

You can be saved!

If you have never repented of your sins and feel the desire to do so now, please say this prayer. This is how I was powerfully saved in 1997!

Say, "My Lord and my God, have mercy on me, a sinner. I believe Jesus the Christ died on the cross and shed His precious blood for the forgiveness of all my sins. I believe Jesus raised from the dead and ascended into heaven and is now on the right-hand side of God listening to this prayer. I open up the door of my heart and I invite You in, Lord Jesus. Thank you, God, for saving my soul and I vow to serve you with all my heart which is the first and greatest commandment. Amen."

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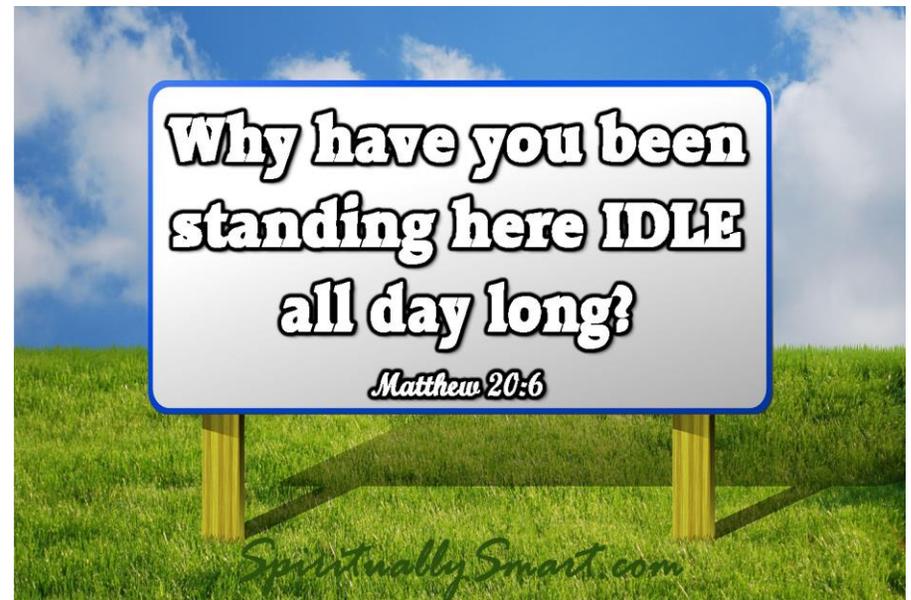
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Converted to Christ in 1997

Written by Thomas Richards – Please copy and redistribute **free of charge!**

GOD'S ENERGY



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Why be idle and inactive, when you can be *energized* by God's Spirit through love, faith and hope in Jesus the Christ (*The Messiah*)!

In the gospel of Matthew (20:6), the word "idle" is the English translation of the Greek word ἀργός and is an adjective. The word describes someone who is inactive, not working. It is the antonym (opposite) of "working" (adj). As in a "*working* (ἐνεργής) laborer" vs a "*non-working* (ἀργός) laborer."

In Matthew chapter 20 verses 1-16 we read about the Lord telling a parable about laborers/workers in the vineyard. He begins the parable by saying, "For the kingdom of heaven is like...", so those who are listening can safely apply this earthly allegory to their spiritual lives. The main point of the teaching is that all who enter the harvest field and work for the Lord will receive the same pay when they are finished. Regardless of *when* they began. But in the course of the parable, many other important truths are revealed. The point I want to highlight is the very fact that if someone is inactive, idle, and not working, this person has not yet received and/or obeyed the call from the Lord. Or worse, they have gone astray, are being disobedient and/or have fallen away back into rebellion against GOD. (The Lord touches upon this fact in *The Parable of the Two Sons* Matthew 21:28-32) When we become inactive (idle) after being made "hot" when we were first converted, we are then considered to be lukewarm.

Christ's shed blood and death upon the cross was the payment made for us to redeem us to God. God in Christ gave all and we give all in return. It is only natural. And yet, **supernatural**.

The apostle Paul prayed:

"I ask the glorious Father and God of our Lord Jesus Christ to give you his Spirit. The Spirit will make you wise and let you understand what it means to know God. My prayer is that light will flood your hearts and you will understand the hope given to you when God chose you. Then you will discover the glorious blessings that will be yours together with all God's people."

