

WORK as  
WORSHIP  
to Jesus





Lord Jesus,  
we worship You,  
we love You,  
we want to work for You,  
we want to work with You,  
we want to work through You,  
we want to work as You want us to work,  
for Your glory!



*Modern man  
worships his work,  
works at his play,  
and plays at his worship!!!!!!*

*“God wants worshippers  
before He wants workers.”*

*“Labour that does not spring  
out of worship is futile.”*

AW Tozer



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“My Father is working until now,  
and I am working.”  
John 5:17 (ESV)



Our foundation and main reference

# INTRODUCTION

We can do our **work as worship to the Lord Jesus!**

**There are many people who worship their work, but we want to worship the Lord Jesus!** The beautiful thing is that we *can* do our work as worship to Him... This is what we'll look at in this workshop.

In "*Three myths about what work matters to God*," Doug Sherman and William Hendricks said, "**Your work matters to God.** Work is not something beneath God's dignity or concern as some contend. Nor is work a game we play with non-Christians in order to accomplish a more important agenda... Instead, work is a major part of human life that God takes seriously.

Our day-to-day work is not 'secular.' It has intrinsic value. God has ordained work as a means of supporting our families. He established it as a way for us to earn money to help those in need. Through our work we meet the market needs of our community. And, **it is a form of worship because in working with all our strength for Him, we demonstrate our love for God.**"

It is estimated that 40-60% of our life is spent at "work"! With some of us it will even be more. One study found that up to 50% of Christians were not satisfied in their daily work life. This is sad. Furthermore, "Surveys reveal that more than 90% of church members do not feel they are being equipped by the Church to apply their biblical faith in their daily work life."

In this seminar we'll ask ourselves: "Why do I work?", "What work am I to do?", "How do I do my work?"; and "How can I do it as worship to Jesus?"

It is our prayer that the Lord will meet with us and help us, so that **we may work and live more for His glory and for the good of others.**

The Compiler

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*The Healthcare Christian Fellowship of India.*

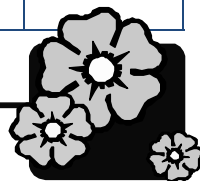
Workshop on 2nd April 2016, at CMC Vellore



## SELF-ASSESSMENT

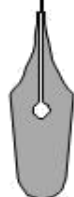
Before we continue, it may be helpful to test ourselves, personally, by looking at the following statements and marking (✓) where we AGREE or where we DISAGREE with them, one by one:

	STATEMENT	AGREE	DISAGREE
1	“Work hinders us from doing God’s will”		
2	“Work is a result of the curse in Genesis 2”		
3	“Work is a burden to bear”		
4	“My work and the worship of God are different matters”		
5	“My work is my secular responsibility, while my worship of God is my personal, spiritual responsibility”		
6	“Work is not a religious, spiritual activity”		
7	“Work in healthcare should deal with the physical, mental and social aspects of wellbeing only”		
8	“Work is mainly to make money...”		
9	“Healthcare work is spiritually inferior to ‘ministry’...”		
10	“As Christians healthcare workers, ...our jobs are primarily a platform for evangelism”		





*Notes*



By the way, the Biblically correct responses to ALL the statements on Page 8 would be “DISAGREE.” God bless you as you ponder it!

# THE OBJECTIVES

The objectives (what we aim at) are that, at the end of this workshop, we may have:

- ♦ A new understanding and appreciation for WHY we work.

*HEAD goal*

- ♦ A new motivation for HOW God wants us to work.

*HEART goal*

- ♦ A new lifestyle in which we daily WORSHIP God in/through our WORK, whatever it is (in His will).

*HANDS and HABIT goal*

# WHAT DO WE MEAN?

Before we continue, it'll be helpful if we first CLARIFY for ourselves and DEFINE what we MEAN with the following terminology:

“WORK” : .....  
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“OCCUPATION” : .....  
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“VOCATION” : .....  
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“CALLING” : .....  
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“JOB” : .....  
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“CAREER” : .....  
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“PROFESSION” : .....  
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“WORSHIP” : .....  
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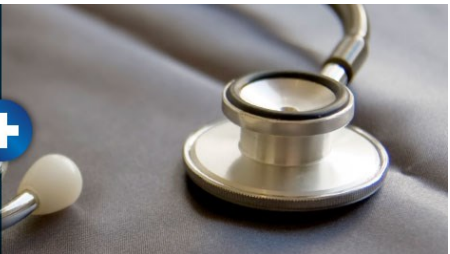
As far as our “CALLING” is concerned, we can say that our vocation or calling is our divinely given life purpose embracing all dimensions of our human existence and the special dimensions of service Christians undertake in the home, church and world. It is good to realise that we are:

- CALLED to a PERSON** (the Lord Jesus Christ) - first and foremost!
- CALLED to a Profession**
- CALLED to a Place**
- CALLED to a People**
- CALLED to a Purpose**
- CALLED for a Point in time**

*Our primary calling is to the PERSON of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. This is our unchanging, eternal calling; all the rest are secondary and changeable. Os Guinness beautifully said that “CALLING is the truth that God calls us to himself so decisively that everything we are, everything we do, and everything we have is invested with a special devotion and dynamism lived out as a response to his summons and service.”*



More people pass through  
healthcare facilities than  
through the churches.



# WHY work?!

This is an important foundational question - **“WHY do we work?!”**

Many people do not even think about it. Many others think work is a burden, a necessary “evil.” Some think that it is a curse, as if work started after sin entered the world through our common ancestors in the Garden of Eden...

Others may say we work, because we have to eat, we have to survive. Some are as bold to say: “I work to get money!”, or “I work for name and fame.” Others may say: “We work, because we have to!” And yet, there are others who say: “We work, because there is a need!”

What do you say, why do we work?!

**I think we work, because:**

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Let’s look at a few verses from God’s Word, and explore this question and our answers further.

- ♦ Genesis 1:26-28 (YLT) - “And God saith, ‘Let Us make man **in Our image**, according to Our likeness, and let them **rule over** fish of the sea, and over fowl of the heavens, and over cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that is creeping on the earth.’ And God prepareth the

man in His image; in the image of God He prepared him, a male and a female He prepared them. And God blesseth them, and God saith to them, 'Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the earth, and **subdue it, and rule over** fish of the sea, and over fowl of the heavens, and over every living thing that is creeping upon the earth.'

- ◆ Genesis 2:15 - "The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden **to work it and keep it.**" (ESV); "Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden **to farm the land and to take care of it.**" (GW); "And Jehovah God taketh the man, and causeth him **to rest** in the garden of Eden, **to serve it, and to keep it.**" (YLT).
- ◆ Psalm 8:6-8 - "You made him **rule over the works of Your hands**; You have put all under his feet: all flocks and oxen, and also the animals of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, all that pass through the sea." (LITV)
- ◆ Ephesians 2:8-10 "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, **created** in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." (ESV)

**From these verses, I learn that we work, because:**

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- ◆ John 9:4 **We must work** the works of Him Who sent Me and be busy with His business while it is daylight; night is coming on, when no man can work.
- ◆ Matthew 21:28 'And what think ye? A man had two children, and having

come to the first, he said, Child, go, to-day be working in my vineyard.' (YLT); "go and work today..." (ERV)

- ◆ Mark 13:34 For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch." (KJV); "given ...to each one his work" (ASV)
- ◆ John 17:4 I have glorified You down here on the earth by completing the work that YOU gave Me to do." (Ampl)

**From these verses, I learn that we work, because:**

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- ◆ John 5:17 But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working." (ESV); But Jesus said, "My Father has never stopped working, and that is why I keep on working." (CEV)
- ◆ Philippians 2:12b-13 "...Keep on working with fear and trembling to complete your salvation, because God is always at work in you to make you willing and able to obey his own purpose." (GNB) "Work, for God works in you" (AM)
- ◆ John 5:36 But I have as My witness something greater (weightier, higher, better) than that of John; for the works that the Father has appointed Me to accomplish and finish, the very same works that I am now doing, are a witness and proof that the Father has sent Me." (Ampl)

**From these verses, I learn that we work, because:**

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- ◆ 1Timothy 2:8-10 - “I desire therefore that in every place men should pray, without anger or quarreling or resentment or doubt [in their minds], lifting up holy hands. Also [I desire] that women should **adorn themselves** modestly and appropriately and sensibly in seemly apparel, not with [elaborate] hair arrangement or gold or pearls or expensive clothing, but **by doing good deeds (deeds in themselves good and for the good and advantage of those contacted by them)**, as befits women who profess reverential fear for and devotion to God.” (Amplified); “...that women should **adorn themselves ...with good works.**” (ESV)
- ◆ 2 Thessalonians 3:10 - “For even when we were with you, we would give you this command: **If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat.**” (ESV)

**From these verses, I learn that we work, because:**

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- ♦ Romans 12:1 - “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is **your spiritual worship.**”
- ♦ 1 Peter 4:10-11 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order **that in everything God may be glorified** through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.” (ESV) ;
- ♦ 1Corinthians 10:31 - “So then, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you may do, do all **for the honor and glory of God.**” (Ampl)

**From these verses, I learn that we work, because:**

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In his beautiful book, “**Working for God,**” Dr Andrew Murray ends by speaking about this truth - that **the ultimate reason for WHY we work is that God may be glorified.** It is so well written that we include the whole section here for your personal perusal. He said:

*“Work is not done for its own sake. Its value consists in the object it attains. The purpose of him who commands or performs the work gives it its real worth. And the clearer a man's insight into the purpose, the better fitted will he be to take charge of the higher parts of the work. In the erection of some splendid building, the purpose of the day-labourer may simply be as a hireling to earn his wages. The trained stone-cutter has a higher object: he thinks of the beauty and perfection of the work he does. The master mason*

has a wider range of thought: his aim is that all the masonry shall be true and good. The contractor for the whole building has a higher aim--that the whole building shall perfectly correspond to the plan he has to carry out. The architect has had a still higher purpose--that the great principles of art and beauty might find their full expression in material shape. With the owner we find the final end--the use to which the grand structure is to be put when he, say, presents the building as a gift for the benefit of his townsmen. All who have worked upon the building honestly have done so with some true purpose. *The deeper the insight and the keener the interest in the ultimate design, the more important the share in the work, and the greater the joy in carrying it out.*

*Peter tells us what our aim ought to be in all Christian service--'that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.' In the work of God, a work not to be done for wages but for love, the humblest laborer is admitted to a share in God's plans, and to an insight into the great purpose which God is working out. That purpose is nothing less than this: that God may be glorified. This is the one purpose of God, the great worker in heaven, the source and master of all work, that the glory of His love and power and blessing may be shown. This is the one purpose of Christ, the great worker on earth in human nature, the example and leader of all our work. This is the great purpose of the Holy Spirit, the power that worketh in us, or, as Peter says here, 'the strength that God supplieth.' As this becomes our deliberate, intelligent purpose, our work will rise to its true level, and lift us into living fellowship with God.*

'That in all things God may be glorified.' What does this mean? The glory of God is this, that He alone is the Living One, who has life in Himself. Yet not for Himself alone, but, because His life is love, for the creatures as much as for Himself. This is the glory of God, that He is the alone and ever flowing fountain of all life and goodness and happiness, and that His creatures can have all this only as He gives it and works it in them. His working all in all, this is His glory. And the only glory His creature, His child, can give Him is this--receiving all He is willing to give, yielding to Him to let Him work, and then acknowledging that He has done it. Thus God Himself shows forth His glory in us; in our willing surrender to Him, and our joyful acknowledgment that He does all, we glorify Him. And so our life and work is glorified, as it has one purpose with all God's own work, 'that in all things God may be glo-

rified, whose is the glory for ever and ever.'

See here now the spirit that ennobles and consecrates Christian service according to Peter: 'He that serveth (in ministering to the saints or the needy), let him serve as of the strength which God supplieth.' Let me cultivate a deep conviction that ***God's work, down into the details of daily life, can only be done in God's strength, 'by the power of the Spirit working in us.'*** Let me believe firmly and unceasingly that the Holy Spirit does dwell in me, as the power from on high, for all work to be done for on high. ***Let me in my Christian work fear nothing so much, as working in my own human will and strength, and so losing the one thing needful in my work, God working in me. Let me rejoice in the weakness that renders me so absolutely dependent upon such a God, and wait in prayer for His power to take full possession.***

***'Let him serve as of the strength which God supplieth, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.'*** The more you depend on God alone for your strength, the more will He be glorified. The more you seek to make God's purpose your purpose, the more will you be led to give way to His working and His strength and love. ***Oh! that every, the feeblest, worker might see what a nobility it gives to work, what a new glory to life, what a new urgency and joy in laboring for souls, when the one purpose has mastered us: that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.***

1. The glory of God as Creator was seen in His making man in His own image. The glory of God as Redeemer is seen in the work He carries on for saving men, and bringing them to Himself.
2. This glory is the glory of His holy love, casting sin out of the heart, and dwelling there.
3. The only glory we can bring to God is to yield ourselves to His redeeming love to take possession of us, to fill us with love to others, and so through us to show forth His glory.
4. ***Let this be the one end of our lives--to glorify God; in living to work for Him, 'as of the strength which God supplieth'; and winning souls to know and live for His glory.***
5. ***Lord! teach us to serve in the strength which God supplieth, that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, whose is the glory for ever and ever. Amen."***

Taken from: Murray, Andrew (2013-11-15). The LIFE AND WORKS of ANDREW MURRAY - 50 Titles - Kindle Edition.

