

## **Faithfulness in Co-Laboring with God**

### **1. The Mystery of God's Sovereignty and Our Faithfulness**

Imagine a field, untouched, its soil unbroken, stretching across a vast landscape under a quiet sky. The potential within that field is immense; each inch of soil could hold a harvest, a bounty beyond measure. Yet it lies dormant, waiting for someone to labor over it, to plant seeds and tend to its needs. In our walk with God, we often find ourselves standing in such fields. We know that God is sovereign, that He alone can bring the rain, the growth, and ultimately, the harvest. But He calls us to take up the plow, to sow seeds, and to tend the land—to be faithful co-laborers in His work.

Jesus modeled this co-laboring with the Father when He said, *“Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does”* (John 5:19). Our relationship with God is much the same. Though we know that He brings the increase, we are still called to engage in His work with expectation and faithfulness. Even with good doctrine, which acknowledges His sovereignty, we must be stirred to action. This study invites you to explore why it matters that we faithfully co-labor with God, walking in confidence and expecting to see transformation, both within ourselves and in the world around us.

### **2. Understanding Co-Laboring with God**

The call to co-labor with God is not about God needing us, but about His gracious invitation for us to participate in His redemptive work. Picture a father in his workshop, inviting his young child to join him in building something. The child's efforts might be clumsy, her hands untrained, yet the father delights in her presence, guiding her, showing her how to use each tool. In the same way, God invites us to come alongside Him—not because He lacks ability, but because He loves us and wants us to grow in understanding, humility, and faithfulness.

In 1 Corinthians 3:6-7, Paul writes, *“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.”* This is the heart of good doctrine: recognizing that all true transformation comes from God alone. Yet, Paul still planted, Apollos still watered, and each one labored faithfully, knowing that God would bring the increase. This is our call as well—to be faithful in the small things, even when we may not see immediate results, trusting that God is at work.

**Reflection:** What areas of your life feel like unbroken soil, waiting for faithful labor? How can you step into the work, trusting God for the growth?

### **3. The Daily Cross: Faithfulness in Small Steps**

Faithfulness often requires us to carry burdens that don’t lift overnight. Jesus called His disciples to *“take up [their] cross daily”* (Luke 9:23), an invitation to die to themselves and live in obedience to God. This cross-bearing isn’t a one-time act; it’s a daily decision, a continual commitment to walk the path God has set before us, even when it’s difficult.

Imagine the weight of that cross—a wooden beam, rough and heavy. It grinds into the shoulders, each step forward requiring grit and perseverance. This is the reality of faithful living. We are called to walk forward, to bear the weight of obedience, trusting that our labor is not in vain. The beauty of this journey is that, as we walk, we are never alone. Jesus Himself bore the cross, and now He walks with us, strengthening us, guiding us, and reminding us of the hope we carry.

Do not despise the daily cross. Each step, each act of obedience, each moment of perseverance is a seed planted in the soil of your faith. Though you may not see the harvest yet, trust that God is working through your faithfulness.

#### 4. Walking in Confidence and Expecting Change

Faithfulness calls us to action, but it also calls us to believe in the power of God to bring change. Just as a farmer plants with the expectation of a harvest, we are to walk in confidence, knowing that God will accomplish what He has purposed. This confidence is not arrogance, but a humble assurance rooted in the knowledge that God is faithful to His promises.

The prophet Isaiah writes, *“So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it”* (Isaiah 55:11). This is the promise we stand on. Every prayer, every act of love, every step of obedience is woven into God’s plan. And though we may not see the immediate effects, we can walk forward in confidence, trusting that God is moving.

Imagine standing on a mountaintop, watching as the first rays of dawn break over the horizon. You know that as the light touches the valleys and fields below, life will begin to stir. Birds will sing, flowers will open, and the world will wake to the new day. This is the confidence we carry—that God’s work is certain, that change is coming, and that our faithfulness plays a part in His greater plan.

**Question:** How can you walk with greater confidence, trusting that God is bringing change in His time?

#### 5. Placing Our Faithfulness in His Hands

It’s tempting to believe that our efforts, our labor, and our faithfulness are insignificant. We may wonder if our prayers really make a difference, if our small acts of obedience matter in the grand scheme. But God assures us that our labor is not in vain. *“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain”* (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Imagine a single drop of water falling into a still pond. The ripples stretch outward, unseen but unstoppable, affecting every inch of the water’s

surface. Our faithfulness is like that drop. We may not see the full effect, but God is using each act, each prayer, each word spoken in faith, to accomplish His purposes.

