THE WORKINGS OF GOD

Scriptures: John 5:17; Ephesians 3:20,21;
Philippians 2:13
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 18, 2012

Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at His work to this very day, and I, too, am working."
John 5:17 (NIV)

Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:20,21 (NIV)

For it is God Who works in you both the willing and the working according to His good pleasure.
Philippians 2:13 (DARBY)

OBSERVATIONS

1. Work is the result of ACTIVITY and POWER applied with INTENTION and PURPOSE. There is a DESIGN in MIND.

2. God's work of SALVATION in us is ONE, but His workings in us as believers are MANY. WE ARE WORKS IN PROGRESS.

3. God's workings THROUGH us are the result of His workings IN us.

4. PERFECTION is not our immediate goal, but OPENNESS to the Lord's continual working is. Openness to God's working is one of the first marks of a GROWING BELIEVER.

5. God's workings through us have to do with MINISTRY; His workings IN US have to do with CHARACTER and GROWTH. The latter is needed for the first to be effective and honoring to the Lord.

6. Openness to God's workings implies a hunger for growth, humility of heart, a forgiving attitude, and a DAILY WALK.

7. The more OPEN we are individually to the workings of God in us, the more QUICKLY He can get us to where we need to be for maximum ministry and usefulness; the more resistant we are, the longer it will take.

8. The Lord is patient and will take as long as required to get us where we need to be, but when we resist and delay His work, WE are the LOSERS.

9. God's workings in us are not always PLEASANT, but they are always FRUITFUL.

10. To be open to the workings of God, is actually to be open to His SPIRIT.

11. If God is working effectively in us as individual believers, He will also be working effectively in and through us COLLECTIVELY as a BODY.

12. God's workings, when received and applied, always lead to GROWTH and spiritual PROGRESS.

13. HAPPINESS is seeing God at work; sadness is seeing God's work delayed, blocked or thwarted.

14. Where God is at work, there is LIFE; where His work has ceased, there is only DECLINE and death.

TO PONDER

1. Can you name a specific area in which God is dealing with you at this time?

2. How open do you consider yourself (or not) to the workings of God in your life?

3. Is it possible God could increase your usefulness if you were more open to His workings in you in certain areas? If you answered "yes," what areas come to mind?

4. Is it your true desire to be fully open to God's workings in your life? If so, ask Him to make you open to His work in you as never before.