

# GOD'S FELLOW WORKERS

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2 Timothy 2:15

*Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.*

1 Corinthians 3:9

*We are God's fellow workers.*

## Who You Are

Not only what you may say, but who you are tells a story.

Isaiah 43:10-12

<sup>10</sup> *"But you are my witnesses, O Israel!" says the Lord.*

*"You are my servant.*

*You have been chosen to know me, believe in me,  
and understand that I alone am God.*

*There is no other God—*

*there never has been, and there never will be.*

<sup>11</sup> *I, yes I, am the Lord,*

*and there is no other Savior.*

<sup>12</sup> *First I predicted your rescue,*

*then I saved you and proclaimed it to the world.*

*No foreign god has ever done this.*

*You are witnesses that I am the only God,"*

*says the Lord.*

You have a first-hand experience of salvation. You don't require a degree in theology!

John 15:26-27

<sup>26</sup> *"When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. <sup>27</sup> And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.*

Not only what you may say, but who you are tells a story, because you have been with Jesus.

The Spirit will testify, and you must testify with Him. You are God's fellow workers!

## Think Globally

"Think Globally, Act Locally." This slogan has come to represent every aspect of globalization, from ecology to economy. But it first belonged to the Gospel!

In the beginning of days, God said to Adam, *"Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth."* (Genesis 1:28)

And in the end of days, Jesus said to His disciples, *“You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”* (Acts 1:8)

You and I are on a global adventure: expanding the Kingdom of God, building His Church!

For our journey to be successful, we need three things (all of which God will supply): power (for we cannot even manage our own lives according to God’s standard), equipment (for the task is greater than we can ever hope to achieve in our own strength), and opportunity (for change cannot be forced).

## **Power**

For the first of these, Jesus said, *“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you.”* (Acts 1:8) Apart from Him, we can do nothing.

Contrary to popular opinion, this is not power to work miracles; this is power to *be* a miracle!

This is power to live above sin and self-interest.

This is power to give yourself away.

This is power to endure hardship and keep smiling.

This is power to last!

Although it is God’s promise to us, such power is not automatic. Every Christian must seek it, ask for it, expect it, and receive it by trusting Jesus Christ. He alone is the One who baptizes with the fiery Holy Spirit.

Have you asked the Lord to baptize you with the Spirit? Have you asked , intending to receive it? If you would like to do so today, we will take time to pray with you before we leave here today.

## **Equipment**

Raw power is not sufficient. In fact, it could be detrimental.

The electricity in your home is measured, channeled, and directed. But lightning is raw power, and can be destructive.

The water from your tap is refreshing. But a flash flood is devastating.

The breeze from your ceiling fan can be a welcome relief. But the winds of a tornado are ruinous.

Spiritual equipping is how the raw power of the Creator works effectively through our lives, and leaves a blessing.

Knowledge of the Word of God is a part of your spiritual equipment. You don’t need to become a theologian, but you do need to understand God’s plan of salvation for yourself, before you can communicate it to someone else. The teaching we offer on Wednesday nights and early Sunday mornings is designed to provide this.

The practice of prayer is a part of your spiritual equipment. If you are not comfortable talking to God about your real needs, how can you help someone else to talk with Him?

Congregational worship is a part of your spiritual equipping. You yourself must learn to reach out to God with whole-hearted praise if you hope to bring His presence to someone else who is seeking to find Him.

The limits of your own spiritual life determine the limits of your spiritual outreach. You cannot lift someone else beyond your own level.

Get equipped! That's why God established the local church. If you are ready to make a commitment to become an active part of a local church like ours, and wish to speak or pray with someone about it, we will take time to do so before we leave here today.

## **Opportunity**

Empowered and equipped, you still require opportunity. God must open doors for you. The Holy Spirit must ready other people's hearts and prompt you to reach out to them at the appropriate time.

You must learn to look for "divine appointments." Those are not necessarily the ones you make; they are the ones *He* makes for you.

They are often unexpected. Sometimes, they appear as interruptions to your existing plans. Sometimes, they appear as the setbacks or reversals. That's just because we fail to see the bigger picture.

What seems an interruption or setback to you may be an answer to the prayers you or someone else has prayed. Yes, you may become the answer to someone else's prayers, if you're open to an unexpected opportunity!

Develop an attentive heart that listens for clues to someone else's need and readiness. Then, with the power and equipping of the Holy Spirit, step boldly (though considerately) into the opportunity.

Remember, God has placed you in the life circumstance you are in *on purpose* (His purpose, that is). You are a *key* to eternal life for those people in your sphere of influence.

New Testament Greek has a word for it: *oikos*. It describes the circle of people in your life. Before you can reach the world, you must reach those close to you.

This includes family, friends, co-workers, neighbors and acquaintances. "Reaching" them doesn't mean you must "close the deal" with each of them first. It simply means you must be a witness for Christ in their lives.

No one wants to be your "project." Organic evangelism is a matter of building relationships that foster trust and conversation. Such trust and conversation will naturally generate opportunities to share your faith that will be comfortable and appropriate.

"Closing the deal" is *not* the objective; being real is. If you *are* good news to those around you, you cannot help but find ways to share the Good News with them. And if your objective is simply to be yourself in a good relationship, your sharing will be welcome and not offensive.

It has been said that *you* may be the only Bible some people ever read. You represent the Savior. You bring the fragrance of Christ to a relationship.

If you want to make an impact on the world for Christ, start with those in whose lives God has placed you. Don't discount those connections, no matter how much water or time has passed under the bridge. Prayerfully, reach out again. Offer an introduction. Extend an invitation.

You're one of God's fellow workers!