

## LEARNING HOW TO CO-LABORER

OBJECTIVE: TO STUDY AND IDENTIFY HOW WE WORK TOGETHER TO FULFILL THE PLAN OF GOD IN MINISTRY.

KEY SCRIPTURES: 2 CORINTHIANS 6:1/ 1 CORINTHIANS 3:9/

2 TIMOTHY 3:17

CO-LABORING IN MINISTRY MEANS **WORKING TOGETHER WITH GOD AND WITH PEOPLE** TO ACCOMPLISH KINGDOM PURPOSE. IT'S NOT JUST "HELPING AT CHURCH"—IT'S PARTNERING WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, HONORING THE GIFTS IN OTHERS, AND SERVING IN UNITY.



I WANT TO BE CLEAR IN OUR UNDERSTANDING AS A CO-LABORER. GOD DOESN'T NEED US TO DO ANYTHING BUT HAS CHOSEN TO USE IMPERFECT HUMAN INSTRUMENTS AND OUR HUMAN EFFORT IN CONJUNCTION WITH HIS POWER TO FURTHER HIS KINGDOM WORK. (1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-27)

OUR COMMON CALLING IS LINKED THROUGH PURPOSE AND GOALS THAT GOD BIRTHS IN OUR HEART. UNITY IN PURPOSE SHOULD PRODUCE EFFORTS THAT ARE FUELED THROUGH OUR HUMAN

*EFFORTS BUT IGNITED THROUGH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.*

*GOD ENLISTS US AS CO-WORKERS IN HIS GREAT WORK OF SALVATION. [EPHESIANS 2:8-10](#) MAKES IT CLEAR THAT ONLY GOD CAN ULTIMATELY SAVE ANYONE. EVEN SO, WE HAVE A REAL ROLE TO PLAY IN GOD'S SAVING WORK.*

*FOR IT IS BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED, THROUGH FAITH — AND THIS IS NOT FROM YOURSELVES, IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD — NOT BY WORKS, SO THAT NO ONE CAN BOAST. FOR WE ARE GOD'S HANDIWORK, CREATED IN CHRIST JESUS TO DO GOOD WORKS, WHICH GOD PREPARED IN ADVANCE FOR US TO DO ([EPHESIANS 2:8-10](#)).*

*ACCORDING TO [PHILIPPIANS 2:12-13](#), PAUL ADVISED THEM TO "WORK OUT YOUR OWN SALVATION WITH FEAR AND TREMBLING, FOR IT IS GOD WHO WORKS IN YOU, BOTH TO WILL AND TO WORK FOR HIS GOOD PLEASURE."*

*GROWTH IN OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE INVOLVES BOTH HUMAN AND DIVINE FORCES. IF WE ARE TO BEAR FRUIT, THEN WE NEED THE HELP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT JUST AS CHRIST IS THE VINE IN WHICH WE MUST ABIDE TO BEAR FRUIT.*

*REMAIN IN ME, AS I ALSO REMAIN IN YOU. NO BRANCH CAN BEAR FRUIT BY ITSELF; IT MUST REMAIN IN THE VINE. NEITHER CAN YOU BEAR FRUIT UNLESS YOU REMAIN IN ME. "I AM THE VINE; YOU ARE THE BRANCHES. IF YOU REMAIN IN ME AND I IN YOU, YOU WILL BEAR MUCH FRUIT; APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING ([JOHN 15:4-5](#)).*

*IT'S UP TO US TO GROW IN CHRISTLIKENESS, PRACTICE OBEDIENCE, AND CULTIVATE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES. THOSE ARE THE STEPS TO BECOMING SAVED.*

*IT IS ALSO OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO BRING THAT SALVATION TO OTHERS. THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF THE GOSPEL, GOD ENLISTS*

OUR HELP IN SAVING AND BUILDING UP PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD. IN A LATER LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS, PAUL EMPHASIZES WORKING IN UNITY WITH GOD ([2 CORINTHIANS 6:1](#)).

**WHAT DOES BEING A CO-WORKER WITH GOD MEAN?**

BEING A CO-WORKER WITH GOD DOES NOT MEAN THAT GOD NEEDS LABORERS FOR HIM TO DO HIS WORK. AFTER ALL, HE CREATED EVERYTHING BY HIMSELF. INSTEAD, IT MEANS THAT WE ARE CO-WORKERS IN GOVERNING THE WORLD THAT HE CREATED.

IT MEANS THAT WE HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO TAKE CARE OF WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN US, WHICH IS LITERALLY EVERYTHING. IT ALSO MEANS THAT WE HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO BE THE MINISTRY OF CHRIST, WHICH WAS GIVEN TO US AS A RESPONSIBILITY. (REVELATION 20:1-6)

WE SHOULD SHARE THE GOOD NEWS WITH THE WORLD THROUGH OUR MINISTRY. IT DOES NOT MEAN THAT WE SHOULD ALL STAND IN THE PULPIT AND PREACH. AFTER ALL, WE HAVE DIFFERENT GIFTS. IT MEANS WE BECOME ACTIVE IN THE SHARING OF THE WORD TO OTHERS ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO HAVE NOT HEARD THE WORD.