serve.

The harvest God gives us—whether in ministry, relationships, or personal growth—isn't just for us. It's for the weary, the overlooked, the searching. When we leave margin, we create space for others to encounter God's love, mercy, and grace.





REFLECTIONS

Do you recognize your abundance as a gift meant to bless others, or do you tend to guard it for yourself?

Where might God be inviting you to leave space for the poor, the outsider, or the spiritually hungry?

Are you living as someone who reflects the heart of God in how you steward what you have been given?



NOTES



October 23

Isaiah 60:1

¹ **"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you."**

As the late summer sun hangs heavy in the sky, the world around us speaks of harvest. Fields that were once just turned earth are now full, laden with the promise of abundance. It is a season of culmination, a time to gather in the fruits of a long season of planting, waiting, and tending. It is a time of tangible results, where the quiet, unseen work of growth finally becomes visible for all to see.

In this season of reaping, the words of the prophet Isaiah resonate with a particular power. He speaks not to a field of corn or wheat, but to the hearts of God's people. His call is urgent and full of promise: **"Arise, shine."**

This is a harvest command. For a harvest to be brought in, someone must first arise. The farmer cannot gather the crops from his bed. He must rise before the sun, go out into the fields, and put his hand to the work. Spiritually, how often do we remain seated in seasons of waiting, passivity, or even discouragement? Isaiah's call is a loving shake of the shoulders. God is declaring that the time of waiting is over. The time for action has come. The blessings He has been cultivating in your life—the wisdom, the patience, the strength grown through trials—are ready. It is time to get up and gather them. But we are not just called to arise and gather for ourselves. We are called to shine. A harvest is a visible, undeniable testimony.

It proclaims the fertility of the soil and the faithfulness of the sun and rain. Our lives are meant to be the same kind of testimony. The reason we can shine is not because of our own inner brilliance, but because our **"light has come."** That light is the very **"glory of the LORD."**

In this season, God is calling His people to rise—not just physically, but spiritually. To rise in courage, in compassion, in conviction. Just as the sun's light is the essential ingredient that brings a crop to maturity, the glory of God is the essential ingredient for our spiritual fruit. We have soaked in His grace, been warmed by His love, and nourished by His Word. Now, the season has turned. It is time to reflect that light.



REFLECTIONS

How are you reflecting the light of Christ in your daily interactions?

What does “*arise*” look like in your current walk with Christ?

Where might God be calling you to “*shine*” more boldly or compassionately?





October 24

Ephesians 2:10

10

**For we are God's masterpiece.
He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can
do the good things he planned for us long ago.**

You are not random. You are not accidental. You are God's handiwork—His masterpiece, uniquely crafted with intention and care. Christ-like mission begins with this truth: before we do anything, we must know who we are. You were created in Christ Jesus not just to exist, but to do good works—works that God Himself prepared ahead of time.

This means your mission isn't something you invent; it's something you discover. It's already written into your spiritual DNA. Every relationship, every opportunity, every challenge is a potential doorway into the good works God has designed for you.

The Christ-like mission doesn't mean being busy—it means being aligned. It's living with eyes open to the Spirit's leading, ears tuned to the needs around you, and a heart ready to respond. Whether you're mentoring a young believer, leading a small group, or simply showing kindness in your neighborhood, you are walking in the works God prepared.

This Christ-like mission isn't just global—it's local. It's not just dramatic—it's daily. And it's not just for preachers or missionaries—it's for every believer who knows they've been created for something eternal.

Your Christ-like mission is not about adding another stressful "**to-do**" to your list. It's about opening your eyes to see what the Master Artist has already set before you. It's about walking in the confidence that you are His masterpiece, uniquely equipped and divinely positioned to bring His beauty, grace, and love to the world around you. You were designed for this.

As we go about our daily lives, we must ask ourselves: How can I contribute to Christ's mission today? Whether it's through a kind word, a helping hand, or sharing our testimony, each action can be a reflection of His glory.



Turn the page for reflections



REFLECTIONS

Do you truly see yourself as God’s handiwork—a masterpiece created with intention?

How does your identity in Christ shape the way you view your daily responsibilities and relationships?

What unique gifts, passions, or experiences has God woven into your life for His mission?





