

Discerning the Body

John 6:56-58 ESV

⁵⁶ Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.

⁵⁷ As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me.

⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.”



Discerning the Blood

Acts 20:28 TPT

28 So guard your hearts. Be true shepherds over all the flock and feed them well. Remember, it was the Holy Spirit who appointed you to guard and oversee the churches that belong to Jesus, the Anointed One, which he purchased and established by his own blood.



The Laborers Are Few – A Reminder To Mobilize Every Believer

Matthew 9:35–38 NKJV

³⁵ Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

³⁶ But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

³⁷ Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly *is* plentiful, but the laborers *are* few.

³⁸ Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”

Why Are The Laborers Few?

- Indifference
- Ignorance
- Lukewarm
- Defiance
- Insurgence
- Resistance
- Stumbling blocks
- Lack of love
- Not qualified
- Inability to commit to salvation in Christ Jesus
- Wishy-washy
- Lack of zeal
- Inability to submit
- Unwillingness to suffer for Christ
- Status
- Lusts
- Laziness
- Lack of faith

Why Are The Laborers Few? – Examine Yourself

- **Deuteronomy 6:5 NKJV**⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.
- **John 14:15 ESV**¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.
- **1 Corinthians 16:22 MEV**²² If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. Come, O Lord!
- **Psalms 119:1-2 MEV**¹ Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD. ² Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, and who seek Him with all their heart.

Why Are The Laborers Few? – Examine Yourself

- **Proverbs 3:5-6 MEV** ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths.
- **Jeremiah 29:12-13 NASB** ¹² Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ And you will seek Me and find *Me* when you search for Me with all your heart.
- **Joel 2:12-13 ESV** ¹² “Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³ and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

Why Are The Laborers Few? – Examine Yourself

- **Romans 10:1-3 EHV** ² Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God on behalf of the Israelites is **that they may be saved.** ² Indeed, I testify about them that **they have a zeal for God,** but it is not consistent with knowledge. ³ Since they were ignorant of the righteousness from God and sought to establish their own righteousness, they did not submit to the righteousness from God.
- **Romans 12:10-12 EHV** ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another with brotherly love. **Think of others as deserving more honor than yourselves.** ¹¹ Do not be lagging behind in zeal, but be fervent in spirit, as you continue to serve the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope. Endure trials patiently. Persist in prayer.

Why Are The Laborers Few? – Examine Yourself

Luke 12:49-50 TPT

- ⁴⁹ “I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already ablaze with *fiery passion for God!*
- ⁵⁰ But first I must be immersed into the baptism *of God's judgment*, and I am consumed with passion as I await its fulfillment.

Revelation 3:6 EHV ⁶ Whoever has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Why Are The Laborers Few? – Because You Are An Observer

Acts 2:42-43, 47 TPT

- ⁴² Every believer was faithfully devoted to following the teachings of the apostles. Their hearts were mutually linked to one another, sharing communion and coming together regularly for prayer.
- ⁴³ A deep sense of holy awe swept over everyone, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders.
- ⁴⁷ They were continually filled with praises to God, enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord kept adding to their number daily those who were coming to life.

Why Are The Laborers Few? – Because You Want Others To Do Your Work For You

Ephesians 4:11-13, 14-16 TPT

- ¹¹ And he has appointed some *with grace* to be apostles, and some *with grace* to be prophets, and some *with grace* to be evangelists, and some *with grace* to be pastors, and some *with grace* to be teachers.
- ¹² And their calling is to nurture and prepare all the holy believers to do their own works of ministry, and as they do this they will enlarge and build up the body of Christ.
- ¹³ *These grace ministries will function until we all* attain oneness into the faith, *until we all* experience the fullness of what it means to know the Son of God, and finally *we* become one into a perfect man with the full dimensions of spiritual maturity and fully developed into the abundance of Christ.

Why Are The Laborers Few? – Because You Want Others To Do Your Work For You

• Ephesians 4:14-16 TPT

- ¹⁴ And then **our immaturity will end!** And we will **not be easily shaken by trouble**, nor led astray by novel teachings or by the false doctrines of **deceivers who teach clever lies.**
- ¹⁵ But instead we will remain strong and always sincere in our love as we express the truth. ***All our direction and ministries will flow from Christ*** and lead us deeper into him, the anointed Head of his body, the church.
- ¹⁶ For his “body” *has been formed in his image* and is closely joined together and constantly connected as one. ***And every member has been given divine gifts to contribute to the growth of all;*** and as *these gifts* operate effectively throughout the whole body, we are built up and made perfect in love.

Why Are The Laborers Few? – Because You Prefer Milk Over Solid Food

- **Hebrews 5:11-13 TPT**

- ¹¹ We have much to say about this topic although it is difficult to explain, because you have become too dull and sluggish to understand.

