

**THE LORD'S WORKERS MAKE PLANS  
THE LORD'S FAITHFUL WORKER – PART 1 OF 5  
1 CORINTHIANS 16:5**

**THE WORK OF THE LORD**

1. The work of the Lord is centered around **two** things: **evangelizing** and discipling.
2. Jesus' **ministry** on earth reflected these **two** emphases (Luke 19:10; Acts 1:3).
3. Jesus taught the **unbeliever** and the **believer** throughout His ministry.
4. The **two** tasks are clearly depicted in the **core** of the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20).

**KEY THOUGHT:** Paul spoke of the **value** of the **work** that is done by the Lord's worker as he closed the previous discussion (1 Cor. 15:58).

**I. THE LORD'S FAITHFUL WORKERS PLAN AND STRATEGIZE  
(1 CORINTHIANS 16:5).**

- A. The Lord's workers must have a **vision** for the **future**.
  1. Timothy carried Paul's letter to the Corinthians with his **plan** to visit Corinth on his way to and from Macedonia (1 Cor. 16:10; 4:19; 2 Cor. 1:15-16).
  2. Paul indicates that his **plans** have now **changed** and that he will visit Corinth after he travels to Macedonia (1 Cor. 16:5).
- B. The Lord's faithful workers plan with **foresight** and **urgency** around the opportunities presented.
  1. When Paul wrote the believers in Rome, he stressed his **plan** to visit **Spain** (Rom. 15:24, 28).
  2. When Nehemiah received permission from King Artaxerxes to return to Jerusalem, he made several additional **requests** to fulfill his **plan** (Neh. 1:1–2:8).

**KEY THOUGHT:** Though the plans of the Lord's worker may **change**, it is important that a **plan** is in place (1 Cor. 16:5).

**II. THE PLANS OF THE LORD'S WORKERS REQUIRE FLEXIBILITY (1 COR. 16:6).**

A. Though Paul's purpose and plan were good, he would not be presumptuous and inflexible if the **Lord** chose to **change** his plans (1 Cor. 16:6).

1. **Inflexibility** can be a great barrier both to knowing and doing God's work.
2. Flexibility is not a sign of **weakness** but of submission and **humility** (Prov. 16:9).

B. God **adjusted** Paul's plans as **needed** (Acts 15 & 16).

1. The plan for Paul's second missionary journey was to visit **all** the churches they had **planted** to see how they were doing (Acts 15:36).
2. The team executed the plan **until** God **altered** it (Acts 16:6-7).
3. God took the team in a completely **new direction**, to a new field (Acts 16:9-10).

**KEY THOUGHT:** We must be willing to be **clay** in the hands of the Master **Potter** (Rom. 9:21).

**FOR FURTHER STUDY AND PERSONAL GROWTH**

**June 19, 2011**

**SUNDAY: *The work of the Lord is challenging and at times difficult (1 Cor. 15:58)!***

This “toil” demands more than a casual consideration on the part of the Lord’s workers. The tasks will demand sacrifice and will often weary the laborer. There can easily be a lot of activity without much work for the Lord being accomplished. When the work we do is of little importance, it is too often done in the flesh, or halfheartedly. This is what is meant by Paul’s statement that work done in the flesh in the Lord’s name is “in vain.” Our plans for the Lord’s work must give serious consideration to the building He wants us to build. We must pay attention to the building codes and work under the supervision of the Master Builder. The work must be done in a diligent manner so that we need not be ashamed of the result when carried before the Lord (2 Tim. 2:15). Pray for the leadership of the church to identify the plan for ministry. Pray for your obedience to find your place in the plan to build the edifice the Lord desires. ***May the plan of ministry ignite a fire within your life to shoulder your portion of the load!***

**MONDAY: *Christians should have a plan to further the Lord’s work (1 Cor. 16:5)!***

The Lord’s faithful workers plan and strategize how to fulfill the work assigned them by the Lord (1 Cor. 16:5). Paul’s work was global. He was assigned to cast the seed of the gospel in the major cities of many regions for the purpose of establishing communities of believers. Paul established a plan to visit Corinth on his way to and from Macedonia (1 Cor. 16:10; 4:19; 2 Cor. 1:15-16). Paul was led to change the plan he had to visit Corinth after he first went to Macedonia (1 Cor. 16:15). We have found ways to actively participate in that plan. Las Brisas is a neighborhood church. We are located on a residential street in the heart of a neighborhood community. It is our responsibility to have a vision for the future of this work of the Lord. What is our plan today and what adjustments do we need to make to fulfill our plan? Are you willing to step out in faith and be a worker in the plan of God? Pray today for the strength, courage, and energy to be a worker in God’s plan for Las Brisas. ***May the influence of the Holy Spirit make you bold and courageous to step out and help in fulfilling God’s plan!***

