

STRENGTHEN MY HANDS: RELEASE THE DREAM AND BEGIN THE WORK

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All quotes are from class speaker unless otherwise noted.

Being burdened for the Lord's purpose and the Lord's people will take you further than ambition will.

Nehemiah 6:9 - strengthen my hands for the work

Pursue Christian hope and Godly ambition. Driven in the right places.

Pursue God, not the dream.

Pursue the work, not a certain result.

Recognize His plans are always better than your dreams.

Archived class: How to Not Grow Weary in Doing Good with Michelle Myers (and companion resource)

John 4:28

God gives the growth in His time. You might not always get to see the fruit from your faithfulness.

"One sows, another reaps."

We need a long-term view of Christian service.

The work that you sow, it may be reaped after you're gone.

Galatians 6:7-9

In Kingdom work: "you sow, another reaps"

In salvation: "what you sow, you reap"

Look for Harvest + Get to Work

Because the dream is results/fruit/reaping driven, you can lack motivation, be frustrated by results or be paralyzed by what it has to look like before the work is "ready."

Because the work is God-driven, the grace of God will motivate you, and there is always work to be done.

Matthew 9:35-38

Work where there is already a harvest.

Your local church needs you. Your neighbors need you.

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We've got to get back to a place where we can normalize ministry. - James Myers

Ministry cannot become abnormal.

Where are there needs? What are you doing to meet the needs?

Psalm 37:4

When He is all you want, it's a lot easier to trust God.

The Dream:

What do you dream of doing for the Lord?

Look at your description: do you describe it more in terms of "reaping" or "sowing?"

Go back to your description + rid all "reaping" from the language you use. (Erase the results from the equation.)

- Who does it serve?
- What is the work?
- Why does it matter?
- What does this mission look like in a 1:1 setting?
- What harvest is plentiful around you?
- Where are workers needed?
- When will you join the work?

If it cannot be condensed to a purpose + a person that's not you, that dream is selfish ambition.

Serving + sowing does not have to look "niche" for God to use the "unrelated" work you do to bring that dream to fruition later.

1 Corinthians 15:10

1 Corinthians 15:58

Discussion Questions:

- What dream do you need to release?
- How can you pursue more of God and His grace?
- Where's the harvest around you that needs workers?
- When will you start?