

Fellow workers with God

Rev AL Nzima (082 356 5698)

Text: 1 Corinthians 3:9

INTRODUCTION

All of us were born sinners and need to be born again, which means that we need to be reconciled to God through the death of His Son, Jesus.

A. WHEN DO WE BECOME FELLOW WORKERS WITH GOD?

We become fellow workers with God the day God calls us out of our sins. Every child of God is called from darkness to light for the purpose of preaching the kingdom of God through Christ. 1 PETER 2:9, COLOSSIANS 1:12

We have a first calling and a second calling. The first calling is to come out of darkness. The second calling is the calling to the ministry, to be set apart for the work of Christ. ROMANS 10:14-15, ACTS 13:1-3

Nevertheless, all believers are God's fellow workers to build His kingdom. We need to be holy in all our actions in order to work together with God. Two cannot walk together unless they have agreed to do so. AMOS 3:3

We cannot preach Christ to other people unless he has first saved us from our old lives. As ministers who are set apart, we need to know our calling very well, just as Jesus understood His calling very well. ISAIAH 61:1-2

Similarly, our message and what we have been sent for, should be clear to us. What we say should be directed by the Holy Spirit and should have the marks of love, compassion, grace and peace.

B. WHAT QUALIFIES US AS FELLOW WORKERS?

First of all, God is holy and since we deal with the Holy One, we need to be like Him. 1 PETER 1:15-16

God needs those who have humble and willing hearts. 1 CHRONICLES 28:9, NUMBERS 12:3

God's fellow workers need to know who God is, just like Moses asked God who He was before he went to Egypt. He wanted to have a clear understanding of who God was before he went. EXODUS 3:14-18

God's fellow workers need to have faith in Him. Abraham could not have done what he did without faith. We cannot please God without faith. It is impossible to understand the things pertaining to God without faith. HEBREWS 11:6

Since God is faithful, we also must be faithful. 1 SAMUEL 2:35 It will not be easy for a faithful God to work with unfaithful men. (1 CORINTHIANS 4:1-2) 2 TIMOTHY 2:15

Remember that whenever God anointed a priest, it was an everlasting covenant that had to be kept and never broken. We need to be faithful in our work, in prayer and in preaching to His people, as our God is when He works in revival. Let us make His purpose to be ours. Jesus was concerned to do his Father's will and preached the message with a sincere heart since the message was burning in His heart.

These are the qualifications that those who work for God need to have.

C. WHAT IS OUR TASK?

Our great challenge these days is the confusion in the church because of the many preachers and teachers of the Word of God who preach whatever suits them because they just jumped into the ministry. They do not care what the Bible says or about false preaching or teaching, because they have their own gain in mind. They have alternate motives for preaching – their focus is what they will gain after having preached. As those who are called to work with God, we must be motivated by God's will, purpose and focus. Then we will be able to work with Him without confusion.

We have been called to preach Christ. COLOSSIANS 1:26-28 He alone is mediator between God and man. He is the one we see in scripture: His birth (LUKE 2:13), His baptism (MATTHEW 3:17), His crucifixion (MATTHEW 27:45), His resurrection and His ascension. This bears testimony to the fact that He is the one who is able to save sinners and bring all who believe in Him into right standing with God. We must preach Christ and Him alone. In our preaching let us preach Him according to the Word and in truth. Let us bear in mind that we do not preach ourselves but Him. 2 TIMOTHY 4:1-2.

As we are called to preach Christ, let us do so with sincerity of heart, knowing that we are fellow workers with Almighty God. PHILIPPIANS 3:18-19.

Pastors, we need to be very careful of what we preach to God's people. In our days we have these three challenges in the ministry: love for money, pride and the lust of the flesh. All these things may interfere with God's purpose of preaching Christ.

As preachers we need to know that the doing of God's work does not depend on our abilities, but we depend on Him who through the working of the Holy Spirit in our

hearts, leads and guides us into all the truth. We should preach the Word. As fellow workers with God, we must do this in love. Without love, we cannot do it.

JOHN 21:15-17

We need to know that God is very concerned about His work JEREMIAH 48:10 and He will demand the blood of His people from our hands EZEKIEL 33:1-6. Therefore, let us preach and teach His people how to live according to His will. Remember, we are not alone, but God in Christ is working in us through the Holy Spirit. He is the one who started the work in us and He is faithful to accomplish it.

PHILIPPIANS 1:6, HEBREWS 12:10 and 1 PETER 4:11

In preaching Christ Jesus, we need to demonstrate Him in our lives. As we are working with a holy God, we must be holy too. We are called to be holy 1 PETER 1:15-16 and people must see Christ in us. No one should exemplify what we are preaching more than the preacher him/herself. Our great challenge in working with God is that we must live what we preach. There is much confusion during our days which require us to stand firm in defending the Gospel of Christ. We should not portray the Gospel as an easy means to success, as we see many preachers do. Let us not be ashamed to have only a few members in our churches because we know that is the fulfilment of prophecy. 2 TIMOTHY 4:1-8, ISAIAH 30:10 Let us preach Christ only since He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. There is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved. ACTS 4:12 The fullness of God dwells in Christ. COLOSSIANS 1:19

Before I close, let me say this to all those who are called to preach, those called to stand before God's people: It is not a circus, make sure of the message you must bring to God's people and preach Christ in love and compassion as we work with God. Let us be aware that we are going to give an account to God of how we have preached, taught and taken care of His sheep, if we have preached for our own gain. ZEPHANIAH 3:4, PHILIPPIANS 3:18-19 God gave five-fold ministries for one purpose: to those who are called: to equip His people to know how to serve God – not for the preacher's benefit or gain. EPHESIANS 4:11-13 We may not preach for our own gain. PHILIPPIANS 3:18-19

CONCLUSION

We are fellow workers through His grace. Let us give thanks that He has made us to partakers in building His kingdom. Therefore, let us be faithful to Him and preach Christ as we are waiting for His coming again. Do not forget that your work with God will not be in vain. 1 CORINTHIANS 15:58