

**FIVE PRINCIPLES FOR A GODLY WORKER**  
**THE LORD'S FAITHFUL WORKER – PART 5 OF 5**  
**1 CORINTHIANS 16:13-14**

**THE MOTIVATION FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE IS THE LOVE OF GOD.**

1. Paul's **love** for the Corinthian church was characterized in his **writings** to them.
2. Paul addressed the **mindset** of a faithful worker in the kingdom of God at the end of this letter (1 Cor. 16:5-12).
3. The focus of verses 13 and 14 is how the **inner** man's maturity translates to specific **actions** (1 Cor. 16:13-14).

**KEY THOUGHT:** Paul states **five** final **commands** to the Corinthians to provide structure to their service to God (1 Cor. 16:13-14).

**I. BE ALERT (1 COR. 16:13).**

*gregoreo* = "to watch," "be **awake**", "be vigilant"

- A. Christians are to be spiritually alert, as opposed to being spiritually **indifferent** and **listless**.
- B. Be alert to **compromise** and the strategies of Satan (1 Peter 5:8-9; 1 John 2:6).

**KEY THOUGHT:** Live faithfully and with expectancy, looking forward to **Christ's return** (Matt. 24:42; 2 Pet. 3:10-12).

**II. BE FIRM (1 COR. 16:13).**

- A. Be **precise** and **firm** in your doctrine (1 Cor. 15:1; Phil. 1:27).
- B. The Word of God and His **standards** must be well taught if Christians are to **stand firm** in their faith (2 Thess. 2:15).

**KEY THOUGHT:** The Scriptures teach that **Christ** is the **source** of the believer's sufficiency and perseverance (2 Peter 1:2-3).

**III. BE MATURE (1 COR. 16:13).**

- A. The mature Christian acts with **courage** to thwart challenges to God's character and **standards** (1 Cor. 14:20).
- B. **Gentleness** in both demeanor and spiritual **maturity**, leading to the practice of sound doctrine, is God's intention for Christians (2 Pet. 3:18; Eph. 4:13, 15).

**KEY THOUGHT:** Christians grow by **studying** and **applying** God's Word (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

**IV. BE STRONG (1 COR. 16:13).**

- A. The verb *krataloo* literally means "to be **strengthened**".
- B. The Christian cannot strengthen himself, but that is the **Lord's work** (Eph. 6:10).
- C. The role of the Christian is to **submit** ourselves to God in order to be **strengthened** (2 Tim. 2:1).

**KEY THOUGHT:** **Christ** is the **supreme** source of strength for a Christian (Phil. 4:13).

**V. BE LOVING (1 COR. 16:14).**

- A. Love complements and balances everything Christians **say** and **do** (1 John 4:7).
- B. Love helps Christians maintain their **gentleness** as they mature in doctrine and practice (Col. 1:28-29).

**KEY THOUGHT:** The Christian's challenge is to follow the **example** of our Heavenly Father to love **sacrificially** (1 John 4:7-10).

**FOR FURTHER STUDY AND PERSONAL GROWTH**

**July 24, 2011**

**SUNDAY: *The inner man should rule our thoughts and actions (1 Cor. 16:13-14)!***

The motivation for Christian service is the love of God for His children (1 John 4:7, 9). The love of God is pure and sacrificial as demonstrated by the sending of His Son to redeem man. Paul's love for the Corinthian church was characterized in his writings to them. Chapters 1 to 12 and 14 lovingly address the sinful behavior of his dear friends. Chapter 13 outlines how to love biblically, and chapter 15 is a treatise straightening out their understanding of the core doctrine of the resurrection. At the end of the letter, Paul addresses the mindset of a faithful worker (1 Cor. 16:5-12). The focus of verses 13 and 14 is how the inner man's maturity translates to specific actions (1 Cor. 16). Paul states five final commands to the Corinthians to provide structure to their service to God (1 Cor. 16:13-14). In prayer, surrender your life to the Lord so that the inner man should rule your thoughts and actions. Ask for His strength to follow through on this key request. *May surrender of your entire life to Christ produce fruit you could never imagine!*

**MONDAY: *Christians are to be vigilant (1 Cor. 16:13)!***

The first command Paul issued was that every Christian should "be alert." The word Paul used to convey *alert* means "to watch" and "be awake." This same word also means "to be vigilant." Vigilant means "to be keenly watchful to detect danger or trouble." Christians are to be spiritually alert, as opposed to being spiritually indifferent and listless. Scripture is to be the grid through which the Christian views, analyzes, and interacts with the world. How would Jesus address the situation, and how would He react? Be alert to compromise and the strategies of Satan (1 Pet. 5:8-9; 1 John 2:6). These are both insidious and can work their way into our lives through incremental desensualization or through the influence of our culture. Live faithfully and with expectancy, looking forward to Christ's return (Matt. 24:42; 2 Pet. 3:10-12). Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas where you have compromised biblical standards in your life. Commit to "repair the walls" of your mind and become more *alert*. *May the words of Paul ring in your ears and cause your heart to remain "on alert!"*

