

FIRE AND GO – Lesson 14

Principles of the Harvest: Part 1

**Strategic Missiology for
the African Church**

“The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few...” – Matthew 9:37-38



1. God is Lord of the Harvest

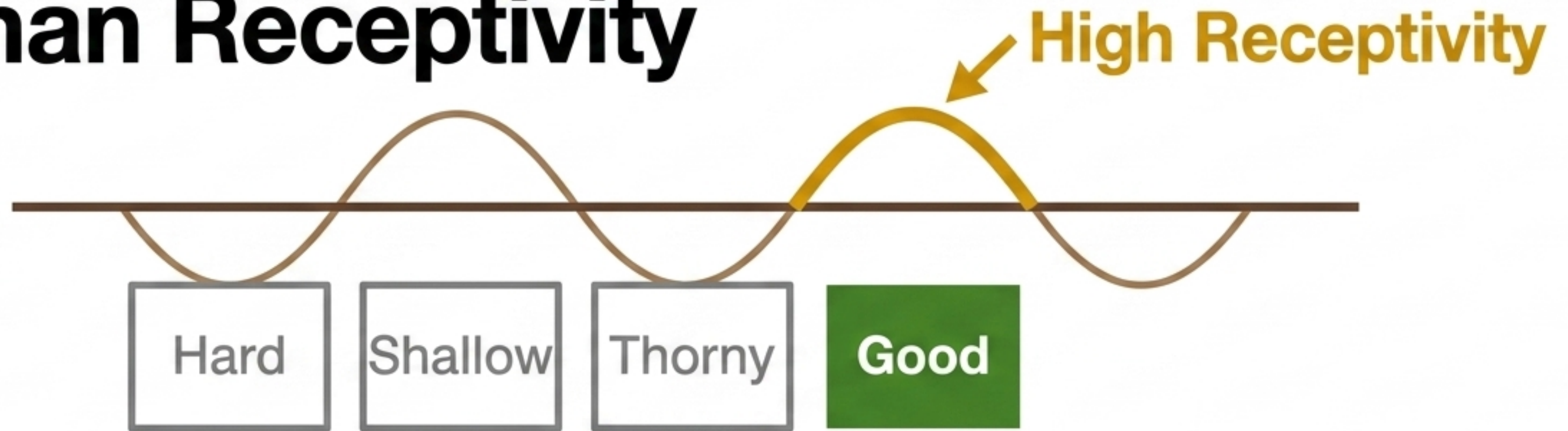
"No one can come to Me unless the Father... draws him." (John 6:44)



Humility: We do not manufacture the results. The work of drawing people belongs to God.

Confidence: The God who draws people to Himself is faithful and purposeful.

Responding to Human Receptivity



Core Insight: The Holy Spirit moves across populations in waves.

The Strategy: Find the fertile soil. Identify seasons of high receptivity and concentrate efforts there.

The Mandate: “Whatever city or town you enter, inquire who in it is worthy, and stay there till you go out.” (Matthew 10:11)

2. Sowing Must Precede Reaping

The Promise: “God gives the increase.” (1 Cor 3:6-7)

The Sower



Plants the seed with tears and patience. Sometimes sees no immediate fruit (e.g., William Carey: 7 years in India; Adoniram Judson: 6 years in Burma).

TIME

The Reaper



Gathers with joy, building entirely on the labor, tears, and patience of the sower.

Missions is a Team Effort Across Time



Key Concept: “I sent you to reap that for which you have not laboured; others have laboured, and you have entered into their labours.” (John 4:38)

The Truth: Every tract distributed, every prayer offered, and every act of kindness has permanent, eternal value.

3. The Person of Peace



Lydia
(Philippi)



Cornelius
(Caesarea)



Zacchaeus
(Jericho)

The Mandate: “Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest on it...” (Luke 10:5-7)

Definition: A divinely prepared individual who receives you, opens their home, and unlocks their social network to the Gospel.

The Gateway to the Community

- **Why it works:** Bypasses mass, impersonal methods to leverage deep, existing trust.
- **The Result:** When the Person of Peace comes to Christ, their entire social ecosystem becomes accessible.

This is the foundation of rapid, relational church planting.



Pentecostal Application: Spirit-Led Guidance



The Principle:

The Holy Spirit identifies the Person of Peace.

The Precedent:

- The Spirit led Philip to the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8).
- The Spirit directed Peter to Cornelius (Acts 10).

The Practice: Do not rely on strategic planning alone. Seek prophetic guidance through fasting and prayer to find prepared hearts before entering a new field.

Reflection for Leaders

- 1 How does God's sovereignty over the harvest change how you view ministry success and disappointment?
- 2 What does the sowing/reaping principle teach us about seasons with little visible fruit?
- 3 How does the concept of "receptivity" affect how you prioritize your church's outreach?
- 4 Can you identify a potential "Person of Peace" in an unreached area near you?



Prayer Focus

A Prayer for Strategic Sight:

Holy Spirit, identify the Persons of Peace in the communities our church has not yet reached.

Give us the discernment to recognize the seasons of receptivity You are opening around us, and the wisdom to concentrate our efforts where the soil is ready.

Your Action Step This Week

- **Map the Radius:** Identify communities within 10 km of your church with no evangelical presence.
- **Select the Target:** Choose the one community you believe is most receptive right now.
- **Pray for the Gateway:** Begin daily prayer for that specific community, asking God to reveal the Person of Peace to build a bridge for the Gospel.

