

OUR COOPERATION WITH GOD'S OPERATION URGENTLY NEEDED TO END THIS AGE

Message Three

John 3:16; 1 Pet. 2:5; 1 Thes. 1:3; 1 Cor. 15:58; 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Thes. 2:19-20; Rev. 3:8

III. To cooperate with God's operation, we must rise up and take further action:

- A. Having thorough repentance, confession, dealing, and thus entering into intimate fellowship with the Lord—individually and with companions—we are qualified and ready to take action; and our action means a lot.
- B. The problem of inertia; we must exercise our spirit to overcome it.
- C. God's operation throughout the ages and throughout the Scriptures is related to man:
 - 1. He wants much fruit to be parts of the organism of the Triune God—John 15.
 - 2. He wants many living stones for His dwelling place—1 Pet. 2:5.
 - 3. He wants many brothers for Christ to be members of His Body—Rom. 8:23; 12:5.
- D. God wants, longs for, men—John 3:16 (“so loved”).
- E. Realizing this, we must:
 - 1. Gain sinners for Christ in order for them to be begotten as members of Christ (Rom. 15:16; 1 Cor. 4:15); this is different from mere soul-winning.
 - 2. Care for the new believers by cherishing and nourishing them—1 Thes. 2:7; John 21:15-17.
 - 3. Perfect them by bringing them into group meetings and teaching and training them in the truth (Heb. 10:25; Eph. 4:12); the greater part of the church life should be practiced in small groups in the homes.
 - 4. Prophecy—together with these new ones—for the building up of the church—1 Cor. 15:1, 3-4.
- F. We have to learn to take action, to work, to labor in faith, not by our feelings (1 Thes. 1:3); the Lord will speak through us; the more we do, the more we will learn.
- G. When we take action, we should not do anything by trusting in ourselves; we should always hold the prayerful attitude that without the Lord, we can do nothing—John 15:5b.
- H. We can do something for the Lord by being in the Lord; realizing this, we should simply take action; the result depends on the blessing of our operating God.
- I. We do not need to talk too much; our action is to sow the seed of Christ through our contact; this seed will grow.
- J. We also need to be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that our labor is not in vain in the Lord—1 Cor. 15:58.
- K. The apostle Paul is a pattern to the saints (1 Tim. 6:16) in cooperating with God's operation to gain men:
 - 1. Living in the light of the judgment seat—2 Cor. 5:10, 1 Cor. 9:16.
 - 2. Thus, being desperate to gain men—v. 11.
 - 3. Constrained by the love of Christ—v. 14.
 - 4. Working together with God—2 Cor. 6:1; 1 Cor. 3:9.
 - 5. With an opened mouth and an enlarged heart—2 Cor. 6:11.
 - 6. Not being ashamed of the gospel of Christ as the power of God unto salvation—Rom. 1:16.
 - 7. Being motivated and realizing that the men he gained for the Lord would be his crown at the Lord's coming—1 Thes. 2:19-20; Phil. 4:1.