As we prayerfully looked at what Andrew Murray wrote, but more importantly as we looked at what is written in God's Word (and discussed together), we've asked ourselves the question: "**WHY work?!**"

**To SUMMARIZE** what we've seen, we can at least say that...

We work,

*To glorify God!*

*To reflect His character .*

*To fulfil our God-given purpose.*

*To do what we were created for. (good works)*

*To help others (and us).*

*To do what He told us to do. (He said: "Child, go work today")*

*To do His will. (It is His will that we work!)*

*To do what He gave us to do... Prepared & commanded by Him.*

*To have fellowship with Him (Who is always working).*

*To worship Him....!*

We work,

*Because He is working*

*Because we want to work with Him*

*Because the work we do is a witness to Him*

*Because it adorns us and beautifies our lives—for His glory.*

*Because we earn our bread through it*

*Because it is His will*

*Because we want to work His will (and work like Him)*

*Because we have become like Him (a bit)*

*Because of His Life working in us...*

***WHY do we work? We work, because God is working and He made us like Him. We work, because He made us to work and to reflect His character and glorify Him (also in and through our work). We work to help others and ourselves, and ...we work to worship Jesus!***



## Personal Processing

The **Main Messages** to me (about WHY we work) are:

**Mobilize** (*what God wants me to DO about this*):

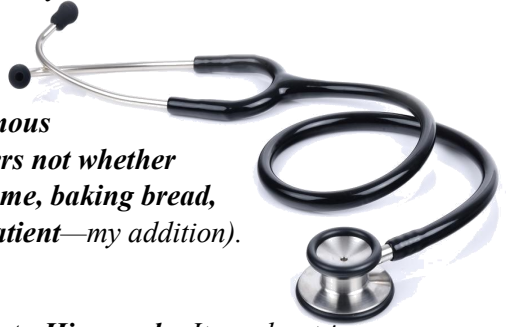


The first human couple (and us in them) was given a whole-life CALLING, an integral vocation, with 3 overlapping key areas:

- ♥ Communion: relationship with God;
- ♥ Community: relationship with one another;
- ♥ Co-working (or Cultivation): to take care (Gen 2:15) and develop God's creation as co-workers with God (Gen 4:20-22).

In “*Walking with God*,” Phillip Keller says,

***“Work is not a dirty word.  
Labor is not evil. There can be  
great dignity, intense activity, enormous  
pleasure in work well done. It matters not whether  
it is digging a garden, building a home, baking bread,  
or writing a book (or caring for a patient—my addition).  
Don't overdo it, but enjoy it.*”**



***Work is one of God's greatest gifts to His people. It need not be something we shun or shirk. Scripture is abundantly clear that we should work diligently, energetically, and with enthusiasm (en-Theo: IN-GOD) at whatever we do.***

*His name, His reputation, His honor are as much at stake in the project as is mine. Whatever I find to do, therefore, I will employ all my bodily resources to accomplish in the very finest performance possible.*

*The secret to joyous work is to recognize that God and I are co-workers. It is a shared project. He is in it with me. Together we will turn out the best possible product.*

*I never put my pen to the paper (all my books are handwritten in long-hand, using an old-fashioned fountain pen) without first consciously, sincerely consulting with Christ about what will be written and in what manner.*

*The net result is that one need not take personal, selfish pride in the final product. It has been a joint effort in which He is the senior partner and prime consultant, Such bodily work is beautiful; it is upbuilding and deeply gratifying.”*

# WHAT work?

To know in our head and heart WHY we work, is the first step to doing our WORK as WORSHIP to Jesus. The second step is to ask ourselves WHAT work will be work that is lawful, according to God? *This is a crucial question, since not all work is lawful in God's eyes.*

## **I. Our first and foremost “work” is to have FAITH in the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jesus was asked, “**WHAT shall we do that we might work the works of God?**” (John 6:28), in other words: “**WHAT work is right for us to do?!**” He answered and said, “This is the work of God, that you believe on Him whom He has sent.” (John 6:29; KJV); “**This is the work** (service) that God asks of you: **that you believe in the One Whom He has sent** [that you cleave to, trust, rely on, and have faith in His Messenger].” (Ampl).

This is not just an intellectual accent to the truths pertaining to the Lord Jesus Christ, but a hearty confidence in the character of Christ, a fully relying on Him and on what He did and accomplished on our behalf on the Cross, a complete trusting in Him for life and eternity. It is the kind of FAITH THAT works (Gal 5:6), that works by love (Gal 5:6), that purifies the heart (Acts 26:18;Ampl), that overcomes the world (1 John 5:4), that obeys God (Rom 1:5), that comes by hearing Him & hearing His Word (Rom 10:17). George MacDonald (1824-1905) said that “***to BELIEVE in Him is to give ourselves up to Him in obedience, to search out His will and DO it*”!!!**

## **II. Secondly, we can say that our work must be LAWFUL if we are to work at it as worship to God.**

Charles Finney, who was used by God in true revival, preached a marvellous message on “***How to prevent our employments from injuring our souls.***” I read this message when I was a young medical student. It changed my life

and work completely. In this sermon, Finney showed (1) That idleness is inconsistent with religion; (2) That all persons are bound to pursue some lawful employment; (3) That they are to be diligent in their calling whatever it is; and (4) How to prevent employments ...from becoming a snare to the soul.

In the 2nd section he asked the question, “But WHAT is a lawful employment” (or WORK)? He answered it as follows. He said: “This is an all-important question, in answer to which I observe,

1. **To be lawful, an employment must not be injurious to our own best interests, or the best interests of mankind.**
2. Speculation is not a lawful employment. To embark in uncertain speculations involves in it the principle of gambling, and is eminently the spirit of gambling. It is a game of chance, where one of the parties must gain and the other lose, and where selfishness stalks abroad naked to grasp every man's wealth without blushing.
3. **To be lawful, an employment must not be selfish. All selfishness is sin. And every employment however lawful it may be in itself, is rendered unlawful by being selfishly pursued.**
4. **To be lawful there must not be too much or too little of it.** A business (*work*—my addition) lawful in itself may become unlawful when too much is undertaken or too little is performed, so that on the one hand a man is crushed, or on the other he is idle; but,
5. **To be lawful, a business (work) must be useful, i.e. it must be such an employment as is calculated in its nature to benefit mankind.**
6. **To be lawful, a business (work) must be suited to your capacity.** You cannot lawfully employ yourself in that for which you are not fitted. By this I do not mean, that you are to be perfectly qualified for the transaction of any business, before you can lawfully engage in it, but that you should be as well or better fitted for that particular employment than any other.
7. **To be lawful, it must be that employment to which you are called of God. You are to be wholly the Lord's, and to consult his will in all things--and never to be engaged in any employment to please yourself or promote your own separate or private interest. You are bound therefore to submit yourself to the direction of the Lord in all things, and to select no employment for life, or for any length of time but under the direction of God.** It is generally admitted, that ministers are to be specially called of God to the work of the ministry. But all men are to be equally



devoted to God, and all employments are to be pursued equally for the glory of God. Every faculty, every day, and moment of all men are to be devoted to the Lord. And all men are equally bound to consult the will of God in the selection and pursuit of their employments. And no man can give himself up to employments to which he is not called of God, or to which he does not really believe himself to be called of God, without thereby apostatizing from the service of God. Now every one of you would say that if a minister should select the ministry to please himself he would lose his soul. This is equally true of every other employment.

- 8. To be lawfully employed, you must engage in that in which you can be most useful. It is not enough that you render yourself useful in some degree, you are bound to be engaged in that employment in which you can, (all things considered,) do the most good. A man might render himself useful as a pedlar but if he can be more useful in some other employment he is bound to prefer it.
- 9. That only is a lawful employment which can honestly and reasonably be pursued, for the glory of God. Every kind and degree of business that cannot, with an enlightened conscience, be solemnly engaged in and transacted for the glory of God, carries its own condemnation on its very front.
- 10. No business is lawful that is not, as a matter of fact, engaged in and pursued with the supreme desire to know and glorify God therein.
- 11. No business is lawful which is inconsistent with the highest degree of spirituality. I mean that only which consists with entire holiness of heart and life is a lawful employment. Anything that Jesus Christ, or an apostle would not engage in under the circumstances is really unlawful for everybody else."

From these words I mainly learned that for a work to be LAWFUL...

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“LAWFUL” means “according to God’s LAW”; and what is God’s LAW? God’s LAW is the **LAW of LOVE!**

- ♦ To LOVE God
- ♦ To LOVE others
- ♦ To LOVE yourself

...this is God’s Law.

This means that if I do NOT love God and others and myself (in the right way), then I am breaking God’s law! As far as our WORK is concerned, we can say that:

***Work without LOVE is unlawful!!!***

***Work without LOVE is breaking God’s law...***

***Work without LOVE is sin...***

Is this the truth, according to God’s Word and way? With all our heart, we believe it is the truth! Any work without love is unlawful, any work without love is sin!!

This is not the way we usually think, but this is God’s standard. There is nothing that God does that is not done in love. He says in 1 Corinthians 16:13-14, “Be alert and on your guard; stand firm in your faith (your conviction respecting man’s relationship to God and divine things, keeping the trust and holy fervor born of faith and a part of it). Act like men and be courageous; grow in strength! **Let everything you do be done in love** (true love to God and man as inspired by God’s love for us)” (Ampl). This is a wonderful word! Read it again:

**“Let EVERYTHING you do be done in LOVE”!!!**

Isn’t this crystal clear?! ***God wants EVERYTHING we do to be done in LOVE!*** That means, He wants us to sweep the floors with love, to care for all our patients with love, to do an operation with love, to do the admin work with love, to put up the drip with love, to dress the patient’s wound with love, to do the ward round with love, to do the lab tests with love, to cook a meal with love, to write the report with love, to teach the students with love, to do research with love, etc...

WORK  
without  
LOVE  
is sin!

**For instance, as I understand the Word and ways of God, I think that any work which includes...**

Lying  
Dishonesty  
Bribery  
Favouritism  
Dehumanising of others  
Belittling peers or patients  
Exploiting of the poor  
Promotion of self-glory  
Pride  
Neglect (or laziness)  
Judgmentalism  
Immoral behaviour (or support of it)  
Selling of alcoholic drinks  
Selling of cigarettes  
Selling/using of abortifacants  
Doing abortion on demand  
Euthanasia  
Doing investigations/procedures mainly for monetary gain  
Neglect of family  
Forgetfulness or neglect of God  
Self-centredness

**...is UNLAWFUL!**

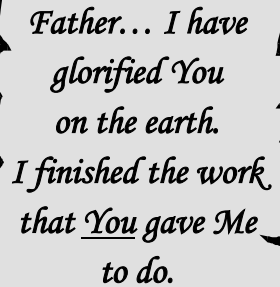
### **III. Our third main point, as far as “WHAT work?” is concerned, is that it should be the work that GOD GAVE US to do...!**

At the end of his earthly life, the Lord Jesus said, “*Father... I have glorified You on the earth. I finished the work that You gave Me to do.*” (John 17:1, 4). Like Him, we want to do the work that our Father in heaven give us to do!

One of the challenges (and adventures) in life is to **find out what GOD wants us to do and then to do it with all** our heart and all our soul and all

our might and all our strength, through His help and for His glory. ***THIS is the work we want to do!*** THIS is the work we want to do as worship to Jesus!

When we seek to find and do the work God has for us, daily, it does NOT mean that we do not listen to what others tell us or that we do NOT listen to our superiors, no, not at all. We DO listen to them, we do serve them, we do submit to them, we do obey them, since God put us in His Providence under their leadership and authority - but, we do that only *in the Lord* and as far as what is expected of us is LAWFUL, according to God's eternal love-law.



*Father... I have  
glorified You  
on the earth.  
I finished the work  
that You gave Me  
to do.*

Unfortunately, some Christian healthcare workers seem to be slow to obey their superiors, slow to do what they are asked to do, and quick to find loopholes in the system - to suite themselves or to shun their responsibilities. This is a very sad and sick state of affairs.

On the positive side: as Christian healthcare workers, we DO want to seek to know and do God's will for our life; we want to actively ask, also as far as our profession is concerned: ***“Lord, what is the work YOU want me to do?!”*** and then do it, whole-heartedly and faithfully and lovingly.

Adolphe Monod served the Lord well in France. He was suddenly reduced to the pain of a terminal sick-bed at the age of 53 years. From his sick-bed, he shared many lessons with his friends. He also shared with them “*The Regrets of a Dying Man.*” One of his regrets was expressed as follows. He said:

**“I regret having regulated my life too much by my own plans—I mean upon my plans of faithfulness and Christian sanctification—and not more simply upon the plan that the Lord unfolds before each of us. ...**  
We do not find in Jesus those plans and methods that have so much occupied many good people, and have often perplexed them, and taken up a considerable part of their time which might have been better employed. But what do we find? We find **a man who has no other wish than to accomplish the mission He has received from the Father, and who has no other plan**

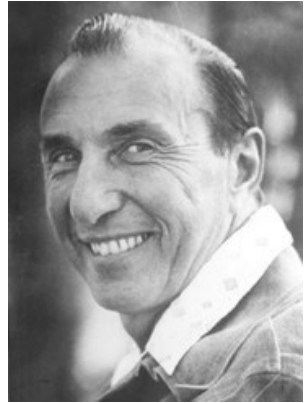
**than to enter into the plans of the Father; so that, with His eyes constantly fixed upon Him, He is only occupied in listening to His voice, that He may follow its directions, and to discern His will, in order to execute it. The works of Jesus Christ are prepared for Him one after another, and set by God before Him on His way, following each other so naturally, and arising so easily one out of another, that they never occasioned any confusion, even in the busiest days of His ministry. ...Whenever there is on man's part this perfect accordance with the will of God, God on His part gives us a perfectly clear light to guide us.** In this way a wonderfully profound word from the Holy Spirit is realized: *'We are created in Jesus Christ unto good works, which God has prepared for us to walk in them.'* (Ephesians 2:10). Here good works are presented to us, not as a path that we have to make out for ourselves, but as a path that God has made, and in which we have only to walk. It is God's way, not our own; **we have only to follow this path, and we shall moment by moment perform the will of God.**

...We are often tormented with the thought, that we are not doing enough, or that we are doing badly, or that we are not doing the work which God has given us to do... By the grace of God I am now delivered from that thought because I understand that it is not a question of my work, but of God's work... It is then that we shall be able to say, like Jesus Christ before He suffered death, **'I finished the work that You gave me to do.'** And why could he say that? Because He sought only to do the work of God, and God withdrew Him, as a ripe fruit is gathered, when His mission was accomplished.

