

TEXT: 1 Cor. 15:58

TITLE: SPIRITUAL SERVICE THAT IS NOT IN VAIN

BIG IDEA:

OUR SPIRITUAL SERVICE WILL BE FUTILE APART FROM THE ENABLING GRACE OF GOD

INTRODUCTION:

There is nothing more frustrating and more futile than trying to please God in the flesh. We can pursue godly activities and devote ourselves to spiritual service, but if our efforts are not blessed by the enabling grace of God they will be ineffective.

1 Cor. 15:58 *“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.”*

Malachi 3:14 *“You have said, ‘It is vain to serve God; and what profit is it that we have kept His charge, and that we have walked in mourning before the LORD of hosts?’”*

5 SPHERES OF SPIRITUAL SERVICE

I. WORSHIPER – NEEDS GOD’S HELP OR HE WORSHIPS IN VAIN

Matthew 15:9 *“But in vain do they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.”*

John 4:24 *“God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”*

Application Question: Are you a true worshipper?

II. WORKMAN – NEEDS GOD’S HELP OR HE BUILDS IN VAIN

Ps. 127:1 *“Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it.”*

1 Chron. 22:11 *“Now, my son, the Lord be with you that you may be successful, and build the house of the Lord your God just as He has spoken concerning you.”*

Neh. 2:20 *“The God of heaven will give us success; therefore we His servants will arise and build”*

1 Cor. 3:11 *“For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”*

Application Question: Are you a hard worker in the cause of Christ?

III. WARRIOR – NEEDS GOD’S HELP OR HE FIGHTS IN VAIN

1 Sam. 17:45-47 *“Then David said to the Philistine, ‘You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have taunted. This day the LORD will deliver you up into my hands, and I will strike you down and remove your head from you. And I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the LORD does not deliver by sword or by spear; for the battle is the LORD’s and He will give you into our hands.’”*

Psalm 60:11 *“O give us help against the adversary, For deliverance by man is in vain.”*

Ephes. 6:10-11 *“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.”*

Application Question: Are you a valiant warrior in the cause of Christ?

IV. WITNESS – NEEDS GOD’S HELP OR HE EVANGELIZES IN VAIN

2 Cor. 2:16 *“to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life. And who is adequate for these things?”*

Application Question: Are you a faithful witness in the cause of Christ?

V. WATCHMAN – NEEDS GOD’S HELP OR HE WAITS IN VAIN

Psalm 127:1b *“Unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman keeps awake in vain.”*

Application Question: Are you an effective watchman in the cause of Christ?

CONCLUSION:

Philippians 2:16 *“holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may have cause to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.”*