Jeremiah 29:11

11

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

There are few verses in Scripture as beloved and quoted as **Jeremiah 29:11**. We hold it close as a personal promise from God that He is in control, that His intentions toward us are good, and that our story is heading toward a hopeful conclusion. When God blesses us with a **"harvest"**—whether it's financial provision, spiritual growth, answered prayers, or opportunities—it's easy to see it as something meant only for our own benefit.

But **Jeremiah 29:11** reminds us that God's plans for us are never isolated; His blessings are part of a bigger story. God's plans to prosper you are also plans to position you—to be a blessing to others. The hope and future He gives you are meant to spill over, bringing hope and a future to the people around you. In the same way a farmer doesn't hoard his entire harvest but shares, sells, and plants seeds for others, we are called to let our abundance become someone else's blessing.

The **"prosperity"** God promises here is the Hebrew word *shalom*. It doesn't just mean wealth or comfort; it means wholeness, completeness, peace, and well-being. This is the true harvest God cultivates in our lives: a harvest of peace in the midst of chaos, a harvest of hope when despair is near, a harvest of security in His love. This is a beautiful and precious crop. But a harvest that is hoarded is a harvest that will spoil. The grain that is not shared or planted eventually rots in the silo.

God's plan to give you **"hope and a future"** is simultaneously His plan to make you an agent of hope and a builder of the future for others. The comfort you have received is the very comfort you are now equipped to give away. The hope that anchored you through a storm is the anchor you can now offer to someone else who is drifting. The provision you received in a time of need is the testimony and resource you can use to lift up another.





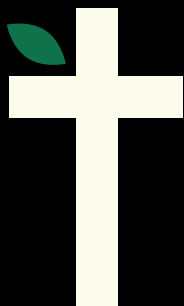
REFLECTIONS

What are you most thankful for in this season of harvest?

How have you shared your story, wisdom, or resources to encourage someone else's journey?

What specific step can you take this week to share your harvest with someone in need?



**Matthew 5:16**

16

..let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Jesus gives us this famous command right after telling us that we are the *"light of the world."* He doesn't say *"become the light"* or *"try to be the light."* He says you are the light. The switch has already been flipped by His grace in your life. The command, then, isn't about generating your own power but simply about letting that God-given light shine out.

How do we do that? The verse tells us plainly: through our *"good deeds."* And what are our good deeds if not the active use of the specific gifts and talents God has entrusted to us? Think of your talents—whether you're a meticulous planner, a compassionate listener, or a whiz with numbers—as the lens on a spotlight. The light itself is Christ in you. But the lens is what shapes that light and focuses it on the world. Without the lens, the light is just a bare, unfocused bulb. But when you apply your unique, God-given abilities, that light takes on a specific shape and purpose.

It becomes a focused beam that can illuminate a dark corner. Your gifts have a mission. That knack you have for fixing things isn't just a hobby; it's a way to serve a single parent or an elderly person in your church. That professional expertise you use every day at work isn't just for a paycheck; it's a platform to demonstrate integrity, excellence, and kindness in a way that makes people wonder what makes you different.

The mission, however, has a very specific goal. Notice the verse doesn't end with *"that they may see your good deeds and glorify you."* The entire purpose of shining is so that others might *"glorify your Father in heaven."* Our mission is to use our talents in such a way that the spotlight points away from us and directly toward God. It's the difference between people saying, *"Wow, you're so talented!"* and them saying, *"Wow, your life really shows the goodness of God."*

The beautiful thing about God's mission is that it doesn't require you to be someone else. It requires you to faithfully use what He's already given you. Just as a lamp fulfills its purpose by shining, you fulfill your calling by putting your God-given talents into action for His glory.



REFLECTIONS

What fears, insecurities, or distractions keep you from shining fully?

How can you better steward your abilities for Kingdom impact rather than personal gain?

How can you encourage others to discover and use their own gifts for Christ's mission?





October 27

John 10:27

27

**My sheep hear My voice, and I know them,
and they follow Me.**

Mission doesn't begin with movement—it begins with listening. In John 10:27, Jesus paints a picture of deep relational intimacy: sheep who recognize the Shepherd's voice, who are known by Him, and who respond by following. This is the foundation of every Christ-centered mission.

In a world filled with countless voices—the voice of anxiety, of ambition, of social media, of our own insecurities—learning to hear the Shepherd requires intention. Think of it like tuning an old-fashioned radio.

