

## How the Holy Spirit Prepares Us for Ministry

For we are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

1 Corinthians 3:9

**The Holy Spirit Calls** (has a job for us to do): "...ye are God's Husbandry..."

Husbandry (the non-spiritual definition): the care, cultivation, and breeding of crops and animals.

Think of your life as a field, and God the Holy Spirit as the One in charge of that field, called the Husbandman.

He took charge of that field when you accepted Jesus as Savior, and has been working in that field since that day. With that in mind, read Philippians 1:6. *God's beginning & ending good work*

The husbandman prepares the soil. It needs to be loose for seeds to sprout. If the ground is fallow (packed together) the husbandman will need to break it up. Read Jeremiah 4:3 There may be weeds or rocks in the soil that must be cleared away. Preparations must be made for water to get to the growing plants. The right crop must be selected; some grow better on sloping ground; some grow better on flat ground. Many other factors are involved, such as plant spacing, fencing, length of growing season, etc. *plowed ground*

When the Holy Spirit calls someone into His service He must factor in so many more possibilities because people are much more complicated than soils and crops. But He calls each of us to serve God in our lives. *Holy Spirit called called Barnabus & Saul (Acts 13:1-3)*

**The Holy Spirit Unifies:** "...ye are God's Building."

God's Building is not made of wood or bricks, it is made of people. God's building is made of many different people, some who have been enemies, with different concepts of God and religion, different backgrounds and cultures. All these God brings together after salvation into one particular building which He call the local Church. Read Ephesians 2:19-22. Note the particular aspects of this building: "fellow citizens" (same country), "household of God" (same family, same Father), same foundation (Jesus Christ as the most important "chief cornerstone"), "built upon the...apostles and prophets" (God's Word), all these different pieces "fitly framed together" into one "holy temple...for an habitation of God through the Spirit." *temple*  
*household of God*  
*built on foundation*  
*holy temple*

God reveals Himself to the world through His Word. The church unifies around that Word, obeys the Word, and proclaims the Word. Read Ephesians 4:4-6, and count the number of times the Word "one" is used. Then count the word "all." This is God's unified design for the local church. *one body, one spirit, one hope, one Lord*

**The Holy Spirit Enables:** God's Co-laborers. "...we are laborers together with God..." *God chose humans*

God has chosen to do much of His work through the people of the local church. God does provide the needs for our everyday lives, such as air, food, water, weather, etc. But God has work for each individual Christian, too. Some He will call and prepare to serve Him as ministers to the church. Many will be called to be witnesses to the changing power of His resurrection to regular people. In the past three weeks we've learned of the Holy Spirit's saving, sanctifying, and strengthening ministries. Those have prepared us, like a skilled builder or a smart husbandman, to enable us to do the work God has for us. *1 Pet 1:25*  
*God's Word*  
*gospel preached by Christians (not angels)*

We are to allow the Holy Spirit to prepare us to minister so that we can:

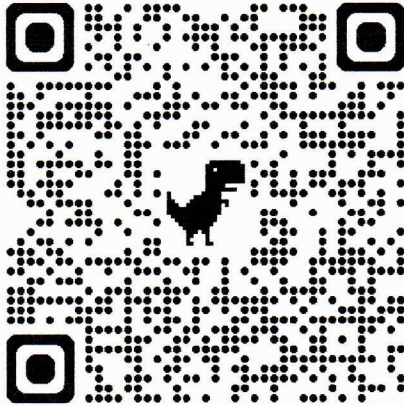
- Live for Him: Sanctified (Psalm 4:3) *God sets aside (apart) the godly - God hears*
- Worship Him: Corporately through the local church and individually in our daily lives. (John 4:23) *true worship*
- Depend on Him: Pray for our needs and those around us. (James 5:16) *pray for one another*
- Thank Him: Understand where the needs of our lives come from. (Matthew 6:11) *Col 4:2 thanksgiving*
- Witness for Him: Express the love He has shown you to others that He loves who don't yet know Him. (John 17:20) *Acts 1:8 You shall be witnesses for Jesus*
- Build for Him: Building up one another in unity (Ephesians 4:12), providing for the needs of the local church (2 Corinthians 8:4), and sending ministers to reach the unsaved in other places. (Acts 1:8) *work of ministry*  
*2 Cor 8:5, 12*  
*15 hearts of Macedonian Christians*
- \_\_\_\_\_ for Him: (Blank, for you to fill in.) We should desire to please Him in all we do. (1 Corinthians 10:31)

Parable of the Soils (sower): Mt 13:18-23,

Mk 4:13-20, Lk 8:11-15

- hard ground, stoney ground, weed choked ground,
- good ground soil
- seed is the word of God
- sower (planter) gives out Word God

Woman husbanding crops (sowing seed):



Man husbanding (caring for) cattle:

