

<p>I. Like Abraham, we should believe in God as the unique source, as the One who “calls the things not being as being” (Rom. 4: 17) :</p>	<p>A. As the creating God, He needs no material to work with; He can create something out of nothing simply by speaking.</p>		
<p>II. All our work and service in the church must be initiated by God and must be according to His desire : <u>Phil. 2:13</u> Him therefore I hope to send immediately, as soon as I see how things go with me. <u>Eph. 1:9</u> Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself.</p>	<p>B. To know God as the Father is to know that He is the source, the unique Initiator, and that everything originates from Him and proceeds out from Him : <u>Rom. 11:36</u> Because out from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.</p>	<p>1. God the Father is the only legitimate Originator in the universe, and His Holy Spirit is the only legitimate Initiator in our hearts. 2. God must be the Originator of all spiritual work, and His will must govern the beginnings of all our service <u>Matt. 7:21</u> Not every one who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter into the kingdom of the heavens, but he who does the will of My Father who is in the heavens.</p>	
	<p>A. Genuine service comes only from God, not from us; only that which is initiated by God is service according to revelation.</p>		
	<p>B. Anything that is initiated or started by man, regardless of how much it is for God, is a religious activity :</p>	<p>1. In God’s eyes this kind of activity is not His service or His work. 2. God considers only what He has initiated and started as a service and work for Him.</p>	
	<p>C. In all our service we should have a regard for God and fear God; we should be fearful that what we are doing for God is not initiated by God but by ourselves.</p>		
	<p>D. We must learn deep within that God wants only our cooperation; He does not need us to do anything for Him :</p>	<p>1. God wants us to cooperate with Him, but He does not want us to initiate anything.</p>	
		<p>2. We must stop all our opinions, decisions, and ideas and let God speak, come in, and command.</p>	
		<p>3. All those who serve God must see a principle: God’s work needs man’s cooperation, but it does not need man’s initiation.</p>	
		<p>4. We need to stop everything of ourselves in order to know God’s will. <u>Rom. 12:2</u> And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.</p>	
		<p>5. The unique prerequisite for receiving God’s revelation is, by dying, to stop our speaking, our opinion, our view, and our self.</p>	
		<p>6. In the matter of serving God, we must stop ourselves in order to give God the absolute opportunity to speak.</p>	
<p>E. Those who serve the Lord need to see that their service must originate from God :</p>	<p>1. If we see this and are enlightened inwardly, we will not dare to initiate anything related to the service of God</p>		
	<p>2. In our service to the Lord we must have a definite experience and come to a clear point of being enlightened by the Lord to see that our service must be of God, not of ourselves.</p>		

<p>III. In 2 Corinthians 3:5 and 6 there are two different sources of service: <u>2 Cor. 3:5</u> Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to account anything as from ourselves; but our sufficiency is from God, <u>6</u> Who has also made us sufficient as ministers of a new covenant, ministers not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.</p>	<p>A. These two sources are ourselves and God :</p>	<p>1. "Ourselves" in verse 5 is joined with "letter" in verse 6, and "God" in verse 5 is one with "Spirit" in verse 6.</p>		
		<p>2. Serving God by the letter is actually serving God by ourselves, and serving God by the Spirit is serving God by God Himself.</p>		
		<p>3. Just as the service by the letter is the service in ourselves and from ourselves, so also the service of the Spirit is the service in God and from God.</p>		
	<p>B. There are only two kinds of services with two kinds of sources: one kind of service is by the letter and from ourselves, and the other kind is by the Spirit and from God :</p>	<p>1. The service that is from ourselves takes ourselves as its source, and it is performed by us according to the ordinances and rituals of the letter; it can be carried out by us outside of God and independently of God, without any need to rely on God, seek God, or have fellowship with God.</p>	<p>2. The service that is from God requires us to rely on God, seek God, fellowship with God, be in God, and absolutely take God as our source :</p>	
			<p>a. This kind of service is from God's revelation, relies on the Holy Spirit of God, and is for God's purpose.</p>	
		<p>b. This kind of service requires us to live in the spirit and by the sense of the spirit, walking according to the leading of the Spirit.</p>		
	<p>C. The service that is from God requires us to have fellowship with God and not be detached from God :</p>	<p>1. Serving God requires a moment-by-moment, fresh contact with God.</p>		
		<p>2. Every service that is from God and pleasing to Him is carried out by contacting and touching Him; we serve Him while contacting Him.</p>		
		<p>3. If we serve outside of God, regardless of whether it is by our zeal or anything else, our service is not from God and therefore has no spiritual value.</p>		
		<p>4. A service that is from God and has spiritual value must be one in which we are joined to God and in fellowship with Him by abiding in Him :</p>	<p>a. On the one hand, He operates within us, and on the other hand, we serve Him outwardly.</p>	
<p>b. This kind of service is an activity issuing out of God's operation within us; outwardly we are serving Him, yet inwardly He is operating.</p>				
		<p>c. Paul was serving God, but his serving was a matter of God operating in him: <u>Col. 1:29</u> For which also I labor, struggling according to His operation which operates in me in power.</p>	<p>(1) Paul served God because he gave and yielded himself to the indwelling God, putting his mind, emotion, and will under God's control to be occupied and filled with God.</p> <p>(2) Because Paul was moved by God inwardly, there was a strength that compelled him to serve God outwardly; it was God in him, mingling with him and motivating him to serve.</p>	
<p>D. The source of our service should be God, it should be the spirit, it should be God's operation in us, and it should be the operation, direction, and leading of the Spirit of God in our spirit; only the service that comes out of these things is the service that is from God. <u>1 Cor. 8:6</u> Yet to us there is one God, the Father, out from whom are all things, and we are unto Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and we are through Him.</p>				