**Well, then, let us also seek only to do the work which the Father has given us to do, and commit ourselves into His hands.** We also, if we are faithful, shall only be taken when our work is done. To God alone it belongs to decide when the work He will do by us is accomplished. It may be imperfect, incomplete in the judgment of men; but if we are upright before Him, the Lord will not allow us to pass away without leaving some traces upon earth; He will not take us until our work is accomplished before Him; and we shall be enabled to say, in a spirit of humility, with the Lord, **'I finished the work that You gave me to do'...**

#### **IV. Our fourth point, in the words of Phillip Keller, is to “DO WHAT YOU DO BEST—AND LOVE IT”**

This is said to Christians who have surrendered their all to the Lord and asked Him to shape their lives and their loves, for His glory. In his magnificent, last book before he went to heaven, “*What Makes Life Worth Living?*”, in the chapter “**Do What You Do Best – and Love It!**,” he said:



Phillip Keller

“One of the awful tragedies of human history consists of the innumerable lives spent, wasted, thrown to the winds in merely existing. This has been a large part of the human problem on the planet. I have seen such waste in its most stark and dark dimensions in various countries all over the earth. It makes no difference whether it is the highly-paid executive trapped in his treadmill job on the twentieth floor of a shining skyscraper in New York, or an African peasant clad only in a loincloth and trapped on his tiny plot of waste ground under the burning sun.

Millions upon millions of people spend their entire existence on earth in deadening drudgery. They are yoked to a treadmill of tedium. Life for multitudes is meaningless. Even the wages earned or money received is a mockery, for it is the very thing that binds them into endless bondage and dark skepticism.

This is not an easy chapter to write. I know firsthand what it is to be caught in the awful, soul-destroying tangle of pointless toil. I endured much at the hands of tough taskmasters in my youth. The longer I labored with aching back, screaming muscles, and tired tendons, the more my will was set to break free from such bondage.

I was determined I would discover what I could do best - what I could do well with a natural, joyous instinct - work that I loved and relished. For early in my working years, **I learned that the man who loves what he is doing can overcome huge obstacles.** Reverses and setbacks are no longer calamities, but become challenges to be overcome and stepping stones to the future.

What has just been written is of paramount importance for God's person. **A handsome paycheck, prestige, even power and influence garnered only for one's own ends are not reason enough to pursue a certain career or enter a chosen profession.**

There are two other considerations that matter more!

**First, is this in fact the work God my Father wishes me to do?**

**Second, has He endowed me with the special abilities to do it well, with joy?**

It is utterly astonishing to see how many people really have missed the mark in life. They have not found the high and noble calling for which God Himself equipped them. Too often they are square pegs trying to fit in round holes. They simply do not fit! And the end result is cruel frustration or empty ennui.

Many, many young people come to me asking earnestly what to do with their lives. The choice of a career is a most serious matter! It matters so much whether or not one enjoys one's work. My reply is always the same: **Do what you can do best, find out what you love eagerly to do, then fling yourself wholeheartedly into the endeavor. Trust Christ to direct your decisions.**

This does not mean that life will always be smooth sailing over calm waters. It will not! It never is for anyone. There will be storms. There will be dark days. There will be testing situations and confrontations with tough people.

But the great secret in the storms is that you are not in this wind-whipped gale all on your own. You can sense the powerful presence of the Master with you. He is beside you to guide, encourage, and keep you on course. So you can carry on calmly. You can overcome. You can succeed.

Additionally, it should be known that anyone who does excellent work with gracious goodwill is going to be well rewarded in several ways. First and foremost, there seeps into one's own spirit an acute awareness that the task has been accomplished with finesse. It is a joint project between God and man. Such a sensation brings dignity, honor, and solid satisfaction into life.

Secondly, such work always attracts attention. As the old truism put it so well, "If a man builds a better mousetrap or writes a better book, even though he lives in the woods, the world will beat a path to his door." That is absolutely so!

During the years that I wrote some of my books in tiny cabins tucked away in remote mountain valleys of British Columbia, editors and publishers went to great pains to track me down. In those rough, tough days they would have to sit by an open fire and share a cup of strong tea boiled from water drawn



out of a mountain spring.

No, we don't need Madison Avenue advertising or the hype of Hollywood with all its tarnished tinsel to prove our work is worthy of acclaim. Our Father sees to that when the work is well pleasing to Him.

**The sorry truth is that too often workers try to impress their contemporaries rather than being content just to work well in company with Christ Himself.** He honors those who humbly honor Him. That is what matters most!

Thirdly, He has a wondrous way of providing for those who put His interests first in their endeavors. He cares for them as they carry on quietly. He inspires them in their efforts. He pours out His bounties and His benefits on the individual who works in integrity.

*Work well  
in company  
with Christ...*

A person's work, no matter what it is, should stand on its own merit. If it is to endure it must be of honest, noble, intrinsic worth. **As God's child I do not cut corners, turn out trash, or pass off halfhearted endeavors hoping high-pressure publicity can make up for the obvious deficiencies.**

That may be the way contemporary society does it, but it is not the way a godly person does it.

Let me say it again. **God's name, God's reputation, God's esteem is at stake in my work in the world. So, I dare not do a half-hearted job. It must be done well and it must be done with goodwill.**

Not only is my Father's honor to be upheld in all of my endeavors but, as His man, so also must my own. This applies whether my work is sweeping the sidewalk or speaking to an audience of a thousand souls. My life is an open document being read with cynical scrutiny by a skeptical society.

**If the life and love and labor of the living Christ is to be seen at all in our sin-sotted world, it must be seen in the solid, sincere work I accomplish in His energy.**

It is not enough for God's people to indulge in endless sentiments and sweet talk about perishing people. **God calls us to actually do some solid good work in this weary old world. One of the finest accolades ever bestowed on Christ was, "He went about doing good!"**

*The life and love  
and labor of the  
living Christ is to  
be seen...*

**In the end, a man's work is in essence the expression of a man's character.** Jesus Himself declared, "A good tree produces good fruit. An evil tree produces inferior fruit. You do not gather figs from wild thistles. By their fruit you know what a man's character is."

I shall never forget a memorable morning that illustrates this principle. For years I had worked diligently to produce a set of documentary films showing the life habits of the major wildlife species in the Northern Rockies. When the project was completed it was submitted to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

They were most interested in broadcasting the series from coast to coast. However, they made it clear to me that government policy would not permit me, as an ardent Christian, to promulgate my personal beliefs in God on this national broadcast.

In due course the films were shown to enthralled audiences. So great was the popular demand that they were broadcast four times. Letters came to me from all across the country expressing thanks for the inspiration in the work and the superb beauty of the production.

But most moving was the morning I left the studios for the last time. The chief director called me into his office and made this simple comment: "We get all sorts of sordid types coming through these studios. But your coming has been a fresh wind of uplift for all of us!"

It was enough! The work itself had spoken louder and more clearly than any comments I might have made about my personal beliefs in God. This is true, too, for the enduring legacy left behind by anyone who has done great, noble, honest work.

I feel an upsurge of profound appreciation to those who diligently labor and, inspired by the Most High, give us great music and art, great books and architecture, great parks, great health, great discoveries, great highways, or great inspiration of any sort.

**Each of us in our own humble endeavors can make a noble and beautiful contribution to our generation. No matter how simple our service to the Master, and to others, it can be offered with a smile and in a spirit of generous goodwill. The prospect of making a difference for God gives an edge of excitement to even the most ordinary experiences. It dispels the drudgery. It injects light and laughter and love into our work in the world.**

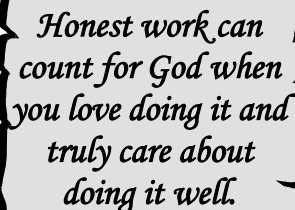
In my worn, leather wallet is a faded slip of paper. On it are inscribed these simple, yet profound, thoughts first penned by Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882):

To laugh often and love much; to win the respect of intelligent persons and the affection of children; to earn the approbation of honest citizens and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to give of one's self; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to have played and laughed with enthusiasm and sung with exultation; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived - this is to have succeeded!

This in truth is a wholesome view of what matters most.

**We live and work and play in a spirit of godliness, not to impress others or to gain merit with God our Father. We do it out of a deep, compelling sense of gratitude and thanks for all of His generosity and grace to us. Put simply but sharply, I love to work this way because He first loved me this way! That is my motive.**

Most definitely yes! **The ordinary work a person performs in dignity and decency can be used in the most extraordinary ways by Christ to draw onlookers to Himself.** For after all, He is the One who is at work in those of us who share life with Him. So it follows that our labor with Him dissipates the boredom or tedium that might otherwise dog our days. **Instead, our work can be an inspiration to ourselves and to those we serve.**



*Honest work can  
count for God when  
you love doing it and  
truly care about  
doing it well.*

Recently I received a card from a person who had been in our Bible studies. It was sent to commemorate my seventy-fifth birthday. It was one of the finest tributes to a teacher I have ever received. It moved me mightily. In eloquent language, it stated what I have been trying to express in this chapter. Allow me to share it with you. Then you too can understand why **honest work can count for God when you love doing it and truly care about doing it well.**

To a teacher who cared:

Because you care to find a way  
To show God's love all through the day,  
Your students sensed, your students heard  
The message deeper than the word.

Compassion, justice, strength, speak well  
Of God! Yes, there are ways to tell  
Of faith which permeates you so.  
The Holy Spirit's inner glow  
Speaks more than you will ever know,  
Because you cared!

That is to love one's work in Christ!"

This ends the reading from Phillip Keller's beautiful book, "*What makes life worth living?*".

In this section of our seminar, we sought to discover  
**WHAT WORK we can do.** We saw that:

- ♦ *Our first, foremost "work" is to have FAITH in Jesus Christ.*
- ♦ *Our work must be LAWFUL if it is to be worship to God.*
- ♦ *Our work should be the work that GOD GAVE US TO DO...!*
- ♦ *Our work is to "DO WHAT YOU DO BEST  
—AND LOVE IT!"*



## Personal Processing

The **Main Messages** to me (about WHAT work to do) are:

**Mobilize** (*what God wants me to DO about this*):



# HOW to work?!

It is important to know WHY we work, and that WHAT we do as work is lawful and God's will for us, but the heart of the matter for me is... **HOW we work!!!**

In this section, we'll (1) read "*The Honor of Honest Work*" by Phillip Keller, (2) study the Word of God about this topic, and (3) summarize for ourselves HOW God wants us to work in this world...

Let's start by reading what Phillip Keller wrote about work, based on his walk with God and his eating and living of the Word of God, over many years. I'd like to encourage you to READ his words prayerfully; they made a deep, deep impact in my life!

## "The Honor of Honest Work"

*By Phillip W. Keller*

"When Christ lived and moved and ministered among us in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, **He made His short sojourn here one of steady service.** During His formative years and all through His youth and early manhood **He worked diligently at His trade as a carpenter and builder.** He became well-known in Nazareth as "the carpenter," skilled, honest, reliable, and fair in His fees.

He worked steadily to support not only Himself but also His siblings, for He was the firstborn son in the family. Later He had His widowed mother, Mary, to care for as well. All of this humble labor for some sixteen years of His life was not something to be dismissed.

For when He finally set down the tools of His private trade in order to begin a more public service, He was complemented openly by the Most High. At Christ's baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist, a flaming prophet from the desert, His Father declared audibly from on high, "You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased!"

So it is apparent that from our Father's perspective, **any honest work done with dignity is noble, honorable, and well pleasing to God. This is most important to know!**

**Later in His very public life Christ worked constantly to serve others. He insisted He came to serve.** Tremendous demands were made on Him to heal the sick, to feed the hungry, to hearten the downtrodden, to help those in sorrow, to rescue and save lost people, to teach others truth. And all of it was **heavy, hard, honest work.** **He always called this service "my Father's work."** He insisted, in plain terms, **"My Father works - and I work!"** **The work He did was His Father's will.**

This is a profound perception! It elevates any task entrusted to us by God our Father to a lofty level. it means that any labor performed with love and humility in cooperation with Christ, no matter how simple or menial, can be a supreme service of great honor. It is a noble enterprise in which both God and man are jointly engaged - for His honor and for our good.



This view of our work brings gentle dignity into the drabness and drudgery of any day - no matter what its demands. A person may sweep streets and sing in his soul. A mother may care for tiny tots or tough teenagers and see it as an honorable and high calling. An intern may bathe the open, suppurating sores of lepers and do so having a sparkle in the eye. Any layperson can labor at the most menial job and bring to it the dignity of work well done and the gift of benediction for laboring as Christ's servant.

*Faithful work  
is a  
labor of love!*

As a simple, forthright reminder to myself of what true work in company with Christ really means, I have a marker in the book of my daily devotions that states: Before you cry in your distress, always bless the Lord first for His faithfulness to you in life. Then your simple tasks, done faithfully with Him each day, become lovely mosaics, laid down in the humble pavement of your private walk with Him.

The faithful work of which I speak is not a form of tedious toil; rather it is a labor of love. Though it may be ordinary work - pruning a rosebush, baking bread, visiting a forlorn friend, tending a little tot - each task can carry something of joy. We can, if we so choose, discover deep delight in work well done with a smile on our faces and laughter on our lips.

For me as a man, work - any work, heavy work, hard work, steady work - has been hearty work. It has been happy work. And it matters most that it be honest work, for Christ and I are engaged in the endeavor as a team.

So very often I have turned to Him who is at my side and requested the skill, the stamina, and the serenity to push the job through with goodwill as well as with good success. He does not defraud me. I gladly accepted the challenge because the work becomes a real adventure with Him.

