

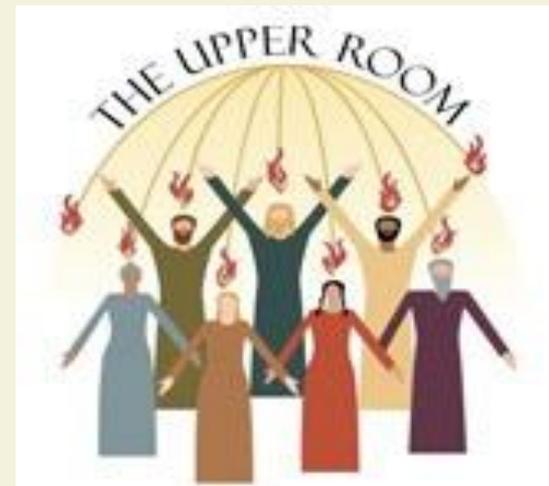
# EMPOWERED FOLLOWERS

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"I will POUR out  
My *Spirit*  
on ALL flesh."  
Joel 2:28



# Empowered to Go Out



# Scripture

John 7:38.39: He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.' “But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

# The Example of Ruth

Ruth 2:2,3: And Ruth the Moabitess said unto Naomi, Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn after him in whose sight **I shall find grace**. And she said unto her, Go, my daughter. And she went, and came, and **gleaned in the field after the reapers**: and her hap was to light on a part of the field belonging unto Boaz, who was of he kindred of Elimelech.

# And Ruth Went Out... (Ruth 2:3)

- [Don't Pimp the Barn, Go Out into the Harvest Fields](#) by Torben Sondergaard
- Many people desire more of Jesus, but you will find Jesus in the harvest field. You experience and grow in God by doing
- Jesus has empowered the Church, the body of Christ to go out and make disciples – This is the Holy Spirit's main function
- “If you want to meet Jesus, you have to do it in the harvest field. Just like Ruth met her Boaz (the kinsman redeemer), you will meet Jesus when you are out helping with the harvest. ”
- There is no greater joy in this life than seeing someone receive the message and be transformed by Jesus, finding forgiveness and coming to know peace forever. **Do you want people to get saved or do you just want more people to come to your church and fill the seats?**

# Have You Gone Out?

- Many Christians are willing just to sit in a nice, comfortable church and be catered to by all the programs, entertainment, and Word that the ministry offers
- However, God expects all of us “glean” so that we can become effective in producing fruit as in the harvesting of souls for His kingdom
- Ruth was committed to Naomi and accompanied her to the fields to find the grace of the kinsman redeemer. Today, many just want the grace and not the work that comes with kingdom relationship

# Ruth Went Out... Cont'd

- **She Went Out to Serve** - Ruth, on her own initiative, set out to glean in the fields to support her and her mother-in-law Naomi.
  - She would not have been more spiritual to sit back at home and pray for food.
- **This was a Social Program in Israel** - Farmers were not to completely harvest their fields, so the poor and needy could come and glean the remains for themselves.
- **What are you waiting for?** If Ruth would have stayed home and waited for a “spiritual” feeling, she probably might have waited a long time - and still probably would have gone to the wrong field.

# Ruth Gleaned in a Particular Field

**Ruth 2:8: Then Boaz said to Ruth, “Listen carefully, my daughter. Do not go to glean in another field; furthermore, do not go from this one, but stay here with my maids**

**Ruth 2:16 (Boaz’s instructions): “Also you shall purposely pull out for her some grain from the bundles and leave it that she may glean, and do not rebuke her.”**

- Boaz made certain sure provisions were provided for Ruth as he encouraged her only to glean in his field. God will provide for you to accomplish what He has purposed you to do
- Another way to grow spiritually and prosper is to work in the field that God has placed you in.
- This is why fellowship and co-laboring is so important to the believer

# I Spent Time in the Field

- Hard Work
- Worked with friends and family
- Learned Family History and Lessons
- The work was not as bad when we labored together