Experience (Business life model)

① I ask [a brother], “What then do you mean when you say you can do nothing apart from Him?” He answered, “The Lord has shown me that I can do anything, but that He has said, ‘Apart from me ye can do nothing.’ So it comes to this, that everything I have done and can still do apart from Him is nothing!” We have to come to that valuation. I do not mean to say we cannot do a lot of things, for we can. We can take meetings and build churches, we can go to the ends of the earth and found missions, and we can seem to bear fruit; but remember that the Lord’s word is: “Every plant which my heavenly Father planted not, shall be rooted up” (Matt. 15:13). God is the only legitimate Originator in the universe, and His Holy Spirit is the only legitimate initiator in our hearts.

Christ is the vine, you are the branch. As a branch you can never bear fruit apart from the vine. At first glance you seem to be able to do whatever you want to do, but no matter how much you could accomplish apart from the Lord, God cannot be pleased and without His guidance, you cannot be abundant in fruit bearing. **That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. (John 3:6) For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. (Rom. 8:14)** He who lives in the Lord, fills with the Spirit, and listens to the instant Word of the Lord will be guided and blessed by the Lord in his day-to-day operations that his work becomes synergistic and will prosper more as it goes. If you work apart from the Lord, you will be twisted around by the busy work and you can never be able to control your business. As a result, it becomes extremely difficult for each work to have its synergistic effect. Therefore, even in business life, you cannot do anything apart from the Lord. You ought to live in the Lord as a secret to the success of your business life.

② **When the friends of Job were arguing with him, God was very patient. He stepped aside and let everyone speak; He came in to speak only after everyone was finished. The unique prerequisite to receiving God’s revelation is to stop our speaking, our opinion, our view, and our self. While it is easy to say the word stop, it is not so easy to stop. The best way for us to stop is to die; once we die, we stop. God’s counsel is darkened by man’s words. A person’s opinion is expressed in his word, and his word represents his opinion. According to God, man’s words darken His counsel. Consequently, when Job spoke, God hid Himself. Later Job realized that God remained silent when he spoke. When we have an opinion and want to initiate something, God stops and hides Himself. This is what we need to see.**

Your workplace, colleagues, boss and so forth are arranged by the Lord for your benefits. If you love the Lord, these environments will be used by God and will help to transform you. So, do not think you are being constrained to meaningless business life. You may think this colleague is hard to please, the boss is too difficult or not capable enough. Do not try to assist the Lord by insisting on your own senses and opinions. Since natural people judge things on the outside, you think of your friend as enemy, and think the enemy as your friend, you fall into great confusion. What you need is to trust in God,

be thankful to God, crucify your opinions on the cross, listen to the voice of the Lord, and simply following Him.

③ **There is other indirect evidence that shows whether a work is of God. If a certain work is not of God, the brothers and sisters often are not willing to carry it out. However, if a certain work is of God, the brothers and sisters are able to labor together. This is very good, but even if the brothers and sisters have some difficulty in laboring together, this is not necessarily a problem, because the work is not their responsibility. Those who are sent by the Lord are often quite patient. When a person is doing his own work, he will be anxious for success, but if he is doing the Lord’s work, he will not be anxious, because it is the Lord’s business. If we want to determine whether a person’s work is of God or of himself, we only need to see if he is anxious in the work. If a person’s work is according to God’s sending, the sent one will not be anxious, and there will not be many opinions.**

While following through your work, the decision on whether to adopt the method should not be decided by whether the difficulty level is high or not. You need to pay attention to whether the method is coming from God, whether it has God’s blessing, whether righteousness is executed or not. If it is coming from God, even if the difficulty is high, your subordinates and surrounding people will gladly execute it under the blessings of God. Also because the ability is of God, you can simply move forward without worrying about failing or succeeding it. In addition, not only services in the church, but the working ability will also become one with the Lord, you need to execute the ability that is coming from God.