*I requested  
the skill,  
the stamina,  
and  
the serenity...*

Having His guidance in my work has been a most important part of my whole life, even during the willful years of my youth when I did not always walk with God

as I do now. In His generosity He shared in my enterprises and gave me energy to go on. In every field of endeavor He was my alongside Friend. In the years of scientific study and research, in acting as an agricultural consultant, in developing my own magnificent ranches, in resource studies throughout the world, in production of wildlife films and photographs, in writing some fifty books across fifty years, in addressing thousands of churches everywhere - in all of these activities there has been a compelling sense of my Father, God Himself, active and at work in my affairs. It has been His presence, His power, His peace that assures my soul He is here to help, to guide, to inspire. I do not perform the work at hand on my own. Even in the sequence in which the tasks of the day are tackled, I am sensitive and open to His divine direction.

His presence adds a bright aura of expectancy and beautiful bonuses to the day. It is quite remarkable to sense and know that He is arranging the day's events in such detail. With this sublime stimulus of spirit I can work well. Work - any kind of work - then becomes a joy, not just a job. The task becomes a joint effort carried out calmly but with deep contentment in work well done, on time, with excellence.

After all, my Father's name, honor, and respect are at stake in the work I do. The whole world watches my job performance. Sad to say, and it needs to be said emphatically, far too often Christians are seen cutting corners, loafing on the job, being careless about quality and irresponsible in their prior commitments.

Such laxity brings enormous discredit to Christ. It often explains why secular people despise Christians. It underlies the current contempt for the church. It fuels skepticism toward those who follow the Master.

*Work  
then becomes a  
JOY,  
not just a job.*

But by the same measure, Christians who do noble, honest, excellent work will gain the attention of the ungodly. Try it, and see what God will do!

After all, one thing that matters most in life is the way in which we discharge our duties. Work is not a wicked word!

It is a noble honor given to each of us and helps to make our world a more congenial environment not only for the human race, but for all creatures great and small. Our Lord God loves them all.

We often overlook the great fundamental fact that a person's work represents in practical, enduring terms what he or she considers to be important. In subsequent chapters, I will explore in depth other facets that truly matter in life. But it remains true that an individual's work represents a significant contribution to the world in which we all live.

We sometimes forget that if an individual, through the expenditure of energy, time, and thought, creates something of worth, it remains as an enduring reminder of a life well spent. This is especially true if the duties have been performed in honesty, kindness, and care for others.



**Christ Himself made much of work as service.** He never suggested we should all be geniuses or specially gifted people who could produce masterpieces. But **He did declare that even the most lowly deed done in His honor to help another was, if done with noble motives, really done to Him and for Him.**

He insisted this sort of special, sublime service could be as uncomplicated as giving a thirsty person a cup of cool water or taking the time to walk a second mile with someone sad or forlorn. It could be freeing an ox mired in the mud.

My own candid view is that **Christ never intended us to "strut our stuff in proud self-promotion. He does not call us to some special, sophisticated sort of man-exalted ministry. Rather He calls us to simply follow Him in lowly, humble service to a suffering, sin-driven society shot through with sorrow.**

Just recently my wife and I were taken to a special Christmas concert put on by one of the elite Christian colleges of the country. I went in joyous expectation of hearing great hymns and grand music that would lift up our spirits in exultation of Christ our King. Instead, the staff of the music department had arranged a program of complicated pieces that proudly showed off their own skills. The music was so loud, so discordant, so avant-garde that it was almost impossible to understand.

*He calls us to simply  
follow Him in lowly,  
humble service to a  
suffering, sin-driven  
society shot through  
with sorrow.*

The overall impression was nothing more than a proud, pathetic performance that pandered to the conductor's ego, very much like a nightclub show. Thus a splendid chance to offer royal, loyal honor and service to our Savior had been missed completely. I came home saddened in soul.

**The work we do must always be seen as for, and with, God** because we are both engaged in the enterprise. The work must be a credit, both to Him and to us. After all, His name, His honor, His reputation are at stake in it and in us. So our service is one of divine dignity.

If He is well pleased with the work He will honor it in His own gracious way. It will endure, even long after we have passed from the scene. He will use it to touch, bless, and enrich others whom we will never ever meet or see. **He can make our simple service a sublime benediction.**

*The work we do must  
always be seen as for,  
and with, God...*

This dimension of doing the Master's bidding brings powerful purpose and superb direction into all of life.

**It adds meaning to the most menial and mundane tasks we tackle.** Our work is no longer a monotonous drag, a forlorn drudgery, or a dehumanizing endeavor. Rather, it becomes **a noble service to the Most High and to others whom He wishes to touch through us.**

I have observed throughout a long life of hard work that our Father arranges His own unique and lovely rewards for work well done in good cheer. He has His gentle way of surprising those who are faithful servants with beautiful bonuses of His own design. He always honors those who in their work honor Him. Not necessarily with human accolades or public recognition, but in profound inner contentment and an acute awareness that He keeps all the accounts. In due course He sees to it that the last shall be first, and the least shall be the greatest.

God has the ultimate rewards for work well done. In the end He decides how the honors are awarded. All He asks of me is to be steadfast and loyal to Him wherever He places me in His service.

It is in this sure knowledge that work is an honor. When done in honesty and to the best of my ability it can be a delight. Because He, too, is active in it with me, it carries great dignity, worth, and inspiration! Then I can serve with a smile. Then I can whistle while I work. Then I can see adventure in my activities with Him. Then I can feel fulfilled with joy. Then I can follow Christ in quiet contentment - Anywhere!"

*I can serve  
with a smile!*

This was taken from "What Makes Life Worth Living", a brilliant book by W. Phillip Keller.

From these words of Phillip Keller, about the honor of honest WORK, what spoke to my heart is that:

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**It is an Honour  
to do Helpful, Hard,  
Honest, Happy, Hearty,  
Holy, Humble WORK,  
with God, for others,  
for Him, through Him,  
in the Health field!!!**

	<p><b>CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE VELLORE</b> SERVING THE NATION IN THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Alumni</li> <li>» Check Email</li> <li>» Change Email / Password</li> <li>» Friends of Vellore</li> <li>» Statutory Declaration</li> </ul>	<p>  Home          Contact Us          Sitemap  <a href="#">Director's January Message</a> </p>
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**"Work is love made visible"**

Thomas Walker

**"We serve Him best  
when we rest upon His breast"**

A.B. Simpson

**"Today in Christian work we are suffering from a phase of spiritual dyspepsia that emphasises doing. The great thing to do is to be a believer in Jesus. With Jesus it is never 'Do, do,' but 'Be, be and I will do through you.'"**

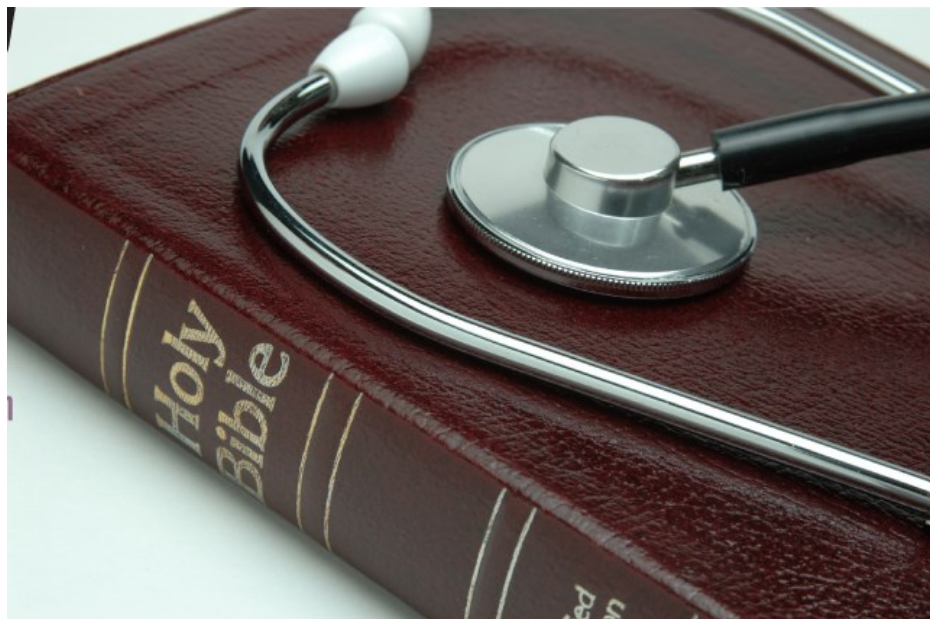
Oswald Chambers

**"God never gave man a thing to do concerning which it were irreverent to ponder HOW the Son of God would have done it."**

George MacDonald

**"Let me die working,  
Still tackling plans unfinished, tasks undone  
Clean to its end, swift may my race be run.  
No lagged steps, no faltering, no shirking;  
Let me die working."**

Charles Cowman



## The WORD of God on HOW to WORK

There are many verses and examples in the Bible of HOW to work (and how *not* to work)! Let's now carefully and prayerfully look at some of these precious verses. Let's pray:



*"Dear Father in heaven, thank You for your Word, thank You for work. I pray that You speak to me, personally, as I go through these verses. I ask You to help me to see what You want me to see. I also pray that You touch my heart and help me to learn to do my work as worship to You – for Your great glory. I pray this in Jesus' Name. Amen"*

**Colossians 3:23 - "Whatever you do, work at it with all your HEART, as working FOR THE LORD, not for men..." (NIV); "Whatever may be your task, work at it heartily (from the soul), as [something done] FOR THE LORD and not for men..." (Ampl). Colossians 3:23-24, "Servants, do what you're told by your earthly masters. And don't just do the minimum that will get you by. Do your BEST. Work from the HEART for your real Master, FOR GOD... Keep in mind that the ultimate Master you're serving**

is Christ. The sullen servant who does shoddy work will be held responsible. **Being Christian doesn't cover up bad work.**" (The Message)

2 Corinthians 5:14-15, "For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that One has died for all, therefore all have died; and He died for all, **that those who live might no longer live for themselves but FOR HIM** who for their sake died and was raised." (ESV)

These verses show me **HOW** God wants me **to work**. I learn that:

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This is the heartbeat of a Christian – **“FOR HIM, FOR HIM, FOR HIM, FOR HIM...!!!”**

This was also the heartbeat of Dr Edith Brown, the founder of CMC Ludhiana. She used to say: **“My work is for a King!”**



*My work is for a King!*

Let's look at the next verses...

Colossians 3:17 - "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, **do it all IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS, giving thanks to God the Father** through Him" (NIV); "And whatever you do [no matter what it is] in word or deed, **do everything IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS and IN [DEPENDENCE UPON] HIS PERSON**, giving praise to God the Father

through Him” (Ampl); “**THANKING God the Father every step of the way...**” (MSG). *1Corinthians 15:58*, “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in **the work of the Lord**, forasmuch as ye know that **your labour is not in vain IN THE LORD.**” (KJV)

*John 15:4-5*, “**Dwell IN ME**, and I will dwell in you. [**Live IN ME**, and I will live in you.] Just as no branch can bear fruit of itself without abiding in (being vitally united to) the vine, neither can you bear fruit unless you abide in Me. I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever lives in Me and I in him bears much (abundant) fruit. However, apart from Me [cut off from vital union with Me] you can do nothing” (Ampl). *John 15:4*, “**Abide IN ME**, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you **abide IN ME.**” (ESV)

**From these verses I learn that:**

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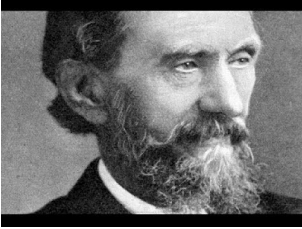
My father was a school principal. The pupils and teachers said that one word characterized his life: **ENTHUSIASM!** What a life! What a legacy! The word “enthusiasm” comes from “EN-THEOS”, which means being “**IN-GOD**”!

***This is the kind of enthusiasm we need in our work and walk in this world... Not just the “enthusiasm” of a sparky personality, but the true enthusiasm that comes from being IN GOD and from working and doing things with zeal and vigour and liveliness and energy, and with an active, alive spirt and mind and being, IN THE SPIRIT!!! We want to always work with enthusiasm; we want to always work being IN GOD! May the Lord help us...***

We want to learn to work, BEING IN THE NAME, IN THE PERSON of the

Lord Jesus. We want to work ABIDING IN HIM.

In his beautiful book “*Abide in Christ*”, Andrew Murray said: “Let us learn two lessons. (1) **If we are abiding in Jesus, let us begin to work.** Let us first seek to influence those around us in daily life. Let us accept distinctly



Dr Andrew Murray

and joyfully our holy calling, that we are even now to live as the servants of the love of Jesus to our fellow-men. Our daily life must have for its object the making of an impression favourable to Jesus. When you look at the branch, you see at once the likeness to the Vine. We must live so that somewhat of the holiness and the gentleness of Jesus may shine out in us. We must live to represent Him. ...let us offer ourselves to Him for direct work. There is work in our own home.

There is work among the sick, the poor, and the outcast. There is work in a hundred different paths which the Spirit of Christ opens up through those who allow themselves to be led by Him. There is work perhaps for us in ways that have not yet been opened up by others. **Abiding in Christ, let us work.** Let us work, not like those who are content if they now follow the fashion, and take some share in religious work. No; *let us work as those who are growing more like Christ, because they are abiding in Him, and who, like Him, count the work of winning souls to the Father the very joy and glory of heaven begun on earth.*

And (2) the second lesson is: **If you work, abide in Christ.** *This is one of the blessings of work if done in the right spirit - it will deepen your union with your blessed Lord. It will discover your weakness, and throw you back on His strength. It will stir you to much prayer; and in prayer for others is the time when the soul, forgetful of itself, unconsciously grows deeper into Christ. It will make clearer to you the true nature of the branch-life; its absolute dependence, and at the same time its glorious sufficiency - independent of all else, because dependent on Jesus.* **If you work, abide in Christ.** There are temptations and dangers. *Work for Christ has sometimes drawn away from Christ, and taken the place of fellowship with Him. Work*

*can sometimes give a form of godliness without the power.* **As you work, abide in Christ.** Let a living faith in Christ working in you be the secret spring of all your work; this will inspire at once humility and courage.”

