



# Abounding or Stagnating?

## The Marks of Always Abounding in the Work of the Lord!

Lesson 1 • 1 Corinthians 16

*“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.” 1 Corinthians 15:58*

### Are You ABOUNDING or STAGNATING in the WORK of the LORD?

*How would you know? What are the marks of abounding? What are the marks of stagnating?*

Four Marks of Those Who Are Always Abounding in the Work of the Lord

## 1. The Mark of Staying \_\_\_\_\_ in the Work of the Lord.

*“...the work of the Lord...your toil...in the Lord.” 1 Corinthians 15:58*

- Staying on mission in the work of the Lord is \_\_\_\_\_ for pastors and missionaries!
  - 1) \_\_\_\_\_ vocations can work for the Lord. (16:15-18)
  - 2) \_\_\_\_\_ work for the Lord is vocational. (16:10-11; 3: Ephesians 4:11-12)
- No matter where we get our paycheck we are all to be on mission by laboring in the work of the Lord!
  - 1) On mission with the Lord = \_\_\_\_\_ yourself to serving God’s people by furthering the Gospel to fulfill the Great Commission.
  - 2) Work of the Lord = Being on mission is \_\_\_\_\_ work!
  - 3) Laboring for the Lord = Staying on mission is \_\_\_\_\_ hard work!

## 2. The Mark of Staying \_\_\_\_\_ in the Work of the Lord.

*“Therefore, my beloved brethren...knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.” 1 Corinthians 15:58*

**What is the motivation for always abounding and never stagnating in the work of the Lord? 1 Corinthians 13**

- You will never abound in the work of Lord unless you are motivated by the unconditional \_\_\_\_\_ from the Lord! (15:58)

**“beloved” ~**

**“my beloved” ~**

**“my beloved brethren” ~**

- 1) The Corinthians had pitted Paul and Apollos against each other by favoring one over the other (1 Cor 3:3-4).
- 2) But Paul refused to compete or compare himself with Apollos and when they wanted Apollos to come (instead of Paul?) out of love Paul asks his brother in Christ to come (16:12a)!
- 3) But Apollos refused to compete or compare himself with Paul and when they wanted him to come (instead of Paul?) out of love Apollos refused to be manipulated by the Corinthians or cause any division among the brethren (16:12b)!
- 4) Both men always abounded in the work of the Lord because they were motivated by God's kind of love (16:14)!

► Staying motivated by love for the Lord is a matter of life and death – \_\_\_\_\_ *life and death!* (16:21-24)

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord!
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ for the Lord!
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord!
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord!

### 3. The Mark of Keeping the \_\_\_\_\_ for the Work of the Lord.

*"...be steadfast and immovable..." 1 Corinthians 15:58*

- Be steadfast in your \_\_\_\_\_ to serving the Lord and His people!
- Be immovable in your \_\_\_\_\_ to let nothing or no one move you from serving the Lord and His people!

***The Steadfast Devotion and Immovable Determination of Paul*** (vv. 8-9)

***The Steadfast Devotion and Immovable Determination of Stephanas*** (vv. 15-16)

***This Same Steadfast Devotion and Immovable Determination Is Expected of the Corinthians and of us*** (v. 13)

### 4. The Mark of Modeling the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Work of the Lord.

*"...always abounding..." 1 Corinthians 15:58*

- Never \_\_\_\_\_
- Never \_\_\_\_\_
- Never \_\_\_\_\_

## Measure Yourself by the Marks of Always Abounding in the Work of the Lord

*"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord."*

- 1) **Measure Your MISSION in the WORK:** What marks your mission in ministry? What are you trying to accomplish in your work for the Lord. Are your goals focused on fulfilling the Great Commission? Do you pray and plan in such a way that your efforts include evangelism, discipleship, and missions? Could you share with someone how what you do helps others to KNOW Christ, GROW in Christ, SHOW Christ, or GO with Christ?

I am actively working and laboring on mission in ministry.				
1	2	3	4	5
Really Stagnating	Stagnating	Struggling	Abounding	Always Abounding

- 2) **Measure Your MOTIVATION for the WORK:** What marks your motivation for being in ministry? Is love for God and others your ultimate motivation for not only being active in ministry but also staying active in it and seeking to always abound in it?

I am motivated by God's love for others and me in doing the work for the Lord.				
1	2	3	4	5
Really Stagnating	Stagnating	Struggling	Abounding	Always Abounding

- 3) **Measure Your MANDATE about the WORK:** Have you devoted yourself to actively serving the Lord and His local church here at Glenwood? Are you determined to not let anyone or anything move you from being steadfast in your labors on behalf of the Lord?

I am steadfast and immovable in keeping the Lord's mandate for ministry.				
1	2	3	4	5
Really Stagnating	Stagnating	Struggling	Abounding	Always Abounding

- 4) **Measure Your MANNER in the WORK:** Are you always abounding, improving, and growing in working for the Lord?

I am always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord my labors are not in vain.				
1	2	3	4	5
Really Stagnating	Stagnating	Struggling	Abounding	Always Abounding