

PLANTING AND WATERING IN THE FIELD OF OUR LABOR

Read: John 15:1-11 and Psalm 51:10-13

OUTREACH

*“Individually
& Together”*

1 Peter 3:15
Acts 2:46,47

UPREACH

“Knowing God”

Psalm 27:4,8

INREACH

*“Building Up
One Another”*

Colossians 3:15-17

Planting and watering are the life of the Kingdom worker. To truly labor we must devote ourselves to a life-style of sacrifice for the sake of the Gospel. This work includes three often overlapping works of faith.

WHAT DO EACH OF THE PASSAGES LISTED ABOVE TEACH ME ABOUT WORKING IN GOD'S FIELD?

UPREACH

The experience of personal devotion to God is critical for the laborer. This involves the nourishing relationship spoken of in John 15:1-11. Here we find guidance that can make our planting and watering effective. God receives our praise (Psalm 27:4,8) and is honored and responsive to our requests for kingdom success. This is a cleansing and empowering success that renews the heart of the laborer (Psalm 51:10-13). Christ is the captain of laborers and co-laborers!

INREACH

It is critical for the laborer to not work alone. A three-fold cord will succeed (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12) and that we are to pray for harvest laborers (Matthew 9:37,38). An honest day's spiritual labor must include a choice to build up others by the use of our gifts and sharing our God experience with one another (Colossians 3:15-17; Ephesians 4:14-16). Laboring together that we find encouragement to persevere!

OUTREACH

Reaching out to the world around us is critical for the health of the believer and the welfare of the Church, not to mention the obvious benefit to the soul who receives the God-story. We are to work within our individual sphere of influence (1 Peter 3:15) in a manner that is respectful and connecting. We are to share as well in the context of Christian love and personal growth in the Gospel (Acts 2:46, 47).

Some Critical Questions about working in God's field:

1) What kinds of seed am I sowing in my personal relationship with God? Am I growing to know God?

2) In what specific ways is grateful praise a part of my life?

3) How does God give me success and the encouragement to persevere?

4) Whom do I consider my "fellow-workers" in the Gospel and how do we encourage one another?

5) What are my most effective avenues for sharing my faith and bringing the news of the Kingdom to others?

6) How can I make time and balance three such demanding areas of labor?

Write a paragraph on UPREACH, INREACH, & OUTREACH. Give your conclusion thus far about these three aspects of working in God's field.