- ¹² For **you should already be professors instructing others by now**; but instead, you need to be taught from the beginning the basics of God's prophetic oracles! **You're like children still needing milk and not yet ready to digest solid food.**

- ¹³ For every spiritual infant who lives on milk is **not yet pierced by the revelation of righteousness.**

The Laborers Are Few – TOMS Wants To Mobilize You

- The Outgivers Ministries
- Motto – Growth, Excellence, Prevail
- Not a casual attachment to religious activities
- Structured to equip laborers to equip other ministries
- Members consider GDP as their primary place of spiritual nourishment
- Where is your primary place of spiritual nourishment?
- Every sheep needs a shepherd – who's your pastor
- Tell us about your calling and get trained
- Show us your disciples

The Laborers Are Few – Mobilize Every Believer

Matthew 9:35-38 TPT

- ³⁵ Jesus walked throughout the region with the joyful message of God's kingdom realm. He taught in their meeting houses, and wherever he went he demonstrated God's power by healing every kind of disease and illness.
- ³⁶ When he saw the vast crowds of people, Jesus' heart was deeply moved with compassion, because they seemed weary and helpless, like wandering sheep without a shepherd.
- ³⁷ He turned to his disciples and said, "The harvest is huge and ripe! But there are not enough harvesters to bring it all in."
- ³⁸ As you go, plead with the Owner of the Harvest to thrust out many more reapers to harvest his grain!"

The Laborers Are Few – Mobilize Every Believer

Matthew 10:1-4, 7-8 TPT

¹ Jesus gathered his twelve disciples and imparted to them authority to cast out demons and to heal every sickness and every disease.

² Now, these are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, who is nicknamed Peter, and Andrew, his brother. And then Jacob and John, sons of Zebedee.

³ Next were Phillip and Bartholomew; then Thomas and Matthew, the tax collector; Jacob the son of Alphaeus; Thaddeus;

⁴ Simon, the former member of the Zealot party, and Judas the locksmith, who eventually betrayed Jesus.

The Laborers Are Few – Mobilize Every Believer

Matthew 10:7-8 TPT

- ⁷ And as you go, preach this message: 'Heaven's kingdom realm is accessible, close enough to touch.'
- ⁸ You must continually bring healing to lepers and to those who are sick, and make it your habit to break off the demonic presence from people, and raise the dead back to life. Freely you have received *the power of the kingdom*, so freely release it to others.

God's Plan To Mobilize Every Believer For Recruitment

God lays out His plan to recruit laborers for the harvest in Acts 1:8 as follows:

- **TPT** ⁸ But I promise you this—the Holy Spirit will come upon you, and you will be seized with power. You will be my messengers to Jerusalem, throughout Judea, the distant provinces—even to the remotest places on earth!”
- **AMPC** ⁸ But you shall receive power (ability, efficiency, and might) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the ends (the very bounds) of the earth.
- **KJV** ⁸ But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

God's Promises To Every Believer Who Labors For The Kingdom

Five divine promises of Presence, Protection, Provision, Peace, and Power to you from Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Acts

God's Presence – Matthew 28:19-20 EHV

- ¹⁹ Therefore go and gather disciples from all nations by baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
- ²⁰ and by teaching them to keep all the instructions I have given you. **And surely I am with you always until the end of the age."**

God's Promises To Every Believer Who Labors For The Kingdom

Five divine promises of Presence, Protection, Provision, Peace, and Power to you from Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Acts

God's Protection – Mark 16:15-18 EHV

- ¹⁵ He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. ¹⁶ Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.
- ¹⁷ “These signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons. They will speak in new languages. ¹⁸ They will pick up snakes. **And if they drink any deadly poison, it will not harm them.** They will lay their hands on the sick, and they will get well.”

God's Promises To Every Believer Who Labors For The Kingdom

Five divine promises of Presence, Protection, Provision, Peace, and Power to you from Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Acts

God's Provision – Luke 24:45-49 EHV

- ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He said to them, “This is what is written and so it must be: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ Look, I am sending you what my Father promised. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

God's Promises To Every Believer Who Labors For The Kingdom

Five divine promises of Presence, Protection, Provision, Peace, and Power to you from Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Acts

God's Peace - John 20:19-21 EHV

- ¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were together behind locked doors because of their fear of the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, "Peace be with you!"
- ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
- ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you! Just as the Father has sent me, I am also sending you."

God's Promises To Every Believer Who Labors For The Kingdom

Five divine promises of Presence, Protection, Provision, Peace, and Power to you from Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Acts

God's Power - Acts 1:8 EHV

- ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Conclusion – Be Ye Rekindled by Acts 1:8

- **Personnel** – ‘But you’ serves as an open invitation to all believers (Acts 10:34)
- **Promise** – ‘But you shall receive’ (Ephesians 5:18)
- **Power** – ‘But you shall receive power’ (John 20:22)
- **Partnership** with the Holy Spirit – ‘But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you,’ (John 16:13)
- **Plan** of activities – ‘But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses (Acts 4:20, John 9:25)
- **Places** – ‘But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and to the remotest places on earth.

- Call or email using the information below to schedule an appointment to speak with any of the leaders.

- ▶ Website: www.toms-lifestyle.org
- ▶ YouTube Page: The Outgivers Ministries (TOMS)
- ▶ Blog: www.outgivers.blogspot.com
- ▶ Facebook page: www.facebook.com/aboundinchrist
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