*Abiding in Jesus,  
let us work...  
Working,  
let us abide in Jesus!*

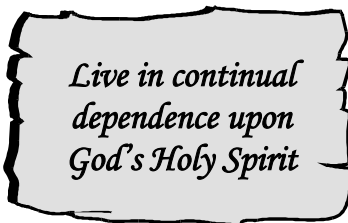
Abiding in Jesus, and being and working  
IN HIS NAME, also means that we work



in complete, continuous DEPENDENCE UPON HIM. Andrew Murray said that our happiness can only be found “in **absolute unceasing momentary DEPENDENCE UPON GOD**,” and that “**the very essence of true religion, whether in heaven or upon earth, consists in an unalterable DEPENDENCE UPON GOD...**” This is how we want to work! This is how we were meant to work, even *before* sin came into the world!

This ABIDING in Jesus and depending on Jesus, as we work, implies a deep dying to ourselves, a living unto Him through the Spirit of God, and A **DEEP RESTFULNESS** in Him. When we take His yoke on us, and plough (work) with Him, He said we find REST for our souls (*Matthew 11:29*), and it is true.

Francois Fenelon (1651-1715), a wise counsellor from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and considered one of the favourite authors of AW Tozer, wrote in “*The Royal Way of the Cross*” that “One general rule for the right use of time is to **accustom yourself to live in CONTINUAL DEPENDENCE UPON GOD’S HOLY SPIRIT**... With respect to business and external duties, we need only to give a straightforward diligent heed to the ordering of God’s providence. As all such duties are the result of His plans, we have but to accept them dutifully, submitting our own tempers, fancies, inclinations, our self-will, perfectionism, our restless anxieties, our hurry – in short, all our own natural impulses to do what we like or how we like. Take care not to let yourself be overwhelmed by outer things, nor utterly immersed in external interests, however important. **Every undertaking should be begun with a definite view to GOD’S GLORY, continued quietly, and ended without excitement or impatience.**”



*Live in continual  
dependence upon  
God's Holy Spirit*

Our next verses are:

*Ecclesiastes 9:10* - “**Whatever your hand finds to do, do it WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT...**” (NIV); “**WORK HARD at whatever you do...**” (CEV); “Every time you find work to do, **DO IT THE BEST YOU CAN**. In the grave there is no work” (ERV). *Colossians 3:23-24*, “Servants, do what you’re told by your earthly masters. And **don’t just do the minimum that will get you by. DO YOUR BEST**. Work from the heart for your real Master, for God... Keep in mind that the ultimate Master you’re serving is Christ. The sullen servant who does shoddy work will be held responsible. **Being Christian doesn’t cover up bad work**” (The Message).

*Ephesians 6:5-8*, “Slaves, obey your human masters with fear and trembling;

and do it with a sincere heart, as though you were serving Christ. Do this not only when they are watching you, because you want to gain their approval; but **WITH ALL YOUR HEART do what God wants**, as slaves of Christ. **Do your work** as slaves **CHEERFULLY**, as though you served the Lord, and not merely human beings. Remember that the Lord will reward each of us, whether slave or free, for the good work we do.” *Romans 12:8*, “If it is encouraging others, devote yourself to giving encouragement. If it is sharing, be generous. If it is leadership, lead enthusiastically. If it is **helping people in need, help them CHEERFULLY.**” (GW); “...if you work with the disadvantaged, don’t let yourself get irritated with them or depressed by them. **KEEP A SMILE ON YOUR FACE.**” (MSG).

Deuteronomy 28:47-48a, “Because you did not serve the LORD your God **with JOYFULNESS and GLADNESS of heart**, because of the abundance of all things, therefore you shall serve your enemies...” (ESV); Psalm 100:2, “**Serve the LORD with GLADNESS!**” (ESV). Philippians 4:5, “Let your **FRIENDLINESS** be known to all people...” (AOV)

**From these verses I see HOW to work:**

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AB Simpson wrote:

*“I want in this short life of mine,  
As much as can be pressed  
Of service true for God and man;  
Help me to be my BEST.”*

Our next verse is one of my favourites:

*Romans 12:11*, “**NEVER LAG IN ZEAL and in earnest endeavor; BE AGLOW AND BURNING WITH THE SPIRIT, serving the**

**Lord**” (Ampl); “**Work hard and do not be lazy**. Serve the Lord with a heart full of devotion” (GNB); “As you serve the Lord, work hard and don’t be lazy. **Be excited about serving him!**” (ERV); “...**in DILIGENCE, not slothful, FERVENT IN SPIRIT**, serving the Lord” (LITV).

*Titus 2:14*, “...who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are **ZEALOUS for good works**” (ESV); “...purify for Himself a people [to be peculiarly His own, people who are] **EAGER AND ENTHUSIASTIC** about [living a life that is good and filled with] beneficial deeds” (Ampl). *Galatians 4:18*, “But **it is good to BE ZEALOUS ALWAYS in a good thing...**” (MKJV).

From these verses I learn that:

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J.C. Ryle describes this zeal in his book “*Home Truths*” as follows: “**ZEAL** in religion is a burning desire to please God, to do His will, and to advance His glory in the world in every possible way. It is a desire which no man feels by nature— which the Spirit puts into the heart of every believer when he is converted— but which some believers feel so much more strongly than others, that they alone deserve to be called zealous men. This desire is so strong when it really reigns in a man, that it impels him to make any sacrifice— to go through any trouble, to deny himself to any amount— to suffer, to work, to labor, to toil— to spend himself and be spent, and even to die— if only he can please God and honor

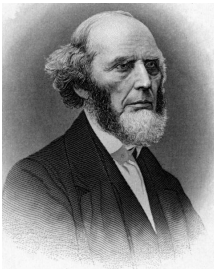
*Never lag in zeal  
and in earnest endeavour;  
be aglow and burning  
with the Spirit,  
serving the Lord*

**Christ.** A zealous man is pre-eminently a man of one thing. It is not enough to say that he is earnest, hearty, uncompromising, thorough-going, whole-hearted, and fervent in spirit. He only sees one thing— he

*A zealous man is pre-eminently a man of one thing, he burns for one thing - to please God and to advance God's glory.*

cares for one thing— he lives for one thing— he is swallowed up in one thing— and that one thing is to please God. Whether he lives— or whether he dies; whether he has health— or whether he has sickness; whether he is rich— or whether he is poor; whether he pleases man— or whether he gives offence; whether he is thought wise— or whether he is thought foolish; whether he gets

blame— or whether he gets praise; whether he gets honor— or whether he gets shame— for all this, the zealous man cares nothing at all. He burns for one thing, and that one thing is to please God, and to advance God's glory. If he is consumed in the very burning, he is not worried— he is content. He feels that like a lamp, he is made to burn, and if consumed in burning, he has but done the work for which God appointed him.”



Charles Finney, who was used by God in revival, preached a sermon on “HOW TO PREVENT OUR EMPLOYMENTS FROM INJURING OUR SOULS”, based on the above-mentioned verse in *Romans 12:11*. This is a most outstanding sermon on work. When I read it as a young medical student and doctor, it changed my life and practice completely!!! Here are just a few extracts from that sermon:

### IDLENESS IS INCONSISTENT WITH RELIGION.

- ♦ Because it is wholly inconsistent with love to God. *Whoever loves God with all his heart, will certainly set himself to do the will of God, and will no more be idle than God will be idle.*
- ♦ It is wholly inconsistent with love to man. The love of our race will certainly lead us to exert ourselves to promote their happiness.
- ♦ Idleness can result only from selfishness.
- ♦ God as much forbids idleness as he does theft or murder, and a man or a woman can no more be religious without pursuing some employment by which God may be glorified and the world benefited, than a habitual drunkard can be religious.

### ALL PERSONS ARE BOUND TO PURSUE SOME LAWFUL EMPLOYMENT.

- ◆ *To be lawful, an employment must not be selfish. All selfishness is sin.*
- ◆ To be lawful, it must be that employment to which you are called of God. You are to be wholly the Lord's, and to consult his will in all things - and never to be engaged in any employment to please yourself or promote your own separate or private interest. You are bound therefore to submit yourself to the direction of the Lord in all things, and to select no employment for life, or for any length of time but under the direction of God.
- ◆ That only is a lawful employment which can honestly and reasonably be pursued, for the glory of God.

### **MEN ARE TO BE DILIGENT IN THEIR CALLING.**

- ◆ This is implied in the text. "Be diligent in business."
- ◆ Every degree of slothfulness in you is injurious to the world at large, and to the universe, inasmuch as there is just so much less of real good in the universe for every moment's idleness in which you indulge.
- ◆ You are bound to do all the good you can in every way, both to the bodies and souls of men, and this obligation is entirely inconsistent with any degree of slothfulness.

### **HOW TO PREVENT ...EMPLOYMENTS FROM BEING A SNARE TO THE SOUL.**

- ◆ If you would not that your employment should be a snare to your soul, see to it, that it is not unlawful.
- ◆ *Be sure that you do nothing selfishly. If you allow selfishness in any of its forms to come in and to have a place in your employments, you are already departed from God, and your business, whether spiritual, intellectual or whatever it may be, has become an abomination to God.*
- ◆ *See that your eye is single, that you have but one great leading motive, and that to glorify God and serve your generation.*
- ◆ *Consult God at every step of your employment. Do everything with prayer.... consulting him at every step of your progress.*
- ◆ Be sure to do everything in a spirit of entire consecration to God.
- ◆ *You must abide in Christ.* "Without me," says Christ, "ye can do nothing." Only as you abide in him, by faith, and he in you, will you do any one of the things that have been mentioned in a right spirit. He is your life. ... Faith in him is the grand and universal condition of all true virtue and obedience to God.

### **REMARKS.**

- ◆ God calls you to no employment in kind or amount, that is inconsistent with entire holiness of heart and life. Whenever you find therefore that your employment really prevents your walking wholly with God, something is certainly wrong.
- ◆ No man has a right to undertake so much business, for any compensation whatever, as to interfere with his hours of devotion.
- ◆ *To require diligence in study, without requiring fervency of spirit - to*

*concern ourselves more that our students have their lessons than that they walk with God - ...for us to satisfy ourselves every day in relation to*

*Teachers who pay little or no attention to that state of the students hearts are unfit to have the care of young people.*

*their intellectual progress, and pay little or no attention to the state of their hearts, is an utter abomination, and teachers who do so, whatever other qualifications they may have, are unfit to have the care of young men.*

♦ *When you find yourselves proceeding in any employment without prayer for direction, support, and guidance,*

*you may rest assured that you are selfish, and however diligent you may be, you may know that you are not fervent in spirit serving the Lord.*

- ♦ Everyone can do something to glorify God, and in some way benefit mankind. *He can labor with his hands, or his head, or his heart* - he can work, or teach, or pray, or do something to contribute his share to the common stock of good in the universe.
- ♦ If you have been called of God to any employment, and have become selfish in it, it has become an abomination to God, and you are bound to abandon it instantly or to renounce your selfishness, and diligently pursue your employment for God.
- ♦ Lastly, let me ask you solemnly, beloved, have you some employment, in which you are endeavouring, honestly and fervently to glorify God. What is your employment - in what manner do you pursue it - with what design - in what spirit - and what is its effect?

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**The main lessons I learn from this sermon is that:**

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## Rhyme of Hard Work

*Hate not laborious work,  
Joy, joy is in it.  
Do not thy duty shirk,  
Joy, joy is in it.  
Welcome the daily round,  
On, and be faithful found,  
On, and thou shalt be crowned;  
Joy, joy is in it.*

*Scorn not monotony;  
Joy, joy is in it.  
Blessed be drudgery;  
Joy, joy is in it.  
Welcome the daily round,  
On, and be faithful found,  
On, and thou shalt be crowned;  
Joy, joy is in it.*

*Toil unto weariness;  
Joy, joy is in it.  
Live but to help and bless;  
Joy, joy is in it.  
Welcome the daily round,  
On, and be faithful found,  
On, and thou shalt be crowned;  
Joy, joy is in it.*

*Come then or cold or heat;  
Joy, joy is in it.  
Be thou God's corn of wheat;  
Joy, joy is in it.  
Welcome the barren ground;  
Hereafter will be found  
Fruit to abide, abound;  
Joy, Joy is in it.*

*Amy Carmichael*



It was well said about Dr Ida Scudder, the founder of CMC Vellore that “she saw God in it all, things great and small, and she saw Him whole:

- ◆ Her religion was an exploration into God’s heart of Love;
- ◆ Her dedication meant rendering service step by step in line with His will;
- ◆ Her science was an exploration into God’s Truth;
- ◆ Her commission was to help bring in God’s kingdom on earth.”

The following is a PRAYER she prayed, which speaks into our situation:

*“Father whose life is within me  
and whose love is ever about me,  
grant that this life may be maintained  
in my life today and every day,  
that with gladness of heart,  
without haste or confusion of thought,  
I may go about my daily tasks,  
conscious of my ability to meet every rightful demand,  
seeing the larger meaning of little things  
and finding beauty and love everywhere.  
And in the sense of Thy presence  
may I walk,  
through the hours  
breathing the atmosphere of love,  
rather than anxious striving.”*



*When you find yourselves proceeding in any employment without prayer for direction, support, and guidance, you may rest assured that you are selfish, and however diligent you may be, you may know that you are not fervent in spirit serving the Lord.*



Our next verses on **HOW to work** are:

*1 Peter 4:10-11*, “As each has received a gift, **use it to SERVE one another**, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; **whoever SERVES, as one who SERVES by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything GOD MAY BE GLORIFIED** through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.” (ESV); “Each of you has been blessed with one of God’s many wonderful gifts **to be used in the service of others**. So **use your gift well**.” (CEV); “Each one, as a good manager of God’s different gifts, **must use for the good of others** the special gift he has received from God” (GNB). *Mark 10:45*, “For even the Son of man came **NOT TO BE MINISTERED UNTO, BUT TO MINISTER**, and to give his life a ransom for many” (KJV). *Hebrews 6:10*, “For God is not unrighteous to forget **your work and labour of love**, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have **ministered** to the saints, and do minister” (KJV). *Mark 10:45* (ESV), “For even the Son of Man came **NOT TO BE SERVED BUT TO SERVE**, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

*1 Corinthians 10:31* – “So whether you eat or drink or **whatever you do, DO IT ALL FOR THE GLORY OF GOD**” (NIV). *Matthew 5:16* – “Let your

light so shine before men, that they may **see your good works, and GLORIFY YOUR FATHER which is in heaven.**" (KJV)

Amy Carmichael wrote:

*“If Jesus built a ship,  
She would travel trim:  
If Jesus roofed a barn,  
No leaks would be left by Him:  
If Jesus planted a garden,  
He would make it like Paradise:  
If Jesus did my day’s work,  
It would delight His Father’s eyes.”*



AND WHOSOEVER WILL BE  
CHIEF AMONG YOU, LET HIM BE YOUR  
SERVANT. EVEN AS THE SON OF MAN  
CAME NOT TO BE MINISTERED UNTO  
BUT TO MINISTER, AND TO GIVE HIS  
LIFE A RANSOM FOR MANY.

