Fall Is a Time for God-Sightings: Will We See the Harvest?
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Jan and I remember fondly the fall season in Michigan. Fall was a reminder of the bounty of nature – the final summer produce harvested from the garden, abundant fall crops, farmers' markets, apples, cider. The harvest was laid by. Winter was coming. The annual cycle that had begun eight or nine months earlier with the seed catalogs in hand in front of the fireplace would soon be finished.

Add the beauty of Michigan's colorful fall foliage. God was visible everywhere! His provision plain; his care constant. Fall declared that the harvest would soon end. Fall often meant that the harvest required full attention.

From a personal perspective, we have lost something valuable. We no longer eagerly anticipate the seed catalogs, we no longer cut and split wood for winter warmth, we no longer have a huge garden. Our lives have fewer reminders that fall is harvest time!

Thinking of fall and the harvest, I am reminded of Jesus' words in John 4:35. "Do not say that there are yet four months before the harvest comes. I tell you to lift up your eyes and you will see that the fields are white unto harvest". Fall is a reminder to help us see and reap the spiritual harvest all around us. A time to renew evangelistic outreach and fervor. A time to share generously in mission efforts, grateful for the bounty God gives. A time to pray, a time to share God's spiritual bounty, a time to reach out.

In Matthew 9, Jesus urges his followers to pray for the harvest and for harvest workers. How often do we pray as Jesus taught? How often do we pray superficially and miss the point that Jesus is calling us to be harvest workers?

"Father God, forgive us when we fail to see. Forgive us when our first urgency is not the saving work of the Kingdom. Help us stay focused and overcome the distractions of life that so easily surround us in the fall season. Open our eyes to see that the harvest most deserving of our full attention is spiritual. May You, because of Your Son, by the presence of the Spirit instill in us as a church family the desire to respond to Jesus' prayer for workers who will reap the great spiritual harvest that is everywhere around us. Send us out as laborers into your harvest. Give us hearts to respond in obedience to the teachings of the one we call Lord and Master."