

The Supernatural Power of a Transformed Mind

Study Guide

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YOU ARE A CO-LABORER WITH GOD

For we are labourers together with God
(1 CORINTHIANS 3:9 KJV).

The transformed mind frees you to be one positioned to work together with God, where your will and your desires actually release His purposes into the earth.

However, many Christians have a one-dimensional perspective of this idea of co-laboring. They think it's a robotic interplay between themselves and God in which their will is dialed down to zero and His will completely overtakes their desires and thoughts. They see themselves as remote control beings, totally under the direction of a God who sits in Heaven and works the master controls. But that is exactly the opposite of what the Bible says.

Paul's language in First Corinthians 3:9, and then later on in Second Corinthians 6:1, points to a different reality, where you and I have the joy of working together with Him. In fact, your ideas and desires and dreams have a monumental influence on how God carries out His plan in the world. Remember, all of us have been handcrafted in the image and likeness of God.

It is a mistake for us to pray and ask God, "Let me decrease as You increase." I am not second-guessing the good intentions that motivate this request. The problem is we have taken a correct statement and have assigned it incorrect context. John the Baptist made the statement, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30) when his public ministry was coming to a conclusion, and it was time for Jesus' ministry to take off. Even John the Baptist's statement does not suggest what many think it says, which is, "God, take all of my humanity and completely overthrow it with Your will." In pursuing this complete overhaul of our will, we are neglecting the collaboration with God that produces a people whose own free will and desires are actually celebrated by God. We know this because of how God created man in the Garden. God's works reveal His intentions, and when He fashioned humanity, He made men and women with a free will. What a pleasure for the Father to watch those who, by choice, worship Him through their own dreams and desires.

When God re-created you at salvation, He did not throw out your humanity. He did not sacrifice your uniqueness. Your uniqueness brings Him glory. Remember, we are co-laborers, meaning that apart from Christ our work is not complete, and at the same time, amazingly, His work on earth is not complete without us. Even though He could accomplish everything and anything He needed to on the earth in less than an instant, God intentionally looks to you and me as contributors to what He is doing, not just robots carrying out His ideas. He actually is interested in your desires and dreams and has opened up His plan on this planet to your influence. Amazing.

TRANSFORMATION THOUGHT

When God created humanity, He did not make robots; instead, He made people with free will who, through their own dreams and desires, could actually worship God by choice and collaborate with Him to fulfill His purposes on the earth.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What do you think about this truth that God has opened up His plans to your influence? What does this mean to you?

2. How do you think God receives glory through your dreams and sires coming to pass?

TRANSFORMATION PRAYER

Thank You, Father, for this incredible invitation to co-labor with You. Show me what it means that You actually celebrate my desires. My plans. My creativity. Thank You for creating me in Your image and likeness to display Your glory by being the unique person You have made me to be.