You have to patiently turn the dial, filtering out the static and the faint signals of other stations until you lock onto the clear frequency of the one you're looking for. We tune our hearts to hear God by spending time in His Word, in quiet prayer, and in fellowship with other believers. The more time we spend listening, the more familiar His voice becomes, and the easier it is to distinguish it from the noise.

Notice the crucial phrase nestled in the middle of this verse: **"I know them."** This is the foundation of our mission. We aren't following the directions of a distant, impersonal commander. We are following a Shepherd who knows us intimately. He knows your fears, your strengths, your past hurts, and your future potential. He knows exactly what you're facing. Because He knows you so completely, you can trust where He leads. He will never guide you into a situation He hasn't already equipped you to handle. This personal, intimate knowledge gives us the confidence to act.

For Christ's mission, obedience follows listening. Jesus doesn't just say, **"My sheep listen"**—He says, **"and they follow Me."** When He nudges you toward a conversation, an act of compassion, a step of faith, or even a major life change, following His lead ensures you're apart of His plan to reach the lost, heal the hurting, and bring light into darkness.

When we hear Him clearly, we don't just follow—we follow with confidence. We step into the good works He's prepared, the people He's placed around us, and the mission He's entrusted to us. His voice leads us not into busyness, but into purpose.

Finally, remember that hearing His voice is not just for personal comfort; it equips us for His mission. Each time we respond to His call, we are stepping into our purpose, manifesting His love in the world.



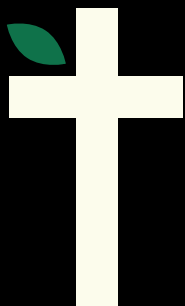
REFLECTIONS

Are you regularly creating space to hear God's voice in your daily life?

How have you responded to His voice in past seasons of mission or ministry?

What step of obedience is He inviting you to take right now?



**Luke 6:38**

Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.

Harvest season in God's kingdom works on a principle far greater than farming—it's the law of giving. In Luke 6:38, Jesus promises that generosity is never a one-way street. What you pour out in love, service, resources, or encouragement will return to you, multiplied by the hand of God. In a physical harvest, the farmer's yield reflects the amount and quality of the seed planted. Spiritually, the same is true: the measure you give is the measure you receive. And God's return is abundant—pressed down, shaken together, running over—so much so that it spills beyond your life into the lives of others.

This verse isn't merely about material provision. It's about the posture of the heart. When we give grace, time, forgiveness, mercy, and kindness with open hands, God responds with a harvest that overflows—not always in the way we expect, but always in the way we need.

Harvest season is a reminder not to hold back. Your gentleness, time, finances, and talents are seeds in God's field. The more you release, the more room you make for His overflowing provision. In God's economy, giving is not loss—it's the very act that ensures a richer harvest.

In Luke 6:38, Jesus invites us into a rhythm of generous living, where giving isn't just a duty—it's a doorway to divine abundance. As you give, remember the promise that God will measure back to you, overflowing with blessings. Let your generosity be a seed.

Let your faith be the soil. And let your life be a field where God's abundance is made visible. Embrace the joy of generosity, knowing that it is in giving that we truly experience the richness of life.



REFLECTIONS

What kind of “*measure*” are you using—scarce or abundant, hesitant or joyful?

In what ways can you increase the measure you use in giving—time, talents, or resources—during this harvest season?

Are you aligning your giving with Christ’s mission so that your harvest impacts eternity?





Psalms 100:4

⁴ **Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name.**

Harvest season is more than the gathering of fruit—it's the celebration of faithfulness. It's the moment we pause, look back, and recognize that every seed sown, every prayer lifted, and every act of obedience was met by the sustaining hand of God.

Psalm 100:4 invites us into a posture of worship—not just as a response to blessing, but as the gateway into God's presence. Thanksgiving is the key that opens the gate. Praise is the path that leads us deeper into His courts. In the context of harvest, this verse reminds us that gratitude isn't optional—it's essential.

This season, as you see the signs of the physical harvest around you, take a moment to consider your spiritual harvest. What blessings has God brought to fruition in your life this year? Perhaps it's a mended relationship, a challenge overcome, a prayer answered, or simply the quiet, steady provision that we so often take for granted.

Our approach to Our Good Father should not be not empty-handed, but with hearts overflowing in thanksgiving. Every good thing in our lives—whether it's a literal harvest from the soil, a spiritual harvest of souls, or answered prayers—is a reminder that God is the ultimate Provider.

