



“Developing a Heart for Prayer”

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“Therefore beseech (pray) the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.”

Matthew 9:28

Barriers to having a heart for prayer:

1. Unconfessed sin.

“But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.” Isaiah 59:2

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” I John 1:9

2. Sophisticated faith.

“I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 18:3,4

3. Living in isolation. Matthew 9:35-38

Developing a heart to pray

1. Get involved in the lives of others.

“Jesus went through all the towns and villages, **teaching** in their synagogues, **preaching** the good news of the kingdom and **healing** every disease and sickness.” Matthew 9:35

2. Your involvement will help you see the needs of others.

“When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were **harassed** and **helpless**, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.” Matthew 9:36-37

3. The needs of others will move you to compassion.

“When he saw the crowds, he had **compassion** on them...” Matthew 9:36

4. The compassion for others will move you to prayerful action.

“Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸ **Ask** the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to **send** out workers into his harvest field.”

Matthew 9:37-38

Principle:

Involvement > needs > compassion > prayerful action.

For your LIFEGROUP:

1. Experiment #1:
 - a. Go on an exploration of your LIFEGROUP area (neighborhood, workplace, etc.)
 - b. Pray that God will show you how to get involved in the lives of those who live/work there.
 - c. What are the current needs of the not-yet-Christians around you?
 - d. Ask God to break your heart and give you compassion for them.
 - e. Listen to how God is calling you to pray for His Kingdom work in your area.
2. Experiment #2
 - a. Go on the same exploration but at the University of Colorado
 - b. Interview 3 people (students, staff, faculty) Ask: “What are your current needs?”
 - c. Pray that God will break your heart and give you compassion for them.
 - d. Listen to how God is calling you to pray for His Kingdom work at CU.
3. Share with your LIFEGROUP the things you saw, learned and how God is calling you to pray.