WE PARTNER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

A man had transformed an overgrown plot of ground into a beautiful garden and was showing a friend what he had accomplished. Pointing to a bed of flowers, he said, “Look at what I did here.” His companion corrected him, “You mean, ‘Look at what God and I did here.'” The gardener replied, “I guess you’re right. But you should have seen this plot's shape when He was taking care of it by Himself.”

According to the Westminster Confession, *Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy him forever.* To use John Wimber's language, we are seeking a ‘life-style of relationship with God', a ‘renewal of spirituality'

WE PARTNER WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT - As people of the kingdom, we partner with the Holy Spirit… What is the Father doing right in front of you, in each moment of the day? We rush around and miss him and then feel we must ‘DO Ministry’ rather than let our lives minister to others.

Ministry is a lifestyle that flows out of our relationship with Jesus rather than something that we ‘do’.

We compartmentalize our lives into the 4 “P’s”

– Personal, Public, Pleasurable & Priestly…

Because we do that, we go out to a program or event to DO MINISTRY, Evangelism, Feeding the poor, praying for the sick etc… As a disclaimer there is nothing wrong with that, however when we partner with the Holy Spirit, we don’t necessarily go and DO ministry, but our whole lives minister to people.

Do you have to wait for an event to pray for a sick person, share Jesus with an unchurched person, or pray for comfort for someone who has lost a loved one? No, we don’t, as we partner with the Holy Spirit it becomes our ‘go-to’ response…

Matthew 10:7-8 (NIV)

7 As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' 8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

Our default setting…

When we walk into school, varsity, work, a shopping centre, instead of rushing around on our own agenda, why not be on HIS?

This is a challenge because we all see ourselves as so busy, our time is important and must be used wisely. I don’t want to be late for the meeting, I need to rush off…

Let me ask you, are you willing to allow God to interrupt your day?

Jesus is our example: And said, I only do what I see my father doing

John 5:19 Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.

He was happy to be interrupted by His Father, there is account after account in the gospels of this.

- On the Sabbath He heals a man's shrivelled hand… (Mark 3:1-6)
- He is preaching and is interrupted by people lowering a man through the roof on a stretcher… (Mark 2:1-5)
- Jesus is sleeping and the disciples wake Him and He calms the storm… (Mark 4:35-41)
- Jairus comes up to Jesus and says please come my daughter is dying, Jesus drops what He is doing and goes with Jairus… On His way, the women who has been subject to bleeding for 12 years touched Him… He stops, ministers to her… they go to Jairus’ house and they say the girl is dead… (Luke 8:43-48)
- He is teaching and the disciples tell him the people are hungry… So He feeds the 5000 with 2 fish and 5 loaves (Matthew 14:13-21)
- He is taking a stroll on the water and the disciples see Him and call out to Him (Matthew 14:22-44)
- He leaves Tyre and is on His way to the Sea of Galilee and is stopped by people who beg Him to heal the dead, mute… (Mark 7:31-35)

- On His way to Bethsaida, people bring Him a deaf man…(Mark 8:22-26)
- People bring their children to Jesus and the disciples rebuke them saying leave the teacher alone… But Jesus accepts them and blesses them (Mark10:13-16)
- Jesus is on His way and the rich young ruler falls at His feet and cries out, "What must I do to be saved?" (Mark 10:17)
- As Jesus is leaving Jericho, blind Bartimaeus begs Him, Jesus, Son of David have mercy on me (Mark 10:46-52)

Account after account, we could carry on, we see Jesus being willing to be interrupted by the Father…

Are you willing to partner with the Holy Spirit and have your day interrupted? Perhaps we could use another word instead of partner which could help our understanding of this process.

What about if we CO-LABOUR alongside Jesus?

1 Corinthians 3:9, Paul said, "For we are labourers together with God…"

TPT - We are coworkers with God and you are God's cultivated garden, the house he is building.

The dictionary defines co-labour as "One who labours with another", the Greek here is σ υ ν ε ρ γ ός (sunergos) which means a co-labourer, a companion in labour, fellow helper (-labourer, -worker), labourer together with, a workfellow.

Remember that a *laborer* who does not labor is a contradiction. A farmer who does not labor does not receive the reward at harvest time. There is nothing to receive.

We are labourers together with God and one another. This means as we labour together in that work which God has given us to do, we co-labour together with God in building lives and saving souls.

We partner with Holy Spirit and we co-labor with Him… Jesus did the same after all He said: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing…"

We only do what we see the Father doing and we partner or co-labor with him…

He doesn't send us into the world, He invites us along with Him…

As we go into the world we are called to be salt and light to the world. Everything we do and say should eventually point to Jesus.

We are called to be salt and light in every moment of our lives, not just in church, small group, ministry trips, and bible studies… Our lives should point to Jesus.

We see that John the Baptist's life pointed to Jesus:

John 5:32-35 There is another who testifies in my favour, and I know that his testimony about me is valid. (33) "You have sent to John and he has testified to the truth. (34) Not that I accept human testimony; but I mention it that you may be saved. (35) John was a lamp that burned and gave light, and you chose for a time to enjoy his light.

John's life testified about Jesus, the lamp, the light of his life, pointed to and glorified Jesus…

Let me say this, "YOUR LIFE is meant to do the same" Your lamp, the light of your life, is meant to point people too and glorify Jesus…

Mat 5:13-16 "Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavours of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage. (14) "Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colours in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. (15) If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. (16) Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand--shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven. MSG

How do we hide our light and become salt-less?

1. By being quiet when we should speak up
2. By going along with the crowd
3. By denying the light (Jesus) by our words and actions
4. By allowing sin to dim our light
5. By not explaining or sharing the light (Jesus)
6. By ignoring the needs of people

- "Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavours of this earth
- You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colours in the world. God is not a secret to be kept.
- Be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God

Do you know where this all starts? RIGHT HERE at church…

James 5:13 Are there any believers in your fellowship suffering great hardship and distress? Encourage them to pray! Are there happy, cheerful ones among you? Encourage them to sing out their praises!

Does anyone here fit this description?

- SUFFERING GREAT HARDSHIP AND DISTRESS – Pray
- ARE THERE HAPPY, CHEERFUL ONES AMONG YOU - Praise and Worship

James 5:14-15 Are there any sick among you? Then ask the elders of the church to come and pray over the sick and anoint them with oil in the name of our Lord. (15) And the prayer of faith will heal the sick and the Lord will raise them up, and if they have committed sins they will be forgiven.

- IS ANYONE SICK? Let's pray for each other
- ANYONE HAVE SINS THAT THEY NEED TO BRING TO JESUS? Jesus is here to forgive you

James 5:16 Confess and acknowledge how you have offended one another and then pray for one another to be instantly healed, for tremendous power is released through the passionate, heartfelt prayer of a godly believer!

- PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

As people of the kingdom, we partner with the Holy Spirit… What is the Father doing right in front of you, right now in this place, it starts right here!

Are you aware of how He is moving in each moment of the day?

How willing are you to allow God to interrupt your day? To truly partner with the Holy Spirit and live a life that says, "I only do what I see my father doing?"