

Working Feverishly For God!

by Wayne Goff

One of the most frustrating things for a gospel preacher is to move brethren to be what God expects them to be in the realm of zeal and enthusiasm. After considering the following words, you will understand:

- **“Works”** (ERGON): This word refers to the whole life and conduct. God created His people “for good works” (Eph. 2:10), and we should “walk in them.” God desires that we **abound** in every good work (2 Cor. 9:8). The church in Ephesus did exactly that (Rev. 2:2)!
- **“Labor”** (KAPOS): Wearisome labor, travail, toil is what this word means. Again, Ephesus labored to weariness in the work of the Lord (Rev. 2:2)! Paul described this well when he said in 1 Corinthians 15:58 - “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your **labor** is not in vain in the Lord.” You cannot say that you have “labored” for the Lord until you have served Jesus unto weariness. Some Christians are *convenient* Christians, serving the Lord *lightly* when it is most convenient for them. This was **never** God’s intention, beloved.
- **“Patience”** (HUPOMONE): Patient endurance, a patient frame of mind, perseverance. Jesus said, “By your patience possess your souls” (Lk. 21:19). Having dedicated our whole lives to God’s good works, and laboring to the point of exhaustion, we then must learn patient endurance until Christ comes again. It is easy to *grow weary* with the trials, sufferings, and hardships of life. It is easy to *give up* on brethren who just **refuse** to be moved to greater service. Discouragement is one of Satan’s greatest tools. Patient endurance is the Christian’s response. Do not grow weary in doing well, for in “*due season*” we shall reap if we do not grow weary (Gal. 6:9).

These things can be done brethren, because Paul complimented the young church at Thessalonica for doing them! “Remembering without ceasing your **work** of faith, **labor** of love, and **patience** of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father” (1 Thess. 1:3).

- **“Persevere”** (BASTAZO): To lift, raise up, bear aloft; to bear or carry in the hands or about a person; carry as a message. Thus, this word suggests that the faithful church bears up the burdens of life which the Lord has imposed upon them. If you cannot do this, then you cannot be the Lord’s disciple (Lk. 14:27)!
- **“Steadfast”** (HEDRAIOS): This word describes the **dependability** of the faithful saint or church, 1 Cor. 15:58. They are settled, steady, firm, constant in their service to the Lord and in the establishment of their faith. They are not up one minute and down the next. Their foundation is sure! They are dependable, reliable, and trustworthy, Col. 1:23. Are you a **strong support** for the Cause of the Lord, or a **parasitical drain** on its resources?
- **“Immovable”** (AMATAKINETOS): In contrast to “*steadfast*,” this word suggests “establishment as related to assault from temptation or persecution. Fixedness is a condition of *abounding in work*” (Vincent’s Word Studies, III:287). It is also found in 1 Corinthians 15:58. Brethren are to grow stronger in their ability to resist temptation, sin, and Satan’s evil darts.
- **“Abounding”** (PERISSEUO): Paul says “*always abounding in the work of the Lord*” (1 Cor. 15:58). “Abounding” means “to be over and above, to be superfluous; ... to exist in full quantity, to abound, be abundant” (Mounce Greek Dictionary). I think we understand the meaning here. In our culture we say “going above and beyond the call of duty.”

Brethren, if the Lord were satisfied with half-hearted effort, then I would not say a word. We are **His** people. But I fear that many will be lost in the Judgment Day simply because they did not put forth the effort God expected of them. **Read 1 Corinthians 15:58 and Revelation 2:2-5 yourself!**

283803