

God At Work

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Road signs used to urge is to reduce our speed in construction zones: “Slow! Men At Work!” Political correctness forbids such gender-specific signs nowadays, but using “slow” to describe the men instead of our driving (several men leaning on their shovels while one actually works) still brings a smile to our face.

Usually, we can perceive when men are working. But what about God? Yes, God works! He worked in the six creation days, though no human was there to observe it (Genesis 1). He works in sustaining His creation (Hebrews 1:3). Our five senses don’t perceive that either.

God works when a sinner obeys the gospel, being “buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the **working of God** who raised Him from the dead” (Colossians 2:13). That’s a spiritual operation not seen by eyes of flesh.

Does God continue to work in lives after we become Christians? “It is **God who works** in you, both to will and to do for His good pleasure” (Philippians 2:13). Once again, His working may not be outwardly obvious.

Sometimes we might think God is slow in His work. Job suffered at great length before God delivered him. Joseph spent many years as a slave and a prisoner before God exalted him as governor of Egypt. But be assured, God knows exactly what He is doing, and His timing is always impeccable. He always acts in our best interest! “The Lord is not slack concerning His promises, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

“Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart. Wait, I say, on the Lord” (Psalm 27:14).

Ten Ways To Love

- 1) **Listen without interrupting.** “*He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is a folly and shame to him*” (Proverbs 18:13).
- 2) **Speak without accusing.** “*So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath*” (James 1:19).
- 3) **Give without sparing.** “*The righteous gives and does not spare*” (Proverbs 21:26b).
- 4) “**Pray without ceasing**” (Colossians 1:9).
- 5) **Answer without arguing.** “*Better is a dry morsel with quietness than a house full of feasting with strife*” (Proverbs 17:1).
- 6) **Share without pretending.** “*Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share*” (1 Timothy 6:18).
- 7) **Enjoy without complaining.** “*Do all things without complaining or disputing*” (Philippians 2:14).
- 8) **Trust without wavering.** “*Love . . . believes all things*” (1 Corinthians 13:7).
- 9) **Forgive without punishing.** “*Bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgive you, so you also must do*” (Colossians 2:13).
- 10) **Promise without forgetting.** “*Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but when the desire comes it is a tree of life*” (Proverbs 13:12).

--via Campbellsville, KY

We All Have Giants To Slay

There’s not a kid who ever went to Bible class who hasn’t heard the story of David and Goliath. The account of the shepherd boy who went head-to-head with the Philistine champion who stood almost 10 feet tall is a Bible classic. The victory given to David by the Lord, despite uneven odds, is the same success we all seek over the various temptations we face throughout our lives.

Christians stand in the valley, challenged by the devil, just as David stood in front of the giant in the Valley of Elah (1 Samuel 17:2). David had the king’s armor available to him, but it didn’t fit, so he chose not to wear it. We are encouraged to put on the whole armor of God on order to defend ourselves against the schemes and fiery darts of the devil (Ephesians 6:10-20). It fits perfectly.

As Jesus came out of the wilderness, He took the devil straight on. Satan tempted Him in all the ways that he tempts us, yet the Lord never gave in to sin (Hebrews 4:15)

At times the enticements of sin seem gigantic, powerful, and ten feet tall. They become our “Goliath”! But just as David loaded a small smooth stone into his sling, we must have the sword of the spirit drawn and read to slay our adversary, the devil, who walks about like a predator seeking whom he can destroy and devour (1 Peter 5:8).

The giants you battle may be different than the ones I face, but the strength and eventual victory comes from the source: our Almighty God! As Philippians 4:13 states so well, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” And with this strength, we will slay all of our giants.

--Jay Launius (Maud, TX) adapted