

2022 Theme  
My faith, His Spirit, A Great Harvest

*Luke 10:2 Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great [abundant], but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.*

I. Introduction

1. The Lord has called the church, our church, to be an answer to the prayer of our community. There are desperate souls who feel smitten by life, are desperate, dwelling in darkness, and without hope.

2. Some of them have gotten desperate enough to realize they need God and have cried out to Him in prayer:

*Ps 143:1-7*

*1 Hear my prayer, O LORD, give ear to my supplications: in thy faithfulness answer me, and in thy righteousness.*

*2 And enter not into judgment with thy servant: for in thy sight shall no man living be justified.*

*3 For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath smitten my life down to the ground; he hath made me to dwell in darkness, as those that have been long dead.*

*4 Therefore is my spirit overwhelmed within me; my heart within me is desolate.*

*5 I remember the days of old; I meditate on all thy works; I muse on the work of thy hands.*

*6 I stretch forth my hands unto thee: my soul thirsteth after thee, as a thirsty land. Selah.*

*7 Hear me speedily, O LORD: my spirit faileth: hide not thy face from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit.*

3. But their urgent cry coincides with an urgent call of the church to be their answer:

*Mark 4:26-29*

*26 And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground;  
27 And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how.*

*28 For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.*

*29 But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.*

4. We don't know how the harvest has sprung up so quickly. We cast seed, we slept, and the seed has sprung up so quickly, we know not how.

5. The earth, with all of its hope-draining calamities, is actually bringing forth fruit of herself. The cry of the one in Psalm 143 is from a soul that is thirsting after God as a thirsty land thirsts for water.

6. Listen to the urgency of their cry:

*Ps 143:7-9*

*7 Hear me speedily, O LORD: my spirit faileth: hide not thy face from me, lest I be like unto them that go down into the pit.*

*8 Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee.*

*9 Deliver me, O LORD, from mine enemies: I flee unto thee to hide me.*

7. It is there that the urgency of the cry of the desperate meets the urgency of the burden of the church. Their prayer of deliverance causes them to flee to God asking for a hiding place in His presence.
8. That is why Jesus came to build a church that the gates of hell could not prevail against. To meet the need with the presence of Jesus and teaching Jesus' Words of help and hope.
9. That is when the desperate realize they found the answer!  
*Ps 143:10-12*  
*10 Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.*  
*11 Quicken me, O LORD, for thy name's sake: for thy righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble.*  
*12 And of thy mercy cut off mine enemies, and destroy all them that afflict my soul: for I am thy servant.*
10. God placed His church in the world to be a place where God's enemies are routinely cut off of those who come in calling on the name of the Lord. And not only is the enemy cut off, but he is destroyed.
11. That was the very reason Jesus came into the world:  
*1 John 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.*
12. So with Jesus attaching that mission to His church and sending laborers into a great harvest, it now becomes a great **co-mission** assigned to the church.
13. It is a co-mission because **Jesus wants to partner with a willing people**, who will take on that mission by faith, lean on His Spirit, the Holy Ghost within us, to empower us to gather in His great harvest.
14. It will be a great harvest of those desperate souls who have been crying out for help cutting off and destroying their enemies who have been destroying them.
15. I have felt the call to this co-mission. I heard **Jesus asking us to willing partner with Him** to take on that mission **by faith, lean on His Spirit**, the Holy Ghost within us, to empower us to **gather in His great harvest**.
16. 2022 Theme: **2022: My Faith, His Spirit, A Great Harvest**
17. But God's purposes cannot be reduced to a formula, but this is a close proximity to how God works in the world, and I believe if we will apply the simple principles here, it will work through us in 2022.



- II. A great harvest
1. Let us work backwards through this, and begin with "a great harvest."