Matthew 20:27-28

*“He serves best who rests upon His breast”*

AB Simpson

Our next verses on HOW TO WORK are:

*1 Corinthians 4:1-2*, “This is how one should regard us, as **SERVANTS** of Christ and **STEWARDS** of the mysteries of God. Moreover, **it is required of stewards that they be found FAITHFUL**” (ESV); *1 Corinthians 4:2-5*, “And since **our first duty is to be FAITHFUL to the one we work for**, it doesn't matter to me if I am judged by you or even by a court of law. In fact, I don't judge myself. I don't know of anything against me, but that doesn't prove that I am right. The Lord is my judge. So don't judge anyone until the Lord returns. He will show what is hidden in the dark and what is in every-one's heart. Then God will be the one who praises each of us.” (CEV)

*1 Corinthians 3:9-15*, “**For we are God's fellow workers**. You are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. **Let each one take care HOW he builds upon it**. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any-one builds on the foundation with ***gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw***—**each one's WORK will become manifest**, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and **the fire will test what sort of WORK each one has done**. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.” (ESV);

*1 Corinthians 3:14* “...**If any man's work abide...**” (KJV)

**From these verses I learn that:**

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Frederick B. Meyer wrote very practically about the beauty and blessing of faithfully **“DOING A GOOD DAY’S WORK”**, of doing **“THE COMMON TASK”** in an uncommon way, in God’s way!

He says: **“What counts in God’s sight is not the work we do, but the WAY in which we do it.** Two men may work side by side in the same factory or store: the one, at the end of the day, shall have put in a solid block of gold, silver, and precious stones; whilst the other has contributed to the fabric of his life-work an ephemeral, insubstantial addition of wood, hay, and stubble, destined to be burnt. What is the difference between these two? To the eye of man, there is none; to the eye of God, much: because the one has been animated, in the lowliest, commonest actions, by the lofty motive of pleasing God, and doing the day’s work thoroughly and well; whilst the other worked to escape blame, to secure the commendation of man, or to win a large wage. *Never be ashamed of honest toil, of labors, however trivial or menial, which you can execute beneath the inspiration of noble aims; but be ashamed of the work which, though it makes men hold their breath in wonder, yet, in your heart, you know to have emanated from earthly, selfish, and ignoble aims.*” He says, **“At the end of life’s brief day we shall be rewarded, not according to the work we have done, but to the FAITHFULNESS with which we have endeavored to do our duty, in whatever sphere. Let us live and work with that day in view...”**

**“It does not so much matter what we do, but the WAY in which we do it matters greatly.** ...the way in which we perform our common tasks becomes an indestructible part of our character, for better or worse, and for ever.” “Suppose, ...that **we do the little duties of life FAITHFULLY, punctually, thoughtfully, reverently - not for the praise of man, but FOR THE “WELL DONE” OF CHRIST** - not for the payment we may receive, but because God has given us a little piece of work to do in His great world - not because we must, but because we choose - not as the slaves of circumstances, but as Christ’s freed ones - then far down beneath the surge of common life the foundations of a character are laid, more beautiful and enduring than coral, which shall presently rear itself before the eyes of men and angels, and become an emerald islet, green with perennial beauty, and vocal with the songs of Paradise... **We ought, therefore, to be very careful how we fulfil the common tasks of daily life.** We are making the character in which we have to spend eternity. We are either building into ourselves wood, hay, and stubble which will have to be burnt out at great cost; or the gold, silver, and precious stones, that shall be things of beauty and joy forever.” He further says:



**THE GREAT DOING OF LITTLE THINGS WILL  
MAKE A GREAT LIFE.**



**IT IS A GREATER THING TO DO LITTLE THINGS  
WELL, THAN THOSE WHICH *SEEM* MORE IM-  
PORTANT.**

“...to do small things from great motives - this is the loftiest attainment of the soul. ...*It is a greater thing to do an unimportant thing from a great motive, for God, for truth, for others, than to do an important one*; greater to suffer patiently each day a thousand stings, than die once as a martyr at the stake. And therefore an obscure life really offers more opportunities for the nurture of the loftiest type of character, just because it is less liable to be visited by those meaner considerations of notoriety, or applause, or money, which intrude themselves into more prominent positions, and scatter their deadly taint.”



**LITTLE THINGS GREATLY DONE PREPARE FOR  
THE RIGHT DOING OF GREAT THINGS.**

*“Ah! It is a common mistake. Men think that the occasion makes the hero; whereas it only reveals him. ... There must be the fabric of strong and noble character, built up by patient continuance in well-doing, else the sudden appeal of the critical hour will knock vainly at the door of life, and the soul will crouch un-answering and helpless within.* ...If great opportunities were to come to most, we could make nothing of them. ...You cannot be brave in a crisis if you are habitually a coward. You cannot be generous with a fortune if you are a miser with a limited income. You cannot be unselfish in some such accident which imperils life if you are always pressing for the one vacant seat in train or omnibus, and elbowing your way to the front on every possible occasion. David must practise with sling and stone through long hours in the wilderness, or he will never bring down Goliath. Joseph must be pure in thought and strong in private self-discipline, or he will never resist the solicitations of the temptress.”



**OUR BEHAVIOUR IN LITTLE THINGS IS THE TRU-  
EST TEST OF WHAT WE ARE.**

*“If I were eager to secure a good employee for a responsible position, I should not attach much importance to the way in which the candidate acted on a set occasion, when he knew*

*that he was being observed. Of course he would be on his best behaviour. But give me a private window so that I can watch him in his least considered actions - how he behaves at home, how he treats his mother and sisters, how he fulfils the common duties of life. What he is then, he is really.* ...Of course there is no saving merit in what we do. Salvation is only by simple trust in our Saviour, Jesus. But when we are saved it gives new zest to Life to do all for Him, as Lord and Master; and to know that ***He is well pleased in the right doing of the most trivial duties of the home or daily business.*** ...***May each reader learn this happy art, and go through life offering all to God, ...and every act done in the name of Jesus may be a spiritual sacrifice, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.***”

Taken from Meyer, F. B. THE WORKS OF F. B. MEYER, Vol 1 (25 Works): 25 Classic Devotionals, Biographies and Teachings on the Higher Life. Kindle Edition.

**What the Lord teaches me through this is that:**

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Our next verses on HOW TO WORK are:

*Proverbs 16:3*, “**Roll your works upon the Lord [commit and trust them wholly to Him]**; He will cause your thoughts to become agreeable to His will, and] so shall your plans be established and succeed” (Ampl); “**TURN TO THE LORD FOR HELP IN EVERYTHING YOU DO**, and you will be successful” (ERV); “**ENTRUST YOUR WORK TO THE LORD**, and your planning will succeed” (ISV).

*Proverbs 3:5-8*, “**TRUST IN THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him**, and He will make straight your paths. **Be not wise in your own eyes**; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones” (Ampl); “**Never rely on what you think you know. Remember the LORD in everything you do**, and he will show you the right way. Never let yourself think that you are wiser than you are; simply obey the LORD and refuse to do wrong. If you do, it will be like good medicine, healing your wounds and easing your pains.” (GNB).

*Matthew 6:24*, “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve God and MONEY**. Therefore I tell you, **do not be anxious about your life...**”

*Matthew 6:33-34a* – “But **seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness**, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow...” (ESV); “So **DO NOT WORRY or be anxious about tomorrow...**” (Ampl).

*2 Corinthians 5:18*, “But all things are from God, Who through Jesus Christ reconciled us to Himself [received us into favor, brought us into harmony with Himself] and **gave to us the ministry of reconciliation [that by word and deed we might AIM TO BRING OTHERS INTO HARMONY WITH HIM]**” (Ampl).



*2 Corinthians 2:14-15*, “But thanks be to God, Who in Christ always leads us in triumph [as trophies of Christ's victory] and **through us spreads and makes evident the FRAGRANCE of the knowledge of God everywhere, for we are the SWEET FRAGRANCE OF CHRIST** [which exhales] unto God, [discernible alike] among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing...” (Ampl)



What the Lord teaches me through these verses are that:

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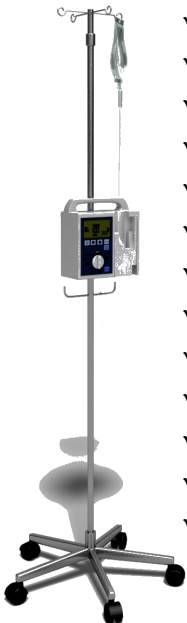
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Some suggested lessons are:



- ✓ *Roll my work on the Lord*
- ✓ *Turn to the Lord for help in everything I do*
- ✓ *Trust in the Lord with my all*
- ✓ *Do not rely on my own mind*
- ✓ *Don't think I'm clever*
- ✓ *Remember the Lord in everything I do—everything!!!!!!!*
- ✓ *Don't worry*
- ✓ *Don't make money my god*
- ✓ *Don't work for money, work for God*
- ✓ *Work in such a way that others can get closer to Christ*
- ✓ *Seek first the kingdom of God*
- ✓ *Seek first to be right with God*
- ✓ *Be a sweet smell at work—don't stink! (my attitudes)*

2 Corinthians 8:21, “For we take thought beforehand and aim to be HONEST and absolutely ABOVE SUSPICION, not only in the sight of the Lord but also in the sight of men.” (Ampl); “Our purpose is to do what is right, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of others.” (GNB). Romans 13:13-14, “Let us live and conduct ourselves HONORABLY and becomingly as in the [open light of] day, not in reveling (carousing) and drunkenness, not in immorality and debauchery (sensuality and licentiousness), not in quarreling and jealousy. But clothe yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah), and make no provision for [indulging] the flesh [put a stop to thinking about the evil cravings of your physical nature] to [gratify its] desires (lusts).” (Ampl)

Job 31:1, “I have made a solemn promise NEVER TO LOOK WITH LUST at a woman” (GNB); “I made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a girl” (NIV). 2 Timothy 2:21, “The Lord wants to use you for special purposes, so make yourself CLEAN from all evil. Then you will be holy, and the Master can use you. You will be ready for any good work.” (ERV); “So whoever CLEANSSES HIMSELF [from what is ignoble and unclean, who separates himself from contact with contaminating and corrupting influences] will [then himself] be a vessel set apart and useful for honorable and noble purposes, consecrated and profitable to the Master, fit and ready for any good work.” (Ampl)

**What the Lord teaches me through these verses are that:**

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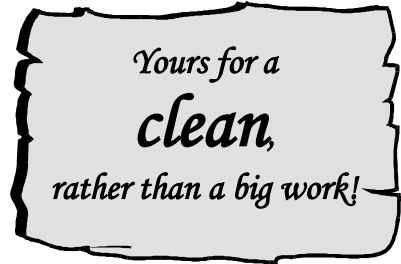
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Referring to 2 Timothy 2:21, in “Working for God” Andrew Murray said:  
*“And every one who would be truly prepared unto every good WORK must see to this first of all, that he **CLEANSE himself from all that is sin...** The cleansing from sin secures the **filling of the Spirit...** Let the beginning of your work be a giving of yourself into the hands of the Master, as your living, loving Lord... A personal relation to Christ, an entire surrender to His disposal, a dependent waiting to be used by Him, a joyful confidence that He will use us – such is the secret of true work.”*



E.E.Shelhamer, who worked well for God, used to write at the end of his letters: “Yours for a CLEAN, rather than a big work”.

And, Lilius Trotter, who served the Lord lovingly and loyally in Algiers, wrote:

*“Long is the time to learn  
 Short is the time to do,  
 Yet it is worth it all  
 If the work in the end be true.”*



Our next verses from the WORD on HOW to WORK are:

*1 Corinthians 16:13-14*, “**Be alert, stand firm in the faith, be brave, be strong. DO ALL YOUR WORK IN LOVE.**” (GNB); “Be alert and on your guard; stand firm in your faith (your conviction respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, keeping the trust and **holy fervor** born of faith and a part of it). Act like men and be courageous; grow in strength! Let everything you do be done in LOVE (true love to God and man as inspired by God's love for us)” (Ampl).

*Galatians 5:6*, “For when we are in union with Christ Jesus, neither circumcision nor the lack of it makes any difference at all; what matters is faith that works through LOVE” (GNB); “**faith activated and energized and**

expressed and working through LOVE.” (Ampl).

*Galatians 5:22-23* - “But the fruit of the Spirit is LOVE, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law” (ESV), also in India. *Galatians 5:13* – “For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through LOVE serve one another.” (ESV).

*Revelation 2:2,4* - “**I know your deeds, your HARD WORK** and your perseverance...Yet I hold this against you: **You have forsaken your first LOVE**...” (NIV).

