

## The Lord Is at Work

“And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk? And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all”  
(Acts 3:12, 16).

One day the mayor (leader) of a small town noticed two of his workers doing something strange. They were working steadily along the side of the road. One of the men was digging a hole in the ground, and the other filling it up again. After watching them dig and fill several holes this way, the mayor, somewhat confused, stopped the two workers and asked for an explanation.

“Well, sir,” replied the first man, “we work for the town planting trees, and usually there are three of us who work on this job. One digs the hole; one plants the tree, and one covers it up. But the man who plants the trees called in sick today, and we did not want to miss a day’s work, so here we are.”

How easy it is to fall into the habit of just being at church. We can become so programmed that like the tree planters, we totally lose sight of the meaning behind what we are doing. Just “doing church” is not enough.

Many churches are “heavy on knowledge and light on supernatural power.” (C. Peter Wagner). There should be a balance between the two.

## We Are Working Together with God

📖 “I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building” (1 Corinthians 3:6, 9).

📖 “So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen” (Mark 16:19-20).

## We Cannot Accomplish the Work without Him

“...For without me ye can do nothing.” (John 15:5)


## The Lord Is Working in Us

📖 “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:6).

📖 “For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure” (Philippians 2:13).

📖 “Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us” (Ephesians 3:20).

## Jesus Wants to Work in Our Day

 “Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you” (Acts 13:41).

Acts is a book of action. The early church lived in an atmosphere of anticipation. Each page of Acts reminds us that the Lord was at work. Today, as He promised, He continues the work that He started.

In the Gospels Jesus worked in His physical body. After His ascension and the Day of Pentecost, He began working through His spiritual body—the church. Throughout the Acts of Apostles, Jesus Christ was the real “worker.”

“Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved” (Acts 2:47).

The Lord continues to work in His end-time church. In fact, He wants to move in each service. Rev. R. M. Buie taught a tremendous lesson while visiting Ghana. It was entitled, “Pushing Beyond the Conventional Boundaries.” He stated that we should approach each service anticipating a demonstration of the Spirit and power. The highlights of Rev. Buie’s excellent teaching follow:

“While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished” (Acts 10:44-45).

Spiritual ministry pushes beyond a form, program, or ritual. It is the realization that Jesus comes to church to do a work.

Our work is to pray for a move of the Spirit before service time. We need to prepare our hearts for the Lord to work.

Ask God to take control of the service and have faith that He Will.

Thank Him for His visitation before it happens.

Plan for a move of the Spirit. It can happen at any time. It is not good to keep a rigid program for the service. Have a plan, but make it flexible. God should be welcome to move at any time.

Anticipate a move of the Spirit—at any time.

Remember, your actions communicate your expectation. Passive worship or leadership will produce a passive response.

We lead by following.

“Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1).

Be sensitive to the move of the Spirit—at any time.

Follow after His Spirit, not the program or Order of Service. God wants everything done “decently and in order” (1 Corinthians 14:40). A move of the Spirit is not an interference with the service. It is decent and in order. We want God to work! If we do not have time for God, we do not have time for anything. We can make time for God to move and still do other necessary things required in the service. It is important to lead the congregation into the move of the Spirit.

Respond to the move of the Spirit—at any time! As leaders, we should show a favorable reaction to God at work. We need to respond to the presence of the Lord. If not, He will leave without doing a work.

“But he passing through the midst of them went his way” (Luke 4:30).

Reap the benefits of the move of the Spirit—at any time. The saints are encouraged, edified and uplifted by the Spirit. The lost receive the gift of the Holy Ghost spontaneously. The sick are healed by the ministering power of God’s Spirit. The preacher is anointed by the Spirit to preach the Word.

When God does a work celebrate—rejoice, praise and thank God for the move of the Spirit.

**Study Questions**

1. How do many church programs compare with the tree planters?

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2. What does C. Peter Wagner say about many churches?

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3. What is the difference in the way the Lord worked in the Gospels and in Acts?

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4. What should we anticipate happening in each service?

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5. How do we prepare for a move of the Spirit in our services?

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6. How does God want things done in each service (1 Corinthians 14:40)?

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7. When should we expect a move of the Spirit?

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