

ALWAYS ABOUNDING IN GOD'S WORK

(1 Corinthians 15:58)

As we revisit our mission as a church, the resounding call of God to each one of us is found in Paul's exhortation to the Corinthian believers, "*Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord, your labor is not in vain*" (1 Cor. 15:58). Scripture commands us to renounce mediocrity when it comes to our Christian life and service to God. We should "*never be lacking in zeal, but rather keep our spiritual fervor, serving the Lord*" (Rom. 14:11). Reflecting from Paul's concluding exhortation to the Corinthian church, we'll consider three vital keys to living a life which always abounds in God's work.

1. *to stay grounded in the gospel*

A life that always abounds in God's work must be founded upon a steadfast conviction to stay grounded in the gospel (1 Cor. 15:58). Paul urges us believers to continue to be steadfast and immovable as we hold firm to the truths of the gospel and refuse to move away from our settled belief in the saving death, burial and resurrection of Christ (1 Cor. 15:1-4,14,17,20,51-52). Where your conviction goes, your life goes. When your gospel conviction falls apart, then your life falls apart. Since the gospel truth of Christ's resurrection secures our salvation and guarantees our glorious eternal future, we must therefore live our life in light of eternity, for the glory of God and the cause of the gospel.

2. *to excel in the work of the Lord*

If we are truly steadfast and immovable in our gospel conviction, then our life must be characterized by a sustained commitment to excel in the work of the Lord (1 Cor. 15:58). To always abound in the work of the Lord means to progress more and more, to excel and to abundantly overflow in our service to God. The work of the Lord is the work of the gospel. Doing the work of the Lord means fulfilling the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus (Matt. 28:19-20). In the context of our church life, to do the work of the Lord is to carry out our mission to be a Gospel-Commissioned, Disciple-Making Church which proclaims God's Word, equips God's people and witnesses to the lost. Our Lord Jesus Himself instructs us to do the work of God with a sense of urgency, making the most of our time, faithfully laboring in our Lord's harvest field (John 9:4; Matt. 9:36-38). The Lord of the Harvest has saved us and sent us to be permanently on mission for Christ.

3. *in the eternal value of our labors in Christ*

As we faithfully excel in the work of the Lord, we must be constantly encouraged with the sure confidence that God values and promises to reward our labors in Christ (1 Cor. 15:58). Indeed, our labor in the Lord will never be in vain. Even the most mundane or the simplest act of service in the name and glory of Christ will never get unnoticed or unrewarded by our faithful God (Matt. 10:42). Our Lord Jesus Himself said, "*Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with Me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done!*" (Rev. 22:12)