④ **Paul served God not because he was happy and convinced and therefore made up his mind to do something for God. No! He served God because he gave and yielded himself to the indwelling God, putting his mind, emotion, and will under God’s control to be occupied and filled by God. In this way God was able to gain all the ground in him and to operate in him through His Spirit, motivating him to work and serve. Because he was moved by God inwardly, there was a strength that compelled him to serve outwardly. He was not compelled by his own zeal or his mind, emotion, and will. No! It was God in him, mingling with him and motivating him to serve. This service did not come out of himself; instead, it came out of God. Apparently, it was he serving; actually, it was God operating and motivating within him.**

Col. 1:29 For which also I labor, struggling according to His operation which operates in me in power.

The former CEO of GE, which is said to be the greatest manager of the 20th century, said that in order to carry out an excellent job, one must be filled with energy inside and energize the people around. The Lord can energize your spirit with a sevenfold intensified spirit. And after you are filled with the Lord inside, the Lord flows out from you like a river flowing to the others. If you are filled with spirit, filled with energy inside, and can energize the people around, you definitely can become a brilliant business person.

It does not mean that it is okay not to work because "you are nothing apart from the Lord", "you cease to have your opinion and view", and "your ability must be from God rather than from yourself". You must deal with the situation where you don't let the Lord lives in you, reject the Lord's Word, in a state to assert your opinion, and to work for yourself by your own strength. If the inward self is dealt with, the outward ability will change as well.

詩歌、381番

- 1 主，わがいのち，うちに生く；
かみの豊富で われ，満たす。
なが性しつで われきよめ，
復かつの大能， 勝利得さす。
 - 2 いのちの流通， われ照らし，
ひかりのなか， まじわりす；
種々の供給と， 要求もあり，
われをきよめ， 享受させる。
 - 3 なれはその霊 あぶら塗り，
れい，たましいに 浸みわたり，
ながかたちに つくり変え，
身のたけまで 成長させる。
 - 4 いのちの成分， ゆたか，新鮮，
われ，うるおし， 呼び覚ます。
いのちは死を 飲み尽くす，
なげき変わり， うたとなる。
 - 5 われをまったく 主にささぐ，
みこころにて まじわりす；
もはや自分で あらためず，
もがかず，主を さまたげず。
 - 6 おのが努力よく， まったくやめ，
主，はたらかせ， 自己を脱ぐ；
聖徒取り組む みからだは，
主を住ませ， 主を表現す。
1. 主，你是我生命，活在我里面；
带着神的丰盛，来将我充满。

- 你的圣别性情，使我能成圣；
你的复活大能，使我能得胜。
2. 你这生命流通，我就蒙光照，
使我活在光中，与你能相交；
带来各种供应，也有所要求，
使我得蒙洁净，享受你所有。
 3. 你是那灵运行，像膏油涂抹，
将我心思、心、灵，全都浸润过，
使我全人变化，成为你形状，
直到成熟长大，满有你身量。
 4. 你的生命成分，成为我丰富，
时常将我滋润，使我得复苏。
生命吞灭死亡，软弱变刚强；
释放消除捆绑，下沉变高昂。
 5. 因此我将自己，完全献给你，
照着你的心意，活在交通里；
不再立志挣扎，不再改自己，
使你受到打岔，毫不能为力。
 6. 乃是完全停下自己的努力，
让你运行、变化，使我脱自己；
与众圣徒配搭，成为你身体，
让你定居、安家，彰显你自己。

841. The Church – Her Building

1. Thou art all my life, Lord,
In me Thou dost live;
With Thee all God's fullness
Thou to me dost give.
By Thy holy nature
I am sanctified,
By Thy resurrection,
Vict'ry is supplied.
2. Now Thy flowing life, Lord,
Doth enlighten me,
Bringing in the spirit
Fellowship with Thee;

- All my need supplying
Making Thy demand,
Leading me to cleansing
And in Thee to stand.
3. Thy anointing Spirit
Me shall permeate,
All my soul and spirit
Thou wouldst saturate;
Every part transforming
Till conformed to Thee,
Till Thy life shall bring me
To maturity.
 4. Lord, Thy life abundant,
Flowing, rich and free,
Constantly refreshes
And empowers me.
Death by life is swallowed,
Weakness is made strong,
All my bonds are broken,
Gloom is turned to song.
 5. I would give myself, Lord,
Fully unto Thee,
That Thy heart's desire
Be fulfilled in me.
I no more would struggle
To myself reform,
Thus in me to hinder
What Thou wouldst perform.
 6. I would cease completely
From my efforts vain,
Let Thy life transform me,
Full release to gain;
Build me up with others
Till in us Thou see
Thy complete expression
Glorifying Thee.