About this verse in Revelation 2, Andrew Murray said, “There was here much to praise – toil, and patience, and zeal that had never grown weary. ***But there was one thing lacking – the tenderness of the first LOVE... There is such a danger of WORK being carried on, ...while the freshness of our LOVE has passed away.*** And that is what Christ seeks. And that is what gives power. And that is what nothing can compensate for. ***Christ looks for the warm loving heart,*** the personal affection which ever keeps Him the centre of our love and joy” and work! He said, “Christian workers, ***see that all your work be the work of LOVE, of tender personal devotion to Christ Jesus.***”

In the last stanza of the poem, “*God’s True Nurse*,” Amy Carmichael put it like this:

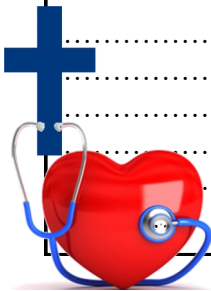
*O nurse, God-given, your ministry  
Is something all divine;  
With all you do, in all you be,  
His LOVE will intertwine  
The gold threads of His gentleness—  
So will His true nurse bless.*

This was her life-long prayer (in the words of Jeremy Taylor): “***Lord, do Thou turn me all into LOVE, and all my love into obedience, and let my obedience be without interruption***”!! At Dohnavour Fellowship (in South India) the Lord helped her and her co-workers to walk and work with this motto: “**Love to live: Live to LOVE**”!!!!!! The early leader there, Thomas Walker said: “**Work is love made visible.**”

Another person who really walked and worked in love to Jesus and others, was Nicholas Herman (1614-1691), also known as “Brother Lawrence.” He resolved “to **make the LOVE of God the end (the goal – my addition) of all his actions.**” It is said that “he was pleased when he could take up a straw

*Work is love  
made visible*

**What the Lord teaches me through these verses and words are that:**

A decorative graphic in the bottom-left corner featuring a red heart with a blue stethoscope wrapped around it. Above the heart is a small blue square. The entire slide is filled with horizontal dotted lines for writing.

*Psalm 90:17*, “And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us; and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it” (Ampl); “May the favour of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us – yes, establish the work of our hands” (NIV).

*Exodus 31:1-6*, “Then the LORD said to Moses, “I have chosen a man from the tribe of Judah to do some special work for me. His name is Bezalel... I have FILLED Bezalel WITH THE SPIRIT OF GOD - I have given him the SKILL and KNOWLEDGE to do all kinds of things. He is a very good designer. And he can make things from gold, silver, and bronze. He can cut and set beautiful jewels. And he can work with wood. He can do all kinds of work. I have also chosen Oholiab to work with him. ...And I have given skills to all the other workers so that they can make everything that I have commanded you...” (ERV). *Exodus 31:3-6* “And I HAVE FILLED HIM WITH THE SPIRIT OF GOD, in wisdom and ability, in understanding and intelligence, and in knowledge, and in all kinds of craftsmanship, ...and to all who are wise-hearted I have given wisdom and ability to make all that I have commanded you...” (Ampl)

*Romans 12:11*, “NEVER LAG IN ZEAL and in earnest endeavor; BE AGLOW AND BURNING WITH THE SPIRIT, serving the Lord...” (Ampl)

*Ephesians 5:18*, “...be FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT”. *Matthew 3:11*, “He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” *Acts 1:8*, “But you shall receive power (ability, efficiency, and might) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall BE MY WITNESSES in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the ends (the very bounds) of the earth.” *Luke 11:13*, “If you then, evil as you are, know how to give good gifts [gifts that are to their advantage] to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask and continue to ask Him!” (Ampl)

God teaches me that:

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Thomas Walker, who served the Lord for many years in South India, said: “*Would not the operations of the Christian Church, in India, and throughout the world, be infinitely more fruitful and effectual if we called a halt, and faced honestly and earnestly the conditions for receiving our Ascended Saviour’s GREAT PENTECOSTAL GIFT? ...O for love and zeal and power, and the prayer-spirit by and through the Holy Ghost!*” He also said: “*Better, far better, do less work, if need be, that we may pray more; because work done by the rushing torrent of human energy will not save*

*a single soul: whereas work done in vital and unbroken contact with the living God will tell for all eternity.”*

In “*The State of the Church*” Andrew Murray also writes about **the need for the fullness of the Holy Spirit in our work with God**. He said: “The Holy Spirit is the promise of the Father. That includes everything. If we are to know God aright, if we are to enjoy and experience all that Christ is and has for us, if we are to enter into possession of the heritage of the true and full life which a child of God may expect even here on earth, ***EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON OUR BEING POSSESSED AND FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD.*** .... And of this blessed Spirit God has said that **He will be the life of our life. He is given with the express purpose of working out in us all that God wants us to be and to do. He is given with the understanding that we never need, in our own strength, to do what God commands: the Spirit will work it in us.** He comes as the whole God to take possession of the whole man; He will be responsible for our whole being, if we will yield ourselves to Him in faith. ....Let each of us, for himself, ask and receive. Let us believe with our whole heart, God gives, God gives every day afresh, God gives in increasing power, His blessed Spirit to every child that asks aright.”

*We need this one thing:  
to be filled  
with the Holy Spirit,  
as the Power of God  
to do the work of God!*

In “*The Key to the Missionary Problem*” he writes: “‘Ye shall receive power when the Holy Ghost is come upon you.’

**God’s power for God’s work was to be the one condition of success** in their undertaking to bring the gospel to every creature, in being Christ’s witnesses to the ends of the earth. ‘That Pentecostal generation did more to accomplish the evangelisation of the world than any succeeding generation.’ If we are to do as much as they did, considering the increase in the popula-

tion of the world and the increase of the Church, we ought to do tenfold more than they did, **WE NEED THIS ONE THING: TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, AS THE POWER OF GOD TO DO THE WORK OF GOD!**”

This was the prayer (and experience) of A.B. Simpson:

*“Still me, O my Saviour, still me;  
Let me know Thy perfect rest.  
Fill me with Thy Spirit, fill me;  
Do not let me miss God’s best.”*

In one of the stanzas in his poem “*India for Jesus*”, he also wrote:

*“India for Jesus and Jesus for India!  
Master, the work must be Thine;  
Thine is the power, and Thine is the promise;  
Send us the baptism divine.  
And, as the Monsoons sweep over the mountains,  
Watering each valley and plain,  
So may the Spirit, in showers of blessing,  
Come with abundance of rain.”*

Thomas Walker wrote and prayed in this way one afternoon in August (in South India):





*Come, Wind of God! Breathe on us now,  
This deadly stillness stir, remove;  
Cause every heart to bend and bow  
Before the swelling Breeze of Love.*

*Come, Wind of God! Thrice welcome Guest,  
Thy grand approach we hear, we greet!  
Our quickened spirits spring refreshed  
To happy toil and service sweet.*

The next few verses about HOW to WORK are:

*Philippians 4:6*, "...do not be anxious about anything, but **in everything by PRAYER** and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." (ESV); "Don't worry about anything, but **PRAY ABOUT EVERYTHING...**" (CEV).

Andrew Murray said: "*Praying and working are inseparable. Let all who work learn to pray well. Let all who pray learn to work well...*" Dr Hudson Taylor (who was a medical missionary in China) said: "*You can work without prayer, but it is a bad plan; but you cannot pray in earnest without working*"

*Matthew 28:18-20*, "Then Jesus came up and told them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, as you go, disciple people in all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I've commanded you. And **remember, I AM WITH YOU each and every day** until the end of the age.'..." (ISV); "behold, **I am with you all the days (perpetually, uniformly, and on every occasion)**" (Ampl).

*2 Corinthians 6:1* – "**We WORK together WITH GOD...**" (CEV).

*Matthew 11:28-30*, "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. **Walk WITH ME and work WITH ME—watch how I do it.** Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. **Keep company with me** and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." (MSG)

*1 Chronicles 4:23*, "These were the potters and those who dwelt among plantations and hedges at Netaim and Gederah; **there they dwelt WITH THE KING for his work.**" (Ampl)

*Mark 3:13-15* (which is one of my favourite portions in the Bible!), “And He went up on the hillside and called to Him [for Himself] those whom He wanted and chose, and they came to Him. He appointed twelve **TO CONTINUE TO BE WITH HIM**, and that He might send them out to preach [as apostles or special messengers] and to have authority and power to heal the sick and to drive out demons...”

**From these verses I learn that:**

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

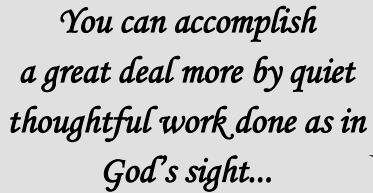
Dr Hudson Taylor, who knew the challenges of being overwhelmed by many patients in China, said: “I so want you to realise this principle of **working WITH GOD** and asking Him for everything...”

Andrew Murray said: “A life in fellowship with Himself was to be their preparation and their fitness for the work... The law of their first vocation remained unchanged: to be WITH HIM, to live in unbroken fellowship with Him... In all the work...everything depends on the consciousness, through a living faith, of THE ABIDING PRESENCE OF THE LORD with His servant...If this be clouded, work becomes a human effort, without the freshness and the power of the heavenly life.”

*Jesus appointed 12  
to continue  
to be with Him...  
Mark 3*

*Jesus appointed 12  
to continue  
to be with Him...  
Mark 3*

Fenelon advised us: “If you would fulfil your commonest duties well, you must DO THEM AS IN HIS PRESENCE and for His sake.” ...“Give a quiet, calm attention to those things assigned to your care by Providence at proper seasons, and be sure that you can accomplish a great deal more by QUIET THOUGHTFUL WORK DONE AS IN GOD’S SIGHT, than by all the busy eagerness and over-activity of your restless nature.”



*You can accomplish  
a great deal more by quiet  
thoughtful work done as in  
God’s sight...*

“If you have not much time at your disposal, do not fail to make good use of every moment you have. It does not need long hours to love God, to RENEW THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF HIS PRESENCE, to lift up the heart to Him in worship, to offer Him all we do or bear. This is the true Kingdom of God within us, which nothing can disturb.”

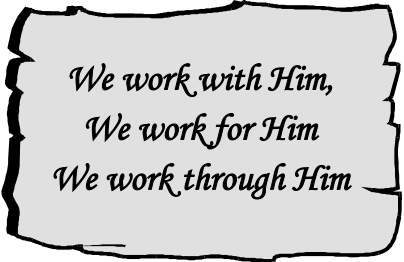
We also saw how “Brother Lawrence” learned and lived to “practice the presence of God” in all his work and walk with God and others.

AB Simpson wrote:

*“I dwell with the King for His work, (1 Chr 4:23)  
And the work, it is His and not mine;  
He plans and prepares it for me  
And fills me with power divine.  
So duty is changed to delight,  
And prayer into praise as I sing;  
I dwell with my King for His work  
And work in the strength of my King.”*

We have the privilege to work WITH THE KING and FOR THE KING!!! That is why Dr Edith Brown, the founder of CMC Ludhiana, used to say: “My work is for a King!”

Echoing the truth of this wonderful reality of God’s WITH-NESS with us, Amy Carmichael wrote the following poem, called “*In the Sickroom*”...



*We work with Him,  
We work for Him  
We work through Him*

Lord Jesus, Thou art here **WITH ME**;  
I do not need to cry to Thee  
To come with me, my loving Lord,  
For Thou art **WITH ME** in the ward.

And though I may not see thy face,  
Yet, as I go from place to place,  
There is a hush upon my day  
That would not be, wert Thou away.

When in the still, white room I stand,  
Thy viewless hand will guide my hand.  
Dear Lord, what joy, what peace to be  
About Thy healing work **WITH THEE**.

She also wrote about working with Jesus and for Jesus “in any office”:

**IN ANY OFFICE**  
(1 Chronicles 4:23)



My potter's busy wheel is where  
I see a desk and office chair;  
And well I know the Lord is there.

**And all my work is for a King**  
Who gives His potter songs to sing,  
Contented songs, through everything.

And nothing is too small to tell  
To Him with whom His potters dwell,  
My Counselor, Emmanuel.

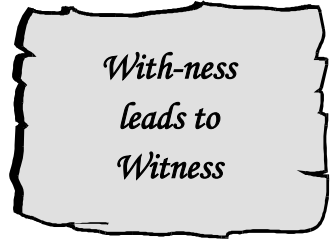
Master, Thy choice is good for me;  
It is a happy thing to be  
Here in my office - here **with Thee**.

We see so clearly in the Bible about **God's WITH-NESS with us** (all the time and on every occasion), and **our WITH-NESS with Him**, all the time. He calls us to continue to be WITH HIM (as we saw in Mark 3, above). As we read in Acts 4:13 that “when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus”, we realise that **WITH-NESS leads to WITNESS**.

A few words about **our work as WITNESS**...

*John 5:36*, “But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, **the very WORKS that I am doing, bear WITNESS** about me that the Father has sent me” (ESV).

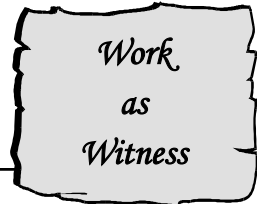
*John 10:25*, “Jesus answered them, ‘I told you, and you do not believe. **The WORKS that I do in my Father's name bear WITNESS** about me...’” (ESV).



*Acts 1:8*, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth”; “...**you shall be WITNESSES TO ME**...” (MKJV)

We read in *Matthew 5:16*, “Let your light so shine before men that they may **SEE your good works** and glorify your Father who is in Heaven”, and in *Matthew 5:13-14*, “**You are the salt** of the earth...”, “**You are the light** of the world...”

In ***THE SALINE PROCESS TRAINING*** on how **we can be wise witnesses for Jesus in our workplaces**, we learn that we can be witnesses with our **LIVES** and our **LIPS**. Through Christ-like CHARACTER, professional COMPETENCE, caring COMPASSION, wise COMMUNICATION and COURAGE, our lives can be a witness for Jesus, making Him so real to others that they’ll long to know and love Him too... May the Lord help us!