Paul also says:

"I want you to know about the great and mighty power that God has for us followers. It is the same wonderful power he used when he raised Christ from death and let him sit at his right side+ in heaven." ~Ephesians 1:17-20 (CEV)

Dear heavenly Father, please let these powerful words of Yours be burned forever into our hearts. With the result of us being energized so we may bring You the glory due to You. We ask only through the work You have done in and through Your Christos Son Jesus, who is our only hope. Amen

Now this powerful experience changes us forever. Because it is when God enables and energizing us so we can then begin the work God has for us (i.e. *to work in His vineyard for payment*). At first, like any beginner of a trait or job, we are unknowledgeable and quite sloppy. "Carnal" and spiritually immature. But as we go to Him every day and yoke up with Him and learn of Him, we will become skilled workers. We GROW. As this is what God has showed us from the beginning. God's energy and life makes everything alive and causes it to be fruitful. That is "good" as God says (Genesis chapter 1).

When God's Spirit enters us, the same will happen. God's Spirit (Christ in us) will lead, guide, push and provoke us to do what we are obligated to do. And what we are obligated to do is "walk as He (Christ) walked" (1 John 2:6). And "He will convict the world in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment:" (John 16:8). Yes, and we can only do that if we are actually participating with God in His work and according to His rules. And If we have entered into and are not breaking covenant, but are seeking to love Him with all our heart. Because not only is that the "first and greatest commandment" (Matthew 22:34-40; Mark 12:28-34; Luke 10:25-28), but that is what we agree upon when we enter covenant with God through the confession that we are sinners in NEED of a Savior, and that

We then become fitting recipients of the Lord's rebuke in Revelation 3:15, 16 ("I am about to vomit you out of My mouth!"). Before we knew Christ, we were all "cold" (dead, spiritually). But when we were made alive ("quicken"), we were energized and began to move around and heat up. The more work we do by being joined to and walking with Jesus, the more we heat up. And when we heat up enough we boil over which is the very root of the definition of the word *zealous*. This is right where we (and the Lord) want us to be! It's where we are *obligated* to be! (1 John 2:6)

The Lord is willing to allow anyone and everyone to go to work for Him. When He hires us, we enter into an **agreement** with Him. Just like in *the Parable of the Vineyard Workers*. The master of the house hired (entered into an agreement), with the workers. Another word/synonym for **agreement** is **covenant**. So, you can probably see how this parable so aptly describes the kingdom of heaven.

God has talked to us in very simplistic terms. But that is not how we will understand these terms. We will understand these terms if and when God *allows* us to understand them.

And it's in the biblical record that Jesus stopped and praised God the Father because God revealed the mysteries of the kingdom to *babes*. But hid them from the supposed *wise and prudent*. (Matthew 11:25, 26)

When the owner of a business wants to hire someone for money, the thought of that payment *energizes* the worker into doing work. We're talking about long hours and very hard work. They think of all the things they are going to buy with that money. With the Lord, it is much more powerful and we receive a payment that can't be compared to a day's wages. When our understanding is enlightened to what God is offering us, many things happen. But the main thing that happens is we become *energized* to do God's work. The gifts of God, His love to us, the faith He gives us and most of all, His holy Spirit; All these things energize us! "The word of God is ALIVE and FULL OF ENERGY." (Hebrews 4:12a) The Greek word is ἐνεργής (adj) and the noun form of that word is where we get the English term ENERGY. Paul says God's holy Spirit is the source of energy which results in all the varieties of spiritual gifts. (1 Corinthians 12:6). Paul again says, "Does God lavish His Spirit on you and (in turn) energize (energetically produce) miracles among you because

you practice the Law, or because you hear and believe?" It's God's multifaceted message that energizes the church, of course. Think about how power plants energize whole cities. Now think about GOD who energizes the power plants. And think about the fact that He WANTS to, DESIRES to energize *us* to do His incredible work that He has for us through faith in His Christos SON!

So why do we stand around IDLE? Have we not been ENERGIZED by God through Faith in His living LOGOS, JESUS, the Anointed Son of God? This energy is available to us FOR FREE!

We surely can't expect to do God's work if HE hasn't energized us first! And because it's HIS energy, HE rightly gets all the glory! When we are hired by God, it will be through His **gift** of faith in His Son, **THE Christos** (Anointed, Messiah), **JESUS**. When we are hired by God to work in His vineyard, we are entering into covenant with God. The covenant is to accept the incredible, ineffable love God has shown to us by coming down to this world and dying for us. When we acknowledge this fact and agree to His terms, it enables God to cleanse us of all prior sins. This makes our heart/body a clean container for Him to enter into us via the immersion of His holy Spirit which is also called being "born again", "anew", "for a second time", "fathered from above" (John 3 Amp), "made a new creature" (2 Corinthians 5:17), receiving "the Spirit of adoption" (Romans 8:15) and **THIS work (God's work) energizes us and makes us authentic witnesses of God's reality**. And in due time, God will make us able ministers of the new covenant.