2. That is a phrase lifted right from Jesus' own words found in the gospel of Luke:  
*Luke 10:2 Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great [abundant], but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.*
3. Last week I mentioned this as the only prayer request that Jesus ever gave us. Pray for laborers! Because the co-mission He has placed on us in 2022, we certainly need to pray that request urgently.
4. The urgency is that the seed has been sown and the hungry souls are crying out in desperation for something to cut them off from their enemies—brokenness, hopelessness, emptiness, a meaningless life, addictions, fears, hurts, hang-ups, and habits.
5. And that harvest is plenteous.

### III. His Spirit

1. Our theme is 2022: My faith, His Spirit, a Great Harvest.
2. We know the harvest is great, and it is going to take His Spirit to reap it.
3. My first idea for our theme was longer: Enlarge our coasts by the power of the Holy Ghost.
4. For many years, in my daily prayer, I've been praying two scriptures back to back:  
*1 Chron 4:10 And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and **enlarge my coast**, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.*
5. *Acts 1:8 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.*
6. And from that arose, Enlarge my coast by the Holy Ghost. In other words, for us to expand the kingdom of God in the place of our calling, it can only come by the power of the Holy Ghost, not our ability.
7. The Holy Ghost enables His church to be a witness for Him at home in Jerusalem; in all Judaea, the local region; in Samaria, the neighboring region; and the uttermost part of the earth, the foreign mission field.
8. None of this work would be possible without the Holy Ghost.
9. When you think about the things the Lord has called us to do in order to impact our world and defeat the adversary, every part of it requires the Holy Ghost power to accomplish.
10. When you study the scriptures that relate to spiritual warfare we are to undertake, it begins with strength **in the Lord** by putting on the whole **armor of God**.  
*Eph 6:10-11*  
*10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.*  
*11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

11. It is not human strength or talent, but the power of His might!
12. Our weapons are not carnal:  
*2 Cor 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)*
13. We will only be able to cut off the enemy through the power of the Holy Ghost.
14. By the Holy Ghost, we have power to: witness, tread on, resist, stand against, wrestle against, pull down, overcome, deliver, keep, and minister to.
15. And of course, the Lord has placed the gifts of the Spirit in the church that will enable us to be able to accomplish these things.
16. We find these in 1 Corinthians 12:7-11. The list concludes with this statement about who the gifts of the Spirit are for:  
*1 Cor 12:11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.*
17. And what we must pray for among us is more of their use: **The gift of the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, gift of faith, gifts of healing, working miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, different tongues and interpretation of tongues.**

#### IV. My faith

1. Our theme is 2022: My faith, His Spirit, a Great Harvest.
2. We have seen the great harvest, and how it can only be reaped through the power of His Spirit. But the connection to you and I is with “my faith.” Your personal faith will be what connects you to launch into a Spirit-empowered reaping of the great harvest.
3. This is where it becomes a personal calling on us as individuals. Where your faith is, determines where your ability and availability connect with God’s plan.
4. Last Sunday, I preached “Where is Your Faith?” as the foundation on which our theme would be built.
5. We quickly reviewed the 8 levels of faith [**image: 8 Levels of Faith all types**]  
*Luke 8:25 And he said unto them, **Where is your faith?** And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! for he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him.*
6. These disciples went from phobia to faith after beholding what manner of man Jesus was. And when we see Jesus for who He is, and how He wants to use us, we can see similar great works.
7. My faith is going to connect me to some mountain moving experiences in 2022. The disciples of Jesus were amazed that a fig tree withered and died after Jesus spoke to it.
8. But Jesus directed their attention, not just to a change in a single tree on the mountain, but a change of location for the entire mountain. Their perspective was small—leaves on a tree.
9. Jesus wanted them to have faith for greater things than these:  
*Matthew 21:21 Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye*

*shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done.*

10. For our times, I think it is a sign post for us that that verse has two 21's in it. Perhaps as a reckoning for what 2021 was to prepare us for. Some large mountains came into view that needed to be removed.
11. So that drew my curiosity to verse 22 to reveal something for 2022:  
*Matt 21:22 And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.*
12. If you ask it in prayer for the big things, you are putting "my faith" into connection with His Spirit and we will see great harvest as a result.
13. And by the way, "my faith" is also connected to my tongue. In other words, what we say has a lot to do with what we receive.
14. We can give all kinds of negative prophecies by saying, "I could never do that," "my class will never grow," "I don't have time to work for God."
15. Jesus put it this way, "whosoever shall say...he shall have whatsoever he saith."
16. Is that really in the Bible?  
*Mark 11:23 For verily I say unto you, That **whosoever shall say** unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; **he shall have whatsoever he saith.***
17. Quit prophesying defeat. Quit prophesying failure.
18. Use your faith to grasp the big things. Not leaves only...not trees only...how about moving the whole mountain?
19. The final element of My Faith I want to cover in closing is how "my faith" is demonstrated. [slide] **My faith is best demonstrated by my faithfulness.**
20. Another word for faithfulness is dependability. Showing up consistently, getting involved in helping with ministries that are working in the harvest.
21. This seems to be a plague that has hit our world since coronavirus hit—a lack of workers.
22. Everywhere you look, you see signs of a lack of workers that mean businesses are open shorter hours, some businesses have had to close their doors.
23. That is the way of the world, but that is not the way of the kingdom of God, for Jesus said to pray for laborers.
24. Jesus has major rewards for his good and faithful servants, not unfaithful ones.
25. What is it like when you are leaning on someone and when the time of trouble comes and they don't show up?  
*Prov 25:19 Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint.*
26. But God rewards faithfulness.
27. To demonstrate our faith means we demonstrate faithfulness.

## V. Ministry Goals

1. **2022 My faith, His Spirit, a great harvest.**
2. I will talk more about this tonight, but this morning I will introduce some areas where “my faith” is needed to increase our effectiveness in the harvest.
3. This is in addition to the outreach ministries we already have in children’s ministry, youth ministry, and CIP. We still need laborers in children’s and youth areas.
4. But this morning I want to present some areas of expansion for 2022 where some can use their faith and demonstrate faithfulness.
5. We have heard the cry from our community and recovery programs like Christian Intervention Program are certainly needed.
6. We also heard from our community about the need for such a program for youth. Specifically, DCS asked us if we could offer such a program. A teacher at Northview Highschool asked me with interest when we will be up and ready with this program.
7. The Indiana Commission to Combat Drug Abuse, in their 2021 Comprehensive Community Plan for Clay County, noted the limited number of prevention and recovery resources available in Clay County that target youth, an area of great need in our county.
8. In our 2022 grant proposal to the Clay County Substance Abuse Council, I stepped out by faith and requested additional funding to cover registrations for 10 youth in the Youth CIP program as well as funding for printing 200 Youth CIP Brochures to distribute to DCS and high schools.
9. Now we need volunteers who feel this burden and are willing to use their faith, applying it to this need, and help teach the youth CIP class each week.
10. Initially, I believe we will offer it on Thursday evenings in a different classroom from adult CIP, but eventually, I would like to offer it on the high school campus after school.
11. Also, we have been made aware of the need of offering a classes on parenting and anger management. DCS is in need of programs that offer these. And as we have already seen, they acknowledge the importance of faith-based programs like CIP, so we anticipate these will be busy classes as well.
12. So we also need teachers for an anger management class and a parenting class. Sis. Warner has agreed to take the lead in the parenting class, but she will need co-teachers in that class.
13. I have heard some express interest, but no we are in need of more than interest, we need laborers willing to use their faith and apply it to this need.
14. Our church is seeking certification with the Life in Focus program to offer the parenting and anger management classes, so if your heart is quickening your faith to these areas, you will need to participate in the training class that will certify you as a teacher in these areas. That training is to be scheduled depending on who expresses interest.
15. There are more areas where we can apply “my faith” in 2022 that I will cover tonight.
16. **But for 2022, it is My faith, His Spirit, and a Great Harvest.**
17. Who is willing to put their faith into the needs of our community?