Do not grow weary in well-doing. Even when the work feels small, God is using it for His glory. Place your faithfulness in His hands, and trust that He will bring the increase.

## **6. Humble Obedience and Expectation of Fruit**

The concept of co-laboring with God teaches us that humility is essential. We recognize that, though God invites us to participate, He alone brings about true fruit. Jesus said, *“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing”* (John 15:5). To abide is to dwell in His presence, to remain connected, to draw life from Him alone.

As we co-labor, our dependence on Him must remain unwavering. The fruit we desire in our lives—in our families, communities, and churches—flows from Him. Without His life in us, our efforts are empty. Yet, as we abide, as we humbly depend on His strength, we can expect to see fruit. This expectation isn’t rooted in our ability but in His promise.

**Application:** How can we cultivate an attitude of humble expectation? What does it look like to abide in Christ, even as we actively labor?

## **7. Revival Through Faithfulness and the Call to Action**

The concept of revival is often met with an air of expectancy—a longing for God to move in undeniable ways, to stir hearts, and to renew communities. We yearn to see lives transformed, families healed, churches united, and entire cities awakened to the presence of God. But what often goes unnoticed is that revival rarely begins with grand gestures; it usually starts with quiet, faithful obedience from those who are willing to answer God’s call, day after day.

Revival is not something we can manufacture. It is the Holy Spirit who breathes new life, bringing conviction, repentance, and transformation. Yet, God invites us to be a part of this movement. He calls us to pray fervently, to repent earnestly, and to walk humbly, as individuals who hunger for righteousness. In James 4:8, we find a profound promise: *“Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.”* This nearness to God is the beginning of revival. It’s a personal awakening, a heart set ablaze with love for Christ, that extends into every aspect of life.

To seek revival is to step out in faith, believing that God will move in response to our obedience. This call to action isn’t about perfection or a flawless faith. Rather, it’s about surrender—coming before God, laying down our agendas, and saying, “Lord, use me.” Just as the early church gathered in prayer and fellowship, expecting God to move, we too are called to come together with a shared vision, lifting one another up and interceding for God’s work among us.

In these moments of co-laboring, we see glimpses of revival: in the courage to forgive, in the boldness to proclaim the truth, and in the humility to serve our neighbors. Revival is born out of hearts that burn with love for God and a desire to see His kingdom come. And while we cannot control when or how revival comes, we can prepare the soil by living in faithfulness, creating space for the Holy Spirit to work.

**Call to Action:** Take time this week to seek God in prayer, asking Him to reveal any areas of resistance in your heart. Let go of anything that keeps you from walking in step with Him. Find ways to encourage others in your community to do the same, and make prayer for revival a regular part of your life. Expect change—not because of our strength, but because of God’s promise to bring life to the places where His Spirit moves.

**Question:** What does personal revival look like in your life? How can you be an agent of revival in your community, seeking to create spaces for God to work?

## **8. The Joy of Co-Laboring with God**

In all our faithfulness, our perseverance, and our obedience, there lies a deep joy. It's the joy of knowing that our lives are part of a story far greater than ourselves. Like a child in their father's workshop, we are invited into the holy work of God. And though the tools may feel heavy, the journey long, and the harvest distant, we walk in the assurance that He is with us.

Imagine the joy of the harvest—the culmination of months of labor, the satisfaction of seeing the fruit of your work, the celebration shared with others. This is the promise God holds out to us. Our faithful labor, though small in our eyes, is precious to Him. And when we stand before Him, we will see the beauty of His work, the increase He brought, and the lives touched by our faithfulness.

Walk forward in faithfulness. Pick up your cross daily. Trust in God's promise to bring the increase, and expect to see His work in and through your life. You are not alone in this labor; the God who called you is faithful, and He will complete the work He has begun.

### **Closing Prayer:**

Father, we thank You for the privilege of co-laboring with You. Help us to walk faithfully, to bear our cross daily, and to trust You for the increase. Fill our hearts with confidence, humility, and joy as we labor in Your fields. May we see the fruit of Your work, and may our lives bring You glory. In Jesus' name, amen.