**TUESDAY: *Christ is the source of the Christian's sufficiency and perseverance (2 Pet. 3:2-3)!***

The second command Paul gave was "to be steadfast." The concept is to be precise and firm in your doctrine (1 Cor. 15:1; Phil. 1:27). In Philippians 1:27, Paul stresses the importance of standing resolute like a sentry guarding his post. However, he immediately switches to the metaphor of one of a team struggling against a common foe. This concept returns us to the theme that "the Christian worker is a team player" (1 Cor. 16:10-12). The Word of God and His standards must be well taught if Christians are to stand firm in their faith (2 Thess. 2:15). How do we stand firm in our faith? The scriptures teach that Christ is the source of the Christian's sufficiency and perseverance (2 Pet. 1:2-3). Praise God for your redemption through faith in Jesus Christ. Pray for the wisdom to see all truth coming from the Word of God and not your experience. Ask the Holy Spirit to prompt you to seek Christ above everything and everyone in your life. *May the decision to seek Christ above everything increase your integrity for the sake of the gospel!*

**WEDNESDAY:** ***Christians must be rooted in the Word of God to live for God (2 Tim. 3:16-17)!*** The third command Paul shared was to “be mature” (1 Cor. 16:13). The mature Christian acts with courage to thwart challenges to God’s character and standards (1 Cor. 14:20). Christians are to be novices in evil and experienced in the wisdom of God. It is important to set aside emotion and personal experience to implement the truth of scripture. Gentleness in both demeanor and spiritual maturity that leads to the practice of sound doctrine is God’s intention for Christians (2 Pet. 3:18; Eph. 4:13, 15). Christians grow by studying and applying God’s Word (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Pray for the conviction of the Holy Spirit whenever gentleness is lacking in your application of God’s Word. ***May the Lord bless your pursuit of godliness!***

**THURSDAY:** ***Christ is the supreme source of strength for a Christian (Phil. 4:13).*** Paul’s fourth command was to “be strong” (1 Cor. 16:13). The Greek verb Paul used literally means “to be strengthened”. The reflective nature of the verb suggests that the Christian cannot strengthen himself, but that is the Lord’s work (Eph. 6:10). The role of the Christian is to submit ourselves to God in order to be strengthened (2 Tim. 2:1). Christ is the supreme source of strength for the Christian (Phil. 4:13). Are you looking to Jesus for your strength or to something else? Whose approval is most important to you? Stop and ask the Lord to begin His work of strengthening your character for the sake of godliness. Commit to submitting your heart to the Lord for the sake of life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3). ***May the Lord work to strengthen your heart to conform your life to His Word!***

**FRIDAY:** ***Love is to complement all that Christians say and do (1 John 4:7)!*** The final command of this passage is to “be loving” (1 Cor. 16:14). Love complements and balances everything Christians say and do (1 John 4:7). The character of the Christian is to reflect the character of his Lord God. Love helps Christians maintain their gentleness as they mature in doctrine and practice (Col. 1:28-29). Reading the Word of God and changing our behavior to reflect it is the process of maturation. The Christian’s challenge is to follow the example of our Heavenly Father to love sacrificially (1 John 4:7-10). The Christian life is demanding on a human level. Christians can only live godly and holy lives if they are willing to submit to the leadership of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will seek to teach them to love as God loves. Ask the Lord to strengthen your spiritual character to desire to love as He loves. Ask for the wisdom to recognize when you are living in the flesh and when you are growing in the Spirit. ***May the Holy Spirit become your constant companion in this adventure in spiritual maturity!***

**SATURDAY:** ***The inner man should rule our thoughts and actions (1 Cor. 16:13-14)!*** The inner man of the Christian will not side with sin in his life (Rom. 7:21-23). There is a war being waged within the Christian against his desire to obey the law of God. The inner man must take control of this battle and win the war of his thoughts and actions. Sound doctrine must be his guide. Experience and personal objectives must be set aside to allow the will of God to be ever present in his life. Sin and its entanglements must be seen as rebellion against a holy God. This transformation by the Holy Spirit wrought at conversion is strengthened and fortified by obeying these five commands (1 cor. 16:13-14). Which of these five commands do you struggle with the most? Why? Are you committed to learning to love as God loves? Ask the Lord to show you why you have struggled in being successful in obeying any of these five commands. Pray for strength and wisdom. ***May the transformation that began at conversion become more apparent to those around you!***