

***Fanning it into Flame***  
**Sunday, October 24, 2010**  
**Always at Work**

We were always meant to work. Work was not part of the curse, frustration was. The ground was cursed because of sin and made things difficult, but we were always intended to be involved in all facets of life.

Genesis 2:4-5 ***This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created. When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens 5 and no shrub of the field had yet appeared on the earth and no plant of the field had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no man to work the ground, ...***(NIV) The Apostle Paul told the Thessalonians that he had this rule, ***“If a man will not work, he shall not eat.”*** Jesus in John 5:17 ***“My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working.”*** It was always part of God’s plan.

**Proverbs 12:14**

14 *From the fruit of his lips a man is filled with good things as surely as the work of his hands rewards him.* (NIV)

**Proverbs 14:23**

23 *All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.* (NIV)

**Proverbs 22:29**

29 *Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will serve before kings; he will not serve before obscure men.* (NIV)

**Proverbs 24:27**

27 *Finish your outdoor work and get your fields ready; after that, build your house.* (NIV) That which sustains us is more important than what makes us comfortable. It wouldn’t have meant much to have your nice home and yet have nothing to eat. This can relate to the things of the spirit as well. While people have the appearance of being alive, if they do not have a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ the Bible tells us they are dead. We must be active in cultivating our relationship with the Lord and doing his will in order to reap the rewards of a spiritual harvest.

In **John 20:19-31** we are given a glimpse into the first corporate meeting with the Lord Jesus after his resurrection. The doors were locked because of their fear of the Jews and Jesus appears right in their midst. He shows them his hands and side so they would know it was really him and then tells them, ***“As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”*** Then he breathed on them and told them to receive the Holy Spirit, no doubt a foretaste of what they were going to be experiencing in 50 days on the day of Pentecost. Right after that he makes an incredible statement declaring their ability to forgive sins. This is such a profound word that I think we pass over it very quickly because we can’t imagine that the Lord actually meant us. Our lack of a pre-existing file to place this info lends itself to our passing right over this awe inspiring declaration. While, no doubt, he is referring to our forgiving those who have wronged us, it is quite possible that he meant more. As we have been considering the fact that we are the light of the world because the real light of the world lives in us and is in fact now our life, could he be giving us a greater responsibility to touch the world around us as we interact with people? Think about it! As the father sent him so he was sending us.

In 2 Peter 1 we are told that God has given us great and precious promises so that we could participate in his divine nature. God wants to partner with us. Hebrews 12 tells us that Jesus endured the cross for the joy set before him. That joy is the family of God becoming what God always intended it to be. Jesus tells us in John 15 that he wants us to experience the joy he has by bearing fruit. The full enjoyment of the Christian life is only realized when we allow the Lord to flow in and through us doing the things he did. Don’t miss out on what God has prepared for you to do. Ask him to reveal it and then look for the opportunities to release him in your life.