

**2025 EDITION**



Mission  
Awareness  
Outreach



**AHAVA  
RETREAT**  
Persisting in the  
Gospel of Christ

# AHAVA RETREAT 2025

**Persisting in the  
Gospel of Christ**

# The Lord His Harvest & The Labourers



*And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."*

**Mat 9:27-29,35-38**

# A The Nature of Harvest

The harvest, especially in these our times, are the multitudes which we see across the nations - cities & villages. Jesus was clear as pertaining to where to labour and reap the harvest - cities and villages. So much has been done concerning the urban harvest, but rural harvest is getting rotten and lost. We must rediscover the passion for a wholistic approach to the harvest which God has called us to labour.

Like Jesus said, the people of the world, the harvest we are to reap are made up people who are being:

- Harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd (ESV)
- Their problems were so great and they didn't know where to go for help (TNLT)
- Confused and aimless (Message)

Like sheep without shepherd.

It doesn't matter the qualification, status, gender, colour of the crowds, they all fall in the above categories. Many are being harassed by the devil, many are with overwhelming problems, many are confused and aimless, lost like sheep without shepherd. This is because the spirit that works within them is a spirit of rebellion and disobedience, that leads astray (Eph 2: 1 - 3). They are under the bondage of Spirits, who are not shepherds that lead their sheep to pasture, they are thieves and hirelings that only wants to kill and destroy (John 10:10). Jesus wants to shepherd them,

these are His sheep, He wants them in His fold, therefore, He needs under-shepherds, labourers with the same compassion to be sent into this harvest.

## **B** The Entities of the Harvest

God in His mercy, throughout scripture, gave us the various entities of the harvest, and the specific roles they play in bringing the fruits of the harvest in. Technically we have the following entities of the Harvest:

### **1** The Lord of the Harvest

The Lord of the Harvest is also known as the Husbandman, and this is God the Father. He is one we should pray to for labourers to be sent in to the harvest. He is the owner of the harvest, and he waits patiently for the fruits of the harvest - sons. The husbandman planted the first seed - His Son, Christ Jesus, and out of Him came a vine (John 15:1). From this one tree - vine, many branches will come forth, and the husbandman expects fruits from them. Therefore He prunes the branches, he waters the vine with rain - the Holy Ghost (James 5:7), having long patience to receive his precious fruits - sons. He must partake of His fruits, for He is the foremost and chief labourer (2 Tim 2:6).

## 2 The Labourers of the Harvest

They are those who labour to plant, grow and mature the harvest into fruits. Jesus was the the First Seed (John 12: 24) as well as and the First fruit (1 Cor 15: 20) and the first Labourer (John 17: 18; 20: 21 - 23). Every labourer who will be sent into the harvest must go through the process of being a seed planted, nurtured to grow, become a fruit bearing branch, then finally out of his stock, new branches will grow, that is he will labour to breakforth new branches. This what makes true labourers so few. Many don't go through the complete process.

Therefore, Jesus here asked us to earnestly pray for labourers to be sent, for a sent one must be the one that came by earnest prayer, for earnest prayer ensures that the process of their calling and sending is complete as ensured by the Lord of the Harvest. The Lord's Harvest today is not be reaped because there are still few sent ones. Like Paul analyzed in Romans 10: 14, 15, the burden of people calling on God and believing on Him largely rest on the fact that the preacher was sent!

## 3 The Pruning Instrument

Without fail, in John 15, Jesus introduced the Husbandman's instrument of pruning - The Holy Ghost. He is the helper of the labourers, their pruner. By His help, our foremost seed, fruit and labourer - Jesus Christ could go through the whole process, and set the order for us to follow. He will prune us by teaching and guidance (John

15: 26; 16: 13), by empowering us (Acts 1: 8). Many things He is to us as revealed in Acts of the Apostles & the Epistles.

## **4 The Reapers**

They are those who come in to reap the fruits into band of the Husbandman. They are Angels of God (Matthew 13: 39; Heb 1:14). They help in bringing in the harvest, they are important in the economy of the Harvest system. They provide many assistance to labourers.