When we see the blessings around us, the natural response should be worship. Gratitude turns our focus from what we have to Who gave it. And as we ***"enter His gates"*** during the harvest season, our thanksgiving becomes a seed itself—planting joy, peace, and faith for the seasons yet to come.

This harvest season, may we come with thankful hearts, celebrating the goodness of our Creator, who provides abundantly and sustains us through every season of life.

Amen.



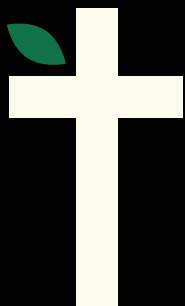
REFLECTIONS

How does gratitude shape your perspective on seasons of waiting, sowing, and reaping?

How can you use this harvest season to bless others and reflect God's heart?

How can you make worship a more intentional part of your daily rhythm?





October 30

John 20:21

²¹ Again he said, **"Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you."**

After His resurrection, Jesus didn't waste time. He appeared to His disciples, spoke peace into their hearts, and then immediately gave them their marching orders: ***"As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you."***

As Disciples of Christ, we don't drift through life—we move with divine direction. Jesus was sent with clarity, compassion, and conviction. He knew His assignment, walked in obedience, and lived for the Father's glory. Now, He sends us in the same way—not to replicate His miracles, but to reflect His heart. We are to be mission-led. We should recognize that we are not just saved from something, but saved for something. The same God who sent His Son into the world now sends us with His message, His compassion, and His authority.

Being mission-led means living every day with the awareness that our purpose is tied to His mission. It's not about waiting for the perfect moment or platform—it's about being ready to go where He sends, speak when He prompts, and love as He loves.

Mission-led living begins with peace. Jesus doesn't send us out with pressure or panic—He sends us with peace. That peace anchors us in identity and fuels us with courage. It reminds us that we're not leading the mission—He is. We're simply following His lead. Just as Jesus came with humility, truth, and grace, we are called to carry those same qualities into our neighborhoods, workplaces, and beyond. The harvest field is all around us, and the mission is clear: take the good news of Jesus to a world in need.

You've been sent. Not randomly, but intentionally. Not alone, but with the Spirit. Not to impress, but to impact.



REFLECTIONS

How does knowing you have been sent by Christ shape the way you approach your daily life?

Are you living and leading from a place of peace—or from pressure, anxiety, or comparison?

How do you discern the difference between good ideas and God's direction



Psalms 139:17-18

¹⁷ How precious are your thoughts about me,
O God. They cannot be numbered!

¹⁸ I can't even count them; they outnumber the
grains of sand! And when I wake up, you are
still with me!

The harvest season is a time of abundance—fields full, storehouses filling, tables prepared. But even in the richness of harvest, there is something greater than the grain: the thoughts of God toward us.

David says God's thoughts are so numerous they outnumber the grains of sand. Imagine walking through a harvest field, running your hand through kernels of wheat or seeds of corn, and realizing—each tiny grain is a reminder that God's care and plans for you are countless. His *"harvest"* of thoughts toward you is never-ending.

At harvest-time, we see in the physical world what is true in the spiritual—God is not stingy. He lavishes grace. He overflows with provision. He fills our lives not only with blessings we can hold, but with His constant presence and purpose.

And the final line offers the greatest comfort: *"...when I awake, you are still with me."* The farmer wakes, and the harvest is still there, waiting to be gathered. The provision hasn't vanished overnight. In the same way, we wake each morning to the unfailing reality of God's presence. His loving, precious thoughts toward us didn't end when we fell asleep. They are a constant, steady stream of grace, as reliable as the morning sun.

This harvest season, let's do more than just thank God for the whole crop of our blessings. Let's pick up a single *"grain"* of grace, a specific moment of His goodness, and marvel at it. Let's recognize it as a precious thought from our Creator, and then let the overwhelming, uncountable sum of His thoughts fill us with awe.

As we celebrate the harvest, let us also celebrate that the One who gives the seed and the rain is thinking of us, guiding us, and bringing about a harvest of His goodness in our lives that will last into eternity.



REFLECTIONS

What spiritual fruit or growth are you experiencing that reflects His faithful guidance?

How can you become more aware of His nearness in both fruitful and quiet seasons?

How can you express gratitude for God's thoughts and presence in tangible ways?



NOTES

James 5:7

Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains.

