

“WORKING TOGETHER WITH GOD”

5. God has elevated us from servants to friends.
 - a. He invites us into a relationship that goes beyond employer-employee interactions.
 - b. He is willing for us to engage Him...to change His mind, to direct His ideas, to share in His unfolding creative work.
 - c. He doesn't lack for ideas. He just enjoys our participation.
6. The way I see it is that when servants become friends of God they don't lose their humility and obedience, but something does change and that is their relational perspective.
 - a. Let me explain; there is a point in our relationship with God where obedience is no longer the primary issue.
 - b. To some of you that probably sounds blasphemous, but it's really a deep truth God wants to reveal to his children in the church.
 - c. The truth is, there are levels of relationship and fellowship with God that many of us have not conceived, much less experienced.
 - d. And, until we do, our co-laboring with Him will be more limited than it needs to be.
7. Please remember, communication with the Spirit was the secret to Christ's ministry, and it is the secret to ours.

{LESSON NUMBER 3} {8/8/2010}

“RADICAL OBEDIENCE”

- II. When we learn to co-labor with Jesus we bring Him on the inside of us and that brings victory inside of us, because it replaces un-renewed patterns of thinking and behavior with those of the Kingdom.
 - A. This promotes “radical obedience” and this is the perspective that enables us to hold nothing back from God, to live passionately and sacrificially in our daily lives, just as Jesus did on this earth.
 1. Unless we are walking in radical obedience, we will not make radical efforts in battle. We will back out of them.

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2. There are a few reason that the Church does not need to fail in their efforts to work together with God.
3. First we need to remember that the apostle Paul indicated to the church members at Corinth that they were **“laborers together with God.”** (1Corinthians 3:9a)
 - a. To that same body of saints, in his second epistle he said, **“We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that you receive not the grace of God in vain”** (2 Corinthians 6:1).
4. I submit to you that it is indeed a great privilege to be regarded as **“laborers together with God,”** and to be counted as His friends.
 - a. And further, it behooves us to be found still laboring with God when Jesus returns, so that we will have, **“...receive not the grace of God in vain.”**
5. The last thing we should want as the New Testament Church is for God to consider it a waste that He entrusted us to be His co-laborers.
 - a. For that not to happen, it will take **“radical obedience”** on our parts in doing His Will.
 - b. What is that will? On earth as in heaven!
6. Believe me, it will take **“radical obedience”** on our parts to bring heaven’s reality on this earth.
 - a. This kind of thinking will bring victory inside of us. Why?
 - b. Because it replaces un-renewed patterns of thinking and behavior with those of the Kingdom.

“DAVID WAS A DREAMER OF HIS DESIRES”

- B.** King David was a man after God’s heart and he had one of the most extraordinary examples of dreaming and co-laboring with God of anyone in the Bible.
1. He wanted to build a wonderful temple for God in Jerusalem.
 2. David was not allowed to build the temple but without David it would

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not have been built by Solomon.

3. I Kings chapter eight recounts the building of the temple, which was one of the most significant events in the Bible.
4. At the Temple’s dedication, Solomon said, **Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, who spoke with His mouth to my father David, and with His hand has fulfilled it, saying, “Since the day that I brought my people Israel out of Egypt, I have chosen no city from any tribe of Israel in which to build a house, that My name might be there; but I chose David to be over My people Israel.”** Now it was in the heart of my father David to build a temple for the name of the **Lord God of Israel (1 Kings 8:15-17).**
5. What was God saying here? God was telling the world, “I didn’t choose a city, I chose a man, and the temple was in the heart of the man.”
 - a. It’s like He was saying, “The Temple wasn’t my idea. David was my idea.”
 - b. This is incredible! David’s creativity and desires wrote history because God embraced them.
 - c. This concept is absolutely foreign to most of our way of thinking.
6. Religion has taught us to wait for instructions and work hard to suppress our own ideas.
 - a. Religion has so brain washed us that we now think any thing we do for God must flow directly from the Throne and be carried out to the letter, as if from a heavenly instruction booklet.
7. God’s approach to His children is different than the above ideas.
 - a. He has made Himself vulnerable to the desires of His people.
 - b. History unfolds according to what we do, what we pray, what we don’t do and what we don’t pray.
 - c. Jesus gave us Kingdom principles, and it is these principles that set up our parameters.

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- d. Our new parameter states: “Dreamers! Come! Let’s dream together and write the story of human history.”

“DESIRE”

C. Christians sometimes get the idea that if they “desire” something, it must not be of God.

1. Religion has brought us to the place as if we serve a barbaric God who wants to wipe out anything that springs from our own hearts.
 - a. On the contrary, God is excited when it comes to your desires.
 - b. He wants to see what makes you tick. Yes, He made you and knows everything about you, but He can only commune with you as you open yourself up in fellowship with Him.
 - c. This is where pleasure is derived for Him, when dreams and desires spark dialogue and interaction, and the co-laboring begins.
 - d. Psalms 37:4 supports this idea: **“Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.”**
2. Bill Johnson made the statement: “Like many pastors, I foolishly taught that if you delighted yourself in the Lord, He would change your desires by telling you what to desire.”
 - a. God doesn’t mean that at all!
 - b. That verse literally means that God wants to be impacted by what you think and dream. God is after your desires. He is after intimacy with you.
 - c. He has opened Himself to the desires of His people. He likes going back and forth with His children, throwing out His idea and waiting for your response.
 - d. To support his idea I want you to remember, Jesus even said, **“Whoever you forgive, I forgive.”**
 - e. Co-laboring is a huge aspect of ministry that many of us simply do not understand, because true friendship with God is so foreign to us.

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3. The Church’s misunderstanding of this idea seems to manifest because they don’t know which of their desires are from God and which are carnal.
 - a. Maybe I can shed some light on this. The very word *desire* is made up of the prefix *de* meaning “of,” and *sire* meaning “the Father.”
 - b. Desire is, by nature, of the Father.
4. The problem as I see it is, before we come to Jesus, our desires are corrupted and spring from what we commune with.
 - a. In the natural state we sometimes commune with greed, and naturally our desire will be greedy.
 - b. If we commune with pornography, our desires will be perverse.
 - c. If we commune with anger over a past hurt, our desire will be for revenge.
5. Why is it this way? Most people fail to realize that thinking about something is inviting the essence of that something into their experience.