

# FAR ABOVE RUBIES:

*Insights on living the Christian life – from a female perspective*



## The Fields are White

There's a story told of a farmer who was looking for a wife so he placed an ad in the personal column of his local newspaper. *"Farmer looking for a wife who is pleasing to the eye and likes farming. Must have a tractor. Photograph appreciated (of the tractor)."*

To the farmer tractors and combine harvesters are an essential part of life. In Bible times, however, a lot of the work was carried out by hand using ploughs, scythes and sickles. Harvesting required a lot of hard work and commitment – and still does as we see from the following HARVEST acrostic.

### Hard work

A harvest doesn't just appear. The ground must be ploughed, the seeds sown, and then comes the reaping. It demands preparation, hard work and even sacrifice. If we are to see a harvest of souls, we need to be willing to sacrifice our time, our talents, and our finances. In John 4:35 Jesus said to his disciples *"Do you not say 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest?' I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest."* Also in Matt. 9:37 we read Jesus' very challenging words *"The harvest is plentiful, but the labourer's are few."*

### Abundance

When the ploughing and sowing has been completed, the farmer can then look forward to reaping a bountiful harvest. It has always been God's desire to bless us abundantly, both physically and spiritually. In 2 Cor. 9:8 Paul writes *"And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance so that you will always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work."*

### Rain

Farmers may do everything they can to produce a good harvest, but without rain the harvest will fail. The ground will dry up and the crops will wither. Rain is one of the many symbols in the Bible used to describe the Holy Spirit. In Isaiah 44:3 we read *"..for I will pour out water on the thirsty land, and streams on dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your descendents, and my blessing on your offspring."* If we are to see fruit for our labour we need the rain – the anointing and power of the Holy Spirit.

### Vine

Vines have always been very prevalent in Israel, and have actually become symbolic of the nation of Israel. In Isaiah 5:7 Israel is referred to as the vineyard *“For the vineyard of the Lord of Hosts is the house of Israel.”* When Jesus referred to Himself as *“the true Vine”* in John 15:1 He was saying that salvation can only be found through a personal relationship with Him, and not just because you belong to the nation of Israel. Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. If we are to bear fruit we must abide in Him. (John 15:5)

### Earth

In Psalm 24 v 1 we read that *“The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof.”* In Genesis we see that God created the earth and everything in it, and it was very good. He then tasked Adam to take care of it. As Christians it is our duty to care for God’s creation: *“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”* (Gen. 8:22)

### Sun

Just as rain is essential for a fruitful harvest so is the sun. I read recently that for a thriving crop, wheat requires 6 hours of full sunlight per day. It made me think of just how many hours I spend with the Son each day. If we are to thrive in our Christian walk we need to spend time with God, reading His Word, and praying.

### Teamwork

Reaping a harvest requires teamwork. When the harvest is ready, all of the farmhands have a job to do and the relevant equipment to do it. 1 Cor. 3:9 tells us that we are *“fellow labourers together with God.”* We each have a God given job to do, and He has given us spiritual gifts to help equip us for the task. In 1 Cor. 3:6 Paul also reminds us, however, that it is only God who saves *“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.”*