Harvest doesn't happen overnight. It's the result of hidden labor, unseen growth, and faithful waiting. In **James 5:7**, we're invited to adopt the posture of a farmer—one who sows in hope, waters with trust, and waits with patience.

Farmers know a truth we often forget—there's no shortcut to a harvest. You can plant the seed, water the soil, and protect the field, but the growth is in God's hands.

James teaches us to be patient like the farmer, trusting that the Lord is faithful to bring the **"valuable crop"** in the right season. In the spiritual life, we sometimes plant seeds—acts of kindness, prayers for others, sharing God's Word—and expect an instant harvest. But just as a farmer doesn't dig up the seed to see if it's growing, we are called to wait in faith, trusting God's timing.

Patience in the harvest means:

- ***Trusting God's process even when you can't see progress.***
- ***Relying on His provision for the "rains" you can't produce yourself.***
- ***Keeping hope alive because the Lord of the harvest never forgets a seed sown in His name.***

The wait isn't wasted—it's where faith matures, character deepens, and God prepares us to handle the abundance when it comes. As we await God's promises in our lives, let us remember that every moment spent in waiting is not wasted. It refines us, shapes us, and prepares us to receive the blessings He has in store. Let us cultivate patience, trusting that God is at work, even in the unseen. He's growing us. The waiting shapes our character, deepens our dependence, and prepares us to steward the harvest well.



REFLECTIONS

How do you respond when growth feels slow or invisible?

What is God teaching you about Himself in this season of patience?

What truths from **James 5:7** can you share to help someone stay faithful in their season?





Psalms 96:3

3

**Declare his glory among the nations,
His marvelous deeds among all peoples.**

Supporting missions isn't just about finances or logistics—it's about aligning our hearts with God's. Whether we go, send, pray, or equip, we are part of the movement to make His name known. Every act of support becomes a declaration: *"Jesus is worthy of worship everywhere."*

You may not be called to cross oceans, but you are called to cross barriers—of comfort, culture, and convenience—to help others encounter Christ. Supporting missions means we see beyond our own walls and invest in the eternal work of reaching the unreached.

When we support missions, we're not just helping others—we're joining God. We become part of His story, His strategy, and His song of redemption echoing across the earth.

How can we support Oak Gardens Mission Ministry?

By Praying: We can travel the world on our knees, interceding for the gospel to break through spiritual darkness. Prayer is the unseen spiritual fuel for every mission both locally & globally.

By Giving: Our financial gifts are a tangible extension of our hearts. When we give provide the resources that are needed for the gospel to reach God's intended audience. It is a direct investment in the declaration of His marvelous deeds.

The work of missions is not a side project of the church; it is central to our purpose. God's glory is too magnificent and His deeds too marvelous to be kept a secret. Let us reflect on how we can be active participants in this divine mission. May we be inspired to contribute not just with our finances, but also through our time, talents, and prayers. In doing so, we join in a chorus that echoes throughout the world, declaring the glory of God to every corner of the earth.



REFLECTIONS

What does it mean for you to “**declare His glory among the nations,**” and how can you live that out?

How will you align your heart to be apart of the Missions Movement?

What personal skills or resources do you have that could contribute to mission efforts?



Psalms 126:5–6

⁵ Those who plant in tears will harvest
with shouts of joy.

⁶ They weep as they go to plant their seed, but
they sing as they return with the harvest.

A farmer takes his purchased seeds and cast it onto the ground, burying it in the dirt. He would do this with no absolute guarantee of rain or a successful crop. It was hard, uncertain work, done in hope. This is the powerful image the psalmist gives us for a deep spiritual truth.

The "**sowing**" in our lives often feels like this. It is the difficult, sometimes heartbreaking, work of faithfulness. It is praying for a wayward child, year after year, with tears of sorrow. It is sharing your faith with a coworker, only to be met with rejection or ridicule. It is choosing integrity when it costs you dearly. This is the work of "**carrying seed to sow**," and the psalmist acknowledges that it is often done while "**weeping**." Our tears are not a sign of failure or a lack of faith. They are often the very water that softens the soil of a hard heart or a difficult situation. God sees every tear shed in the act of faithful sowing. He honors the sacrifice of planting seeds of love, truth, and grace, even when we have no immediate evidence that they will ever sprout.

