

Week 13
86/279

Transforming Daily
“... *the Lord of the harvest* ...”
Matthew 9:38

I've been in many churches for various reasons through the last 36 years, and I've only experienced revival fires in a couple of them. The reason is uncertain to me, but I think it has something to do with the fervency of prayer on behalf of those involved in the ministry of the churches, respectively. Contrary to popular belief, there is no formula to bring revival about. It is the sovereign act of God. However, history seems to indicate that prayer is inextricably fashioned into the experience.

It might very well be the case that many churches aren't experiencing revival because individuals in those churches aren't disciplined in their praying. Prayer in the last two or three decades seems to have been relegated to personal interest and material prosperity. Again, whereas there is no formula for revival, prayerful interest for a lost and dying world has always been evident when and where revivals, renewals and awakenings occurred or are occurring. There is nothing wrong with praying for physical, financial and family needs or even wants, but the priority of prayer first and foremost ought to be for evangelizing the lost and rededication of the backslidden.

The passage in Matthew underscores this very sentiment. The purpose of Christ's first coming was and still is to seek and save that which is lost. It seems that if it's that important to God (John 3:16), His son, Christ Jesus (Luke 22:42, Matthew 28:18-20), and the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8), it should be that important to His children. The issue isn't that there aren't any souls to be won. The issue is the prayerful interest among God's children to witness to them. An old axiom regarding the believer's part in soul winning is to “share Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and leave the results up to God.”

In comparison, how much time do you spend praying for the lost as for your own personal gain regarding physical healing, financial help and family hurts and hurdles? Do you have a current list of those whom you live with, work with, go to school with, have recreation with that do not profess Christ or are presently backslidden? Keep in mind this discipline is an ongoing development of your spiritual walk with God. We have to train ourselves to regularly review our priorities and spiritual disciplines in ministry. The laborers truly are few and the fields for ministry are plentiful. Let us pray to the Lord of (and for) the harvest.