**TUESDAY: *The faithful workers plan to meet the opportunities presented to them!***

When Paul wrote to the believers in Rome, he stressed his plan to visit Spain (Rom. 15:24, 28). Spain was an influential, flourishing province in the Roman Empire. The region had produced three emperors and a famous philosopher-statesman. Despite its culture and economic prowess, the gospel has not been preached in the region. Nehemiah made extensive plans for the rebuilding of Jerusalem. After receiving permission to lead the expedition to rebuild the gates and walls of Jerusalem, Nehemiah made additional requests of King Artaxerxes to obtain the lumber and other building materials that he would need to complete the task (Neh. 1:1-2:8). Las Brisas and its members should look around their community for spiritual and physical needs that we are capable to meet. Commit to pray diligently for the process of identifying those needs and strategizing to take steps to meet them. ***May our eyes be guided by the Lord to see specific ways in which we can be a blessing to our neighborhood!***

**WEDNESDAY:** ***It is important to have a plan in place to work in our neighborhood.*** Though the plans of the Lord's workers may change, it is important to formulate a plan and get to work (1 Cor. 16:5). The old saying, "It is easier to steer a moving car than a parked one" has some application. When we are diligently working and listening to the Lord, we can be more prone to hear His plan adjustments than when we are doing "busy work" in His name. The key component is seeking the Lord's continued guidance throughout the work being done. It is easy to become complacent to continue working as you always have without listening for a change in direction. Agree with God that prayer and following His direction is the most important facet of working for Him. ***May the challenge to pray and listen for the Lord's direction become a core value of the work we do for Him!***

**THURSDAY:** ***The plans for the Lord's workers require flexibility (1 Cor. 16:6)!*** Though Paul's purpose and plan were good, he would not be presumptuous and inflexible if the Lord chose to change his plans (1 Cor. 16:6). Sometimes it is easier to keep doing what we are doing than to listen to the Lord and make changes. Inflexibility can be a great barrier both to knowing and doing God's work. It takes courage to be flexible. Flexibility is not a sign of weakness but of submission and humility (Prov. 16:9). Most of the time, the Lord tends to tweak and redirect ministries in which we are currently involved. At other times, the Lord may completely alter the direction in which we are working. Therein lays the challenge to pray diligently to hear specifically how the Lord is directing us as a church family. At Las Brisas, the pastor is the primary visionary and the elders provide balance through the listening process. The congregation then provides the final decision about embracing the direction of ministry by joining or not joining in the work. Pray about being discerning of the vision the church leadership will place before you throughout the summer. Ask God where you are to serve. ***May this ongoing process of vision refinement challenge you to pray and listen to the Lord!***

**FRIDAY:** ***God will adjust the plans of the church as needed (Acts 15 & 16)!*** An example of this adjustment process can be seen surrounding Paul's missionary journey. The plan for the second journey was to visit all the churches they had planted in the first trip and check on the people (Acts 15:36). The team executed the plan until God altered it (Acts 16:6-7). God took the team in a completely new direction to a new field of work (Acts 16:9-10). The plan stayed the same for a long time. It was nearing the later portion of the trip that God called an audible. The team could have said no. They could have reasoned that it was going so well that they should finish the plan. Joyfully, the team followed God's direction and made the detour He had ordained. Are you open to listening to God and His change of direction in your life and ministry? Ask the Lord for greater faith to trust Him when He asks you to change direction. Pray for the leadership of your church as they seek the direction of the Lord. ***May your faith increase when you are able to see the hand of Lord at work around you!***

**SATURDAY:** ***We must be willing to be clay in the hands of the Master Potter (Rom. 9:21)!*** That is probably one of the hardest things for people who have been Christians for awhile. Allowing God to reshape them into something else for Him in ministry or to start working in ministry are both hard. Can you see God as the Master Potter, spinning the pottery wheel and shaping your life? Would you be willing to fill the role for which He is currently molding you? Pray for the humility to accept that role. Praise Him for the joy that will accompany your obedience. ***May your acceptance of the Lord's molding in your life provide you a taste of the joy of walking in His will!***