**From these verses and words I learn that:**

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International Health Services Global

[www.ihsglobal.org/contact-us](http://www.ihsglobal.org/contact-us)

In India: [lathamathew.rxl@gmail.com](mailto:lathamathew.rxl@gmail.com)

or [frikkie@live.co.za](mailto:frikkie@live.co.za)



*The Lord Jesus said:*

*“You will receive power (ability)  
when the Holy Spirit comes on you;  
and you will BE My witnesses...”*

*Acts 1:8*

# The Saline Process

**Becoming and being  
wise witnesses for Jesus!**

The Lord Jesus said: “You are the salt of the earth... you are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:13-14). By this He meant that we are to be a blessing to others and to bring taste and preservation and healing and growth, as our lives reflect the life and the love of the Lord Jesus...

A salt solution we use to help many, many patients in the health fields across the world is called “Saline”, or “Normal Saline” or 0.9% Saline. A hypertonic solution will be dangerous and a hypotonic one will be of little use. The Lord Jesus wants us to be the right concentration of “salt” (or Saline) in our interaction with our patients and peers.

The Saline Process is a face-to-face training course (and online from 2016) that encourages and equips healthcare workers of all categories to become and to be wise witnesses for Jesus in their workplace. It teaches that life is a journey, either away from Jesus or closer to Jesus. It emphasizes that we are all on a journey, a step by step process. Some call it a faith journey. It shows that faith is important in healthcare, because science says so and Scripture says so. It highlights the many opportunities we have as healthcare workers and it explores the barriers in ourselves and in our patients that can hinder us in our journey to Jesus and with Jesus. It shows in a beautiful way what is our part in this process and it equips us to use 8 Biblical tools that will help us to cultivate and sow and harvest, which is another way of saying it will help us to help others take *one step closer to Jesus* at a time. Through it we learn that to be a positive spiritual influence in the healthcare workplace, we need Christ-like character, professional competence, compassion, good communication and courage, in and through the Lord Jesus Christ.

God is working in every person we see. He calls us to work with Him and to walk with Him, and to be His salt and light and witnesses in the workplace. What a wonderful privilege!



**The Great Commission:**

*Go and make disciples!*

**The Greatest Commandment:**

*Love God and love others!*

Join the FREE ONLINE course in 2016!

Our next verses on HOW to WORK are:

*Luke 11:2*, “And He said to them, ‘When you pray, say: Our Father Who is in heaven, **hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come. Your will be done** [held holy and revered] **on earth as it is in heaven...**” (Ampl)

Regarding this, AB Simpson said:

**“O Christ my Lord and King,  
This is the prayer I bring,  
This is the song I sing,  
Thy kingdom come.**

**Help me to WORK and pray,  
Help me to live each day,  
That all I do may say,  
Thy kingdom come.”**

*Romans 12:1*, “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, **which is your spiritual WORSHIP.**” (ESV); “I appeal to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, **which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and spiritual WORSHIP.**” (Ampl)

*Romans 11:36*, “For **FROM HIM and THROUGH HIM and TO HIM are all things.** To Him be glory forever. Amen.” (ESV)

*Work  
as  
Worship*

**From these verses and words I learn that:**

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## Personal Processing

The **Main Messages** to me, personally (about HOW to work) are:

**Mobilize** (*what God wants me to DO about this*):





# WORK as WORSHIP

*to the Lord Jesus*

*Modern man  
worships his work,  
works at his play,  
and plays at his worship!!!!!!*

*“God wants worshippers before He wants workers.”*

*“Labour that does not spring out of worship is futile.”*

AW Tozer

God made work and worship to be inextricable joined together.

## WHY DO WE WORSHIP?

We worship God, because

- ✓ He is worthy (Rev 4:1-11),
- ✓ we were made to worship Him,
- ✓ He commands us to worship Him (Rev 22:9),
- ✓ He is looking for those who will worship Him (John 4:23), and
- ✓ because we want to worship Him (Ps 95:6)!

We worship, because God’s Word says in 1 Chronicles 16:29, “Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: **worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**” (KJV); in Psalm 29:2, “Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness”; in Psalm 45:11, “So shall the king greatly desire thy beauty:

for he is thy Lord; and **worship thou him**"; in Revelation 22:9, "...he said to me, ...**'worship God!'**", and in John 4:23-24, "But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for **the Father is seeking such people to worship him**. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

A.W. Tozer was a worshipping worker of God, or rather a working worshipper! He said:

- ⇒ **God wants worshipers before workers**
- ⇒ The only acceptable workers are those who have learned the lost art of worship.
- ⇒ No work, however sacrificial, will be permanent unless it is geared to eternity. Only what is done in a spirit of worship [to Jesus] will last forever.
- ⇒ **Work without worship is totally unacceptable to God.**
- ⇒ **No worship is wholly pleasing to God until there is nothing in me displeasing to God.**
- ⇒ **Man was made to worship God**
- ⇒ **God is infinitely more concerned that He has worshipers than that He has workers...**
- ⇒ We mistakenly believe that God needs workers, and so we cheerfully say, 'I'll go work for the Lord.' If we could only remember that as far as His plans are concerned, God does not need us. I think we should work for the Lord, but it is a matter of grace on God's part.
- ⇒ **However, I do not think we should ever work until we learn to worship. A worshiper can work with eternal quality in his work, but a worker who does not worship is only piling up wood, hay and stubble for the time when God sets the world on fire.**
- ⇒ **God wants worshipers before He wants workers.**
- ⇒ **He calls us back to that for which we were created – to worship the Lord God and to enjoy Him forever.**
- ⇒ **OUT OF OUR DEEP WORSHIP FLOWS OUR WORK FOR HIM.**
- ⇒ **Our work is only acceptable to God if our worship is acceptable...**

## WHAT IS WORSHIP?

- ♦ **"Worship is giving to God the best He has given to us,** and He makes it His and ours for ever. What is the best God has given you? Your right to yourself. 'Now,' he says, 'sacrifice that to Me...' " (Oswald Chambers)
- ♦ **Worship of God is worth-ship of God, extolling His worthiness...**
- ♦ In the Bible, the word "worship" comes from different words and may

mean: *praise, thank, to serve, to revere/ awe/ devotion to, to kiss towards (showing of an act of homage/ love/ reverence)*. ***SO, WHEN I DO MY WORK TO PRAISE HIM, GLORIFY HIM, SERVE HIM, SHOW DEVOTION TO HIM, SHOW MY LOVE TO HIM, AND SHOW MY REVERENCE FOR HIM, THEN, MY WORK IS WORSHIP TO JESUS!***

- ♦ Donald Whitney said: **“Worship is focussing on and responding to God”**
- ♦ AW Tozer said that “Worship is to feel in the heart and express in some appropriate manner a humbling but delightful sense of admiring awe...and astonished wonder...and overwhelming love in the presence of...” God.
- ♦ Worship will humble a person as nothing else can because there must be humility in the heart before there can be worship...
- ♦ ***WORSHIP IS WHEN WE FEEL AND EXPRESS THE WORTHINESS OF GOD IN A WORTHY WAY....***
- ♦ Worship is when we take our right place before God.
- ♦ The ingredients of worship can be described as: **adoration, admiration, affection, appreciation, abandon, action.**
- ♦ CS Lewis said: “Let us clear it forever from our minds. The work of a Beethoven and the work of a charwoman become spiritual on precisely the same condition, that of being **offered to God**, of being **done humbly ‘as to the Lord’**.”
- ♦ For me, this means that my work is done as worship to Jesus when I do it **“for Him”, in the way He wants me to do it, how He wants me to do it** (as we saw in the previous section), and **through Him** helping me.
- ♦ ***IN SHORT—MY WORK IS WORSHIP WHEN IT IS DONE FOR HIM, FROM HIM, IN HIM, AND THROUGH HIM. IT IS AS WE READ IN ROMANS 11:36, “FOR OF HIM, AND THROUGH***

*Worship is when we sense and show the worthiness of God in a worthy way, through our work and walk and whole life with Him.*

*Worship is when we work for Him, from Him, in Him, through Him, to Him, in holy, happy love & obedience - to His glory.*

Worship

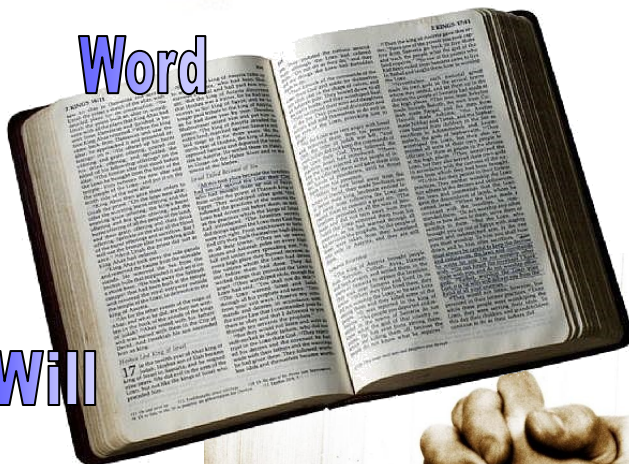
Walk



Work

Witness

Word



Wait

Will

Warfare

Watch



**HIM, AND TO HIM, ARE ALL THINGS: TO WHOM BE GLORY FOR EVER. AMEN.**”

- ◆ *My work is worship when I do it for Him, because He is worth it!*
- ◆ *My work is worship when I do it with Him, because He is worth it!*
- ◆ *My work is worship when I do it through Him, because He is worth it!*
- ◆ *My work is worship when I do it for Him in a worthy way, because He is worth it!*

Oswald Chambers said: “Some of us go in jumps like spiritual frogs, we jump from worship to waiting, and from waiting to work. God’s idea is that the three should go together.” The picture on the left tries to put it all together. May He help us!

## **HOW DO WE WORSHIP GOD?**

- ◆ We worship God as we WAIT upon Him
- ◆ We worship God as we read and respond to His WORD
- ◆ We worship God as we WALK with Him in holy love and obedience
- ◆ We worship God as we WORK with Him
- ◆ We worship God as we WORK (and live) for Him
- ◆ We worship God as we WORK through Him (and leaning on Him)
- ◆ We worship God when we WORK in the way he wants us to work.
- ◆ We worship God as we WHOLLY SURRENDER ourselves to Him...
- ◆ We worship God as our WHOLE lives (our all) show His worthiness, etc.!

**ACCORDING TO ZECHARIAH 4:6 AND 1 PETER 4:10-11, WE KNOW THAT THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE THROUGH OUR SELF-WILL OR SELF-EFFORT OR SELF-ENERGY, BUT ONLY THROUGH THE WONDERFUL WORKING OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD!!!**

So, this is our prayer:

*“Dear Father-God, thank You for speaking to us. Thank You for Your love. We ask You to cleanse us through the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit - that we may live and walk and work for Your glory; that all we are and do may be as worship to You. May Your kingdom come. May Your will be done. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.”*

Washington Gladden prayed in the words of the following poem:

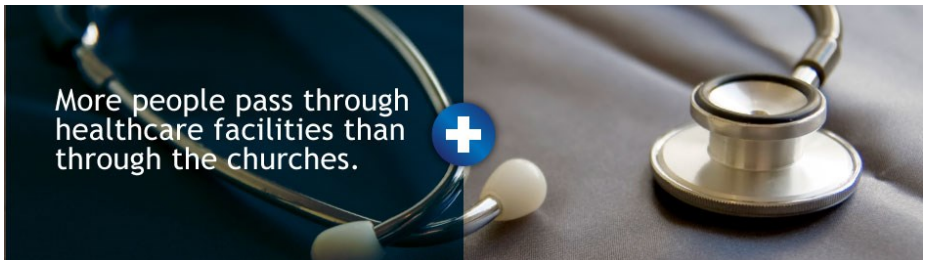
## Service

**O Master, let me walk with thee  
In lowly paths of service free;  
Tell me thy secret; help me bear  
The strain of toil, the fret of care.**

Help me the slow of heart to move  
By some clear, winning word of love;  
Teach me the wayward feet to stay,  
And guide them in the homeward way.

**Teach me Thy patience; still with Thee  
In closer, dearer company,  
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong;  
In trust that triumphs over wrong.**

In hope that sends a shining ray  
Far down the future's broadening way;  
In peace that only Thou canst give,  
With Thee, O Master, let me live.



More people pass through  
healthcare facilities than  
through the churches.



*Dismiss me not Thy service, Lord,  
But train me for Thy will;  
For even I in fields so broad  
Some duties may fulfill;  
And I will ask for no reward,  
Except to serve Thee still.*

T.T. Lynch

## **A Last Prayer**

Father, I scarcely dare to pray,  
So clear I see, now it is done,  
That I have wasted half my day,  
And left my work but just begun;

So clear I see that things I thought  
Were right or harmless were a sin;  
So clear I see that I have sought  
Unconscious, selfish aims to win;

So clear I see that I have hurt  
The soul I might have helped to save;  
That I have slothful been, inert,  
Deaf to the calls thy leaders gave.

*In outskirts of thy kingdom vast,  
Father, the humblest spot give me;  
Set me the lowliest task thou hast,  
Let me repentant work for thee.*

Helen. H. Jackson



**It is an Honour  
to do Helpful, Hard,  
Honest, Happy, Hearty,  
Holy, Humble WORK,  
with God, for others,  
for Him, through Him,  
in the Health field!!!**

	<b>CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE VELLORE</b> SERVING THE NATION IN THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Alumni</li> <li>» Check Email</li> <li>» Change Email / Password</li> <li>» Friends of Vellore</li> <li>» Statutory Declaration</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Home</a>   <a href="#">Contact Us</a>   <a href="#">Sitemap</a> <b>Director's January Message</b>
<b>Vision Statement</b>  » The Christian Medical College, Vellore, seeks to be a witness to the healing ministry of Christ, through excellence in education, service and research			





## Personal Processing

The Main Messages to me, personally,  
from this WORKSHOP on “Work as Worship to Jesus” are:

Mobilize (*what God wants me to DO about this*):



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**Thank You, Lord!**







Healthcare  
Christian  
Fellowship  
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