# C The Work of the Labourers

The scripture clearly spelt out the work of the labourers as seen in the life of the foremost labourer here:

*And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.*

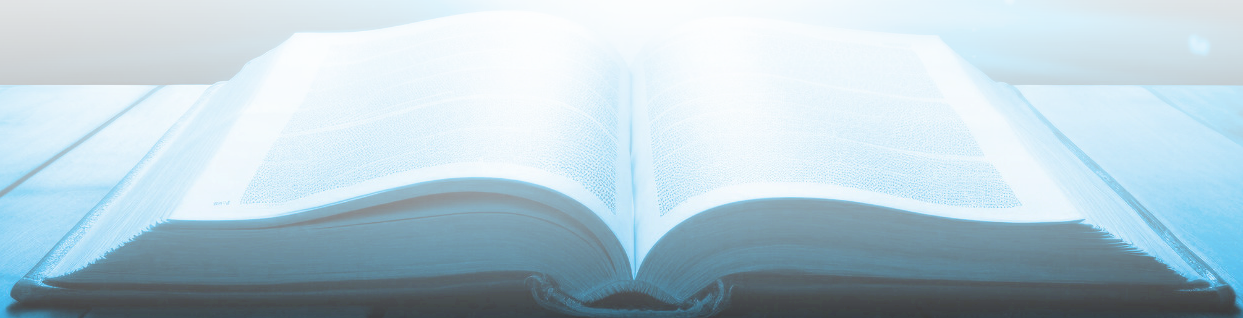
Therefore, our work as labourer is as follows:

## 1 Teaching

A labourer must be first and foremost be a teacher of the Word. In the life of Jesus, as well as in the life of Paul, they always started their ministry in the "synagogues". The synagogue was the place you would find practicing Jews. In our context, it is the gathering of believers. The true labourer must be trained to labour first in the teaching of the Word among believers. Within the community of believers and the local church, he is properly taught the gospel, and trained in the ministry of it. This is the order handed to us by the Holy Spirit himself as seen in Acts 11 - 13 at the Church at Antioch. When Barnabas brought Paul to Antioch, they stayed there for more than a year teaching among the believers. The result was evident, the believers were called 'Christians'; for by teaching, the stature of Christ was built in them. Then, in Acts 13, the Holy Spirit was satisfied for them to be sent out as labourers.

When a labourer has been trained in the teaching of the Word, then he can be sent out as a preacher of the gospel - the gospel of the Kingdom. For it is by the preaching of the Gospel that souls are won into the Kingdom, the preaching of the Gospel brings in the harvest. What does the Gospel of the Kingdom entails - it is the gospel of repentance towards God and faith in Christ Jesus (Acts 20:21), it is the gospel of the grace of God (Acts 20:24), it is the gospel of God concerning His Son - Jesus (Rom 1:1 - 4), it is the Gospel of Christ (Rom 1:16), it is salvation that came by the death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Christ (1 Corinthians 15: 1 - 3), etc. This is the gospel the labourer must be well taught in, in all its ramifications, so that he can preach the same. Any other thing does not regenerate men.

The harvest is only reaped when men believe in the Gospel, and simple basis of the gospel is that we were all sinners, and through the mercy of God, we were saved, regenerated and renew by the Holy Spirit which came by the sacrifice of Jesus (Titus 3: 1 - 7).



## Healing every Disease and every Affliction

Through the operations of the Holy Spirit, a labourer is endued with the power, anointing and giftings to bring healing and deliverance to the people. The gospel is never complete without this key aspect. Healing of diseases and affliction will always follow the proper teaching of the gospel. This aspect of the work of a labourer is the confirmation and approval stamp God places on his labour - Acts 2: 22; Hebrews 2: 3, 4. Paul in describing his ministry among the gentiles said he had fully preached the gospel by Word and by Signs, Wonders & Miracles - Romans 15: 17 - 19. Therefore, ministry is not truly fulfilled without this aspect. The labourer must contend for results in this area.

## **D** The Requirement of The Labourers

Any labourer that will be sent into harvest, aside from other major qualifications, the primary virtue God is looking for in his labourers is what Jesus displayed here: Compassion. Compassion is virtue to be moved with so much kindness, tenderness and mercy towards another person with an issue, that causes you to provide a solution to their problem. This is different from pity, sympathy and empathy. All these are good, and are elevated above compassion in our world today. And this is a deception of

the enemy, for it only provides temporal solutions to the helplessness of man. But compassion births a burden to bring the solution of the gospel into that situation.

Compassion as understood by the biblical Jews is having Bowels of Mercy - that within you is a seat of tenderer affections, especially kindness, all coming from the heart - Philippians 1:8; 2: 1; Colossians 3:12; 1 John 3: 17.

## Action Points

1. Pray the Lord of the Harvest for more Labourers.
2. Seek to become a better labourer.





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*I sent you to reap that for which you have not  
labored; others have labored, and you have  
entered into their labors. John 4:38*