

Are You Doing The Work Of God?

John 5:17 [NIV] *“Jesus said to them, ‘My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working.’”*

Jesus Christ the Son of God and Son of Man works alongside God the Father.

Philippians 2:13 [NIV] *“for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.”*

In the final sense **no-one** can do God’s work.

God does **not** turn over His work to others to do.

But God does work **in** His people and **through** His people but always it must be God who works.

This does **not** teach that humans should **not** work.

Even a casual reading of God’s Word, the Christian Bible, will convince us that God intended humans to work.

Genesis 2:15 [NIV] *“The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”*

The first human beings were placed in a garden to work and preserve it.

God provided humans with free air and water but the other commodity for life, food, had to be worked for in some form.

Jesus Christ as the Son of Man worked in His early life as a carpenter and He chose active working men for His first disciples.

The wisdom books in the Christian Bible have some scathing things to say about the sluggard, who loafes away his life.

Certain passages within the Holy scriptures, if carelessly read, **might** give the impression that God delegates some of His work to Christian leaders to do for Him.

1 Corinthians 15:58 [NIV] *“Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.”*

To “*give ourselves*” does **not** mean we are actually doing the work, only offering ourselves to God who will be doing His work in and through us.

1 Corinthians 16:10 [NIV] *“If Timothy comes, see to it that he has nothing to fear while he is with you, for he is carrying on the work of the Lord, just as I am.”*

“*Carrying on*” again means yielding to the work that God is doing.

Any misunderstanding about what Paul is saying is cleared up in two more statements. [**1 Corinthians 15:10** and **Colossians 1:29**]

Galatians 2:20 [NIV] *“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”*

From all these scriptures I think we may draw the following conclusion.

We under our own power and ability can no more do the work of God than we can live the life of God.

Romans 12:1 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

In the believing and surrendered life of a grateful Christian, Jesus Christ lives His life on earth again.

God will continue to work, through human instruments, to accomplish His purpose for human beings.

How then does Jesus Christ continue to work through human beings?

John 14:15-18 [NIV] *“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”*

Note “... I will come to you,” it was Jesus Christ making this promise.

Jesus Christ, God, comes into us in the active presence of the Holy Spirit, who is also God, the third Person of the Triune God and also referred to as the “*spirit of Christ.*” [**Romans 8:9-11**]

Acts 5:32 [NIV] *“We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”*

As long as we are submissive and obedient to God, the Holy Spirit will continue to do God’s work in and through us.

John 7:37-39 [NIV] *“On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, ‘If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.’ By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.”*

The Holy Spirit cannot stagnate, He has to flow through us in acts of God’s Love towards all other human beings.

It is critically important that we understand this truth.

Much “*religious work*” is being done these days that is **not** owned by God, **not** the way He will fulfil His work.

Superior human gifts are being mistaken for gifts and work of the Holy Spirit and neither those who exercise these gifts nor the Christian public before whom they are exercised are aware of the deception.

Such work is a snare because it keeps us busy and at the same time prevents us from discovering what work God wishes to do **through us** by the power of the Holy Spirit.

John 15:4-5 [NIV] *“Remain in me, and I will 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 a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.’”*

Apart from Jesus Christ working in us we can produce **no** lasting, that is spiritual, fruits.

Remember that the fruits of any plant are of **no** value to the plant itself only to whoever eats of that fruit and is nourished by it. Also within each fruit is a seed that can then produce another plant of the same nature, this is how God works through human beings.

Revelation 12:9, 11 [NIV] *“The great dragon was hurled down, that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.” ... “They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.”*

This is how God will work in and through human beings to overcome the deception that He has allowed Satan to blind the vast majority of human beings at this time, to the Gospel Message. **[2 Corinthians 4:4]**

Again it is God working in and through human beings.

This is the **only** way God’s work is done that involves His future created children.

Jesus Christ made the needed sacrifice to reconcile sinning human beings to the Holy God, and the Holy Spirit within us forms the eternal “*fruits*,” that is character of a Holy God, in us as a testimony to all whom we come in contact in our day-to-day lives. **[Galatians 5:22-23]**