And here is the unshakable promise: the harvest is coming. The season of sowing in sorrow will give way to a season of reaping in celebration. The one who went out with a heavy heart will "**return with songs of joy**." The promise is not just for a harvest, but for a harvest so abundant that it must be carried home in bundles overflowing with blessing. The joy of the harvest will eclipse the memory of the tears it took to produce it.

This is not a shallow optimism. It's a deep-rooted hope in the character of God. The one who sows in tears is not forgotten. Every seed matters. Every tear waters the soil. And in God's timing, the harvest will come—not just with fruit, but with shouts of joy. Embrace the promise that joy is on the horizon. Trust in the Lord's timing, for He is faithful to fulfill His promises.



REFLECTIONS

What are some areas in your life where you've been sowing faithfully, yet with tears or discouragement?

What helps you stay rooted in hope when the results are delayed or unseen?

How might God be inviting you to celebrate—even before the harvest arrives?





November 4

Proverbs 16:9

⁹ **We can make our plans,
but the Lord determines our steps.**

As the season of harvest approaches, we see the culmination of a year's worth of labor. A farmer does not simply wander into a field in autumn and hope for the best. The harvest is a result of meticulous planning that began months, or even a year, prior.

In the quiet of winter, the farmer plans. Which fields will be planted with corn? Which with soybeans? They study soil reports, purchase seeds, and map out their strategy for the coming year. When spring arrives, they till the soil, sow the seeds, and begin the arduous work of tending the fields. They plan their course with all the wisdom and foresight they can muster. This is the first half of our verse: ***"We can make our plans..."***

But **Proverbs 16:9** gently reminds us: while we may chart the course, ***"...but the LORD determines our steps."*** This truth is both humbling and liberating. The harvest is not ours to manufacture. It is God's to bring forth. Our role is to sow faithfully, water diligently, and trust deeply. When we release control and lean into God's leading, we begin to see that the most fruitful harvests often come through unexpected paths. A conversation we didn't plan. A person we didn't expect. A moment we didn't orchestrate. Yet in each, God is establishing steps toward His greater purpose.

The harvest season reminds us to hold our plans with an open hand. We should plan with wisdom, work with diligence, and pour our hearts into the ***"fields"*** of our lives. But we must also surrender the outcome to the Lord of the Harvest. He is the one who truly knows the soil of our hearts, the climate of our circumstances, and the eternal fruit He desires to produce through us.

Our greatest harvest will not come from a perfectly executed plan, but from a surrendered walk with the One who establishes our every step.



REFLECTIONS

What ***"fields"*** in your life are you currently planning and planting for?

In what area of your life do you need to trust God more with the ***"weather"***—the circumstances outside of your control?

Can you look back and see a time when God redirected your plans toward an unexpected but good harvest?



NOTES

Acts 1:8

⁹ **But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”**

These were among the final, powerful words Jesus spoke to His disciples before ascending into heaven. This wasn't just a suggestion; it was a promise and a commission. It laid out the blueprint for how the good news of Jesus would spread from a small group of followers in one city to every corner of the globe.

Jesus described a powerful ripple effect, starting where they were and expanding outward:

- **Jerusalem:** Your home, your neighborhood, your city.
- **Judea:** Your region, your state, your country.
- **Samaria:** The nearby cultures, the people just across the tracks you might normally avoid.
- **The ends of the earth:** Every nation, tribe, and tongue on the planet.

The entire mission Jesus outlined is dependent on the power of the Holy Spirit. That power isn't reserved just for the person who physically goes on mission. That same power is given to the person who prays for them, the person who gives, and the person who encourages.

Let us not underestimate the power of our support in mission work. When we are obedient to this call, we tap into the Holy Spirit's power, becoming instruments of change, hope, and salvation. Pray for ways to be involved, for the strength to act, and for the courage to witness boldly. Mission work is not reserved for the few—it's the responsibility of the entire Oak Gardens Church. And the Holy Spirit equips each of us to play our part.

Together, we can fulfill Christ's great commission.



REFLECTIONS

How often do you pray for the spread of the gospel—locally and globally? What might help you grow in this area?

Do you see your role in supporting missions as vital to God’s plan?

Consider one specific way you can step up your support: Is it through more focused prayer, consistent giving, or sending a personal message of encouragement to the missions that Oak Gardens support?