# Requirements of a Good Harvest

- John 15:16 *You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to **go and bear fruit** — fruit that will last*
  - *This is not the “Fruit of the Spirit,” but winning souls for the kingdom of God*
- *If you desire to be successful and produce a good harvest, you must have the following:*
- **Good Soil** – Matthew 13:8 *Still other **seed** fell on good soil, where it **produced a crop** — a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.*
- **Break up the soil** and fallow ground – **Intercessory prayer!**
  - [Prayer for lost souls breaks up the hard ground of their hearts, preparing the heart to receive God’s Word sown.](#)
- **You Must Sow the Seed:** Luke 8:4-5, 11 *...[Jesus] told this parable: “A farmer went out to sow his **seed**.... [11] The seed is the **word of God**.”*
  - *Sowing is not the same as planting – to sow means to “throw” hopefully, in a cultivated area, allowing the seeds to go down into the soil, gestate, and begin to grow into the desire fruit or crop you intended*
  - *Planting is taking a plant already grown and setting it into the ground*
  - *It is our hope that after a person is saved from the seed sown, that he or she is planted in a field for further growth*

# Add Water

- John 7:37-39a ... *“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of **living water will flow** from within him.”*
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- Acts 1:5,8 *For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be **baptized with the Holy Spirit....** (8) you will **receive power** when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will **be my witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*
- Christians need to be encouraged to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit so that you may water your own plant (yourself) and pour out to others

# Other Actions

- **Appropriate pest control** — **Water baptism** to bury the old man of sin, and exhortation and instruction in the **Anointed Word**.
  - The word, “Anoint” means to smear – The shepherd would anoint the ears of the sheep with oil so that pests could not enter to the ear of the sheep and kill the sheep from the inside.
  - If our ears are properly anointed with the Word, false doctrine and evil influence would just “slide” right on out without entry into our spirit, preventing us from being destroyed from the inside out
- **Add Fertilizer:** Ongoing, **systematic instruction** in the Bible, the word of God (Matthew 4:4) keeps our hearts fertile to receive and encourages spiritual growth and maturity
- **Realize You Can’t Do This Alone: 1<sup>st</sup> Cor 3:5-9**
  - We are “*laborers together with God*” (1 Corin. 3:9) in God’s harvest.
  - *Who Are We Harvesting For? For our building or for our God?*
  - Ye are God’s Husbandry – We are God’s cultivated field where fruit should be produced
  - *It is not our talents, position, or rank that stands out, but that we are Co-Laborers in this effort allowing the Spirit of God to fill us, guide us, embolden us, gift us to do the work of a field servant to bring in a harvest of souls for God*

# Go Out....Are You Ready To...?

- Go out and tell someone about the Lord, compelling them to come in (Luke 14:23)
- Go out of your way to minister to someone in need
  - Remember if your commitment is tied to your convenience, then you are not the true servant of Christ
- Go outside of your comfort zone to be more of a servant of Christ and not just an moralized bystander?
- Go out to the harvest, and glean in the field where you are assigned with the people God has connected you to?

# Breaking it Down: John 7:38.39

- **Out of His Belly**

- the innermost part of a man, the soul, heart as the seat of thought, feeling, choice
- Represents the Corrupt nature of man, his selfish, gluttonous nature

- **Rivers: An abundance of water**

- **Living:** active, blessed, endless in the kingdom of God

- Restorative
- Having vital power in itself and exerting the same upon the soul

- **Water:** That which refreshes and keeps alive the soul

# Emphasis

- “When a man turns himself to the Lord, he shall be as a fountain filled with living water, and his streams shall flow to all the nations and tribes of men” (Kuinoel).
- There should be an outflow from the Christian life and he or she must never allow the living waters that flows from the kingdom of God to become stagnant and still in their lives
- God’s Spirit will pour out of the man that has been regenerated through salvation developing fruit, and empowering him or her to produce fruit through harvest

# Which is Better? Useful?



Still, Stagnant, Water, trickling here  
and there

**OR**



Pure, Clean Water that also pours out  
to other “spirit” containers, creating  
room to be filled again

# Empowered to Go Out, Not Stay In

Mark 16:15-18: And He said to them, "**Go into all the world** and preach the gospel to all creation.

16 "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.

17 "These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues;

18 they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly *poison*, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

- Jesus commissioned the disciples to go out into the fields
- This same commission still exists today for us
- It is "Doing Ministry" where we find and truly come to understand Christ
- What Are You Waiting For? Glean in the Field Where God has planted you and support the work of God with your time, tithes, and talents

# Prayer

Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Peace, of Love, of Truth so that I may go out and share with others, the good news of the gospel. I want people to receive, understand, and be transformed by the message of Christ. I know that you have a field for me...a body of believers, a church where you have planted me to glean knowledge, instruction, direction, and giftings so that I may be a competent, spirit-filled, and bear much fruit for the kingdom of God.

Fill me, Move me, Use Me according to Your Spirit. I place my life into your hands and extend them towards the work of the kingdom. In Jesus' Name

AMEN