

From Pastor Marissa Becklin

Harvest Praying

Dear Friends in Christ,

I can't believe it's almost fall again, and perhaps when you're reading this it will still be unbelievably hot outside, but the march of time continues and September will bring with it earlier sunsets, Friday night high school football, and the harvest of crops throughout the county. In the rhythm of creation, we see a mirror of our spiritual lives. Just as farmers assess their crops, giving thanks for what has flourished and making plans for the next season, we too are called to reflect on the harvest of our lives. I want to invite our congregation into a specific prayer practice for this month, that I'm calling "harvest praying".

What Has Grown?

First, consider what has grown in your life this past year. What seeds of faith have taken root in your heart? Perhaps you've seen growth in your relationship with God through prayer or time spent in the Word. Maybe you've experienced growth in relationships, ministry, or in personal areas like patience, generosity, or understanding. Take time to thank God for these blessings. Just as a farmer rejoices over a bountiful crop, we should rejoice in the spiritual fruit God has cultivated in us.

What Needs Pruning?

But not all growth is healthy, and even fruitful plants need pruning. Are there areas in your life that have become overgrown, tangled, or unproductive? Maybe certain habits, attitudes, or relationships are hindering your spiritual growth. Pruning can be painful, but it is necessary for new growth to occur. Pray for the wisdom and courage to identify these areas and for the strength to let go of what needs to be removed. Trust that, like a skillful gardener, God prunes us so that we can bear even more fruit.

What Are You Grateful For?

Gratitude is at the heart of the harvest season. As we reflect on the year, we are called to give thanks—for the abundance of God's provision, for the growth we've experienced, and even for the lessons learned through challenges. A heart full of gratitude recognizes that every good gift comes from God, the Lord of the harvest. Take time in your prayers to express your thankfulness, not only for the tangible blessings in your life but also for the spiritual harvest that has occurred within you.

Praying For Guidance

Finally, as we look to the next season, I invite us to pray for guidance. Just as a farmer plans for the next planting season, we too must seek God's direction for our lives. Ask God to show you where you are being lead, what new seeds God wants you to plant, and where God wants you to serve. Pray for the discernment to follow God's will and for the faith to trust God with the future.

As we move through this harvest season, I pray that it can be a time of deep spiritual reflection for all of us. May we all recognize the growth that has taken place this year, embrace the pruning that leads to more abundant life, and give thanks for the countless blessings we have received. And above all, may we continue to seek God's guidance, knowing that God who began a good work in us will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:6).

In this season of harvest, let our prayers be filled with gratitude, reflection, and a deepened trust in the God who provides for all our needs.

In Christ's Love,
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