November 6

John 4:38

38

**I sent you to harvest where you didn't plant;
others had already done the work, and now
you will get to gather the harvest."**

This verse reminds us that harvesting is a shared mission. We are not the sole laborers—we are part of a divine relay. Some sow with tears, others water with prayer, and still others reap with joy. The beauty is that God invites us into a harvest we didn't initiate, yet we get to participate in its fruit.

Have you ever experienced a moment where you received grace, kindness, or a blessing that you know you didn't earn? These instances remind us that our spiritual lives are profoundly interconnected. We stand on the shoulders of those who have labored in prayer, service, and love. In our churches, neighborhoods, and relationships, there are seeds planted by faithful saints—mentors, parents, and friends. Some labored in obscurity, some in hardship. Now, we are called to step in—not with pride, but with thankfulness and urgency.

Reaping where we haven't planted should stir both gratitude and humility. Gratitude for those who have labored before us—and whose prayers paved the way. Humility, because we are part of a much larger story that God Himself orchestrates. In God's kingdom, the work of sowing and reaping is often shared across generations and locations. Some faithfully sow seeds of the gospel through prayer, service, and testimony, never seeing the final results. Others step in later to witness the fruit and gather it into God's storehouse.

We are not the first workers in the field, and we will not be the last. Today we may be reaping, tomorrow we may be sowing for someone else's harvest. Either way, the joy is the same—it all belongs to the Lord of the Harvest.

Let us also cultivate a heart of gratitude for the blessings we've received without toil. Acknowledge the unseen laborers who have paved the way for your faith and growth.



REFLECTIONS

Who in your life sowed seeds of faith that you are now seeing bear fruit?

What might it look like for you to *“reap”* today—not just in words, but in action?

Are you willing to sow faithfully, even if you never get to reap?



Matthew 25:37–40

37

"Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink?

**38 Or a stranger and show you hospitality?
Or naked and give you clothing?**

**39 When did we ever see you sick or in
prison and visit you?**

40

**"And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the
least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'**

Jesus doesn't separate mission from compassion. In this passage, He reveals that every act of mercy—feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, visiting the imprisoned—is not just humanitarian; it's deeply spiritual. It's missional.

Supporting missions isn't only about sending people across borders. It's about seeing Christ in the overlooked, the marginalized, the forgotten. When we give, go, or pray for missions, we're not just helping people—we're ministering to Jesus Himself.

This passage reframes our understanding of mission work. It's not reserved for the "called few." It's the daily invitation to embody Christ's love wherever brokenness exists. Whether we're packing meals, funding a missionary, mentoring a refugee, or praying for unreached tribes—we're participating in the heartbeat of God.

Supporting missions is one of the most direct ways we can fulfill the command of **Matthew 25**. It is a beautiful opportunity to look beyond our own world and see the face of Jesus in the faces of people everywhere.

Let us commit ourselves to serve those around us, ensuring that our support for missions reflects the heart of Jesus. When we care for "the least of these," we are serving Him directly. Today, ask God to open your eyes to the needs around you and give you the courage to respond. In supporting missions, we not only share God's love but also grow in our own faith, becoming His hands and feet in the world.



REFLECTIONS

Do you believe that serving the poor, the sick, the imprisoned, and the stranger is serving Christ Himself?
How does that belief shape your actions?

In what ways have you supported missions in the past year? (*prayer, giving, going, encouraging*)
What motivated you?

If Jesus were to ask you today, “*What did you do for Me?*”
How would you respond?





Heavenly Father, We thank You for the rich truths You have revealed through these devotions. **You are the Lord of the Harvest,** and it is by Your grace that the fields are ripe and the **Mission** is clear. Today, we stand as Your workers—ready to sow, willing to reap, and eager to serve in every place You send us.

Lord, may the seeds planted through these reflections grow deep roots in our hearts. Strengthen our hands for the work ahead. Give us eyes to see the needs around us, hearts that overflow with compassion, and voices that boldly proclaim Your Gospel to every nation, neighbor, and generation.

We commit Oak Gardens Church into Your hands—make us a beacon of light, a place of refuge, and a sending ground for the **Mission of Christ**. May every act of service, every word spoken in love, and every gift given be for Your glory and for the salvation of souls. As we go forth, let Your Spirit guide us, Your joy sustain us, and Your promise of an **Abundant Harvest** keep us pressing on until the day we see You face to face. In the mighty name of Jesus Christ, Our Savior and Lord, we pray.

Amen.

Oak Gardens Church Staff

DOING
LIFE
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