

GOD'S WORK, GOD'S WAY, FOR GOD'S GLORY: Reflections from a Cohort Participant by Justin Wayland, [Stillwater Youth Center](#)

God's work, God's way, for God's Glory! This was a phrase that was often repeated in a recent board development that SYC's board and leadership participated in. A short and simple phrase that at first, any Christian non-profit would affirm but that upon pondering it more deeply there is a realization of how profound it really is. God's work, God's way, for God's Glory!

First of all, the idea that God would partner with humans to bring about His ultimate plan and eternal rule is unbelievable. I think that in recent times the Church has tended to emphasize God's grace and mercy, which don't get me wrong, I think is wonderful (I need more grace and mercy than most) but we have maybe done so while neglecting to emphasize His absolute holiness! I mean, this is the God, that spoke the cosmos into existence, this is the God who came down on Sinai in smoke and thunder and fire, this is the God who dwelled between the cherubim in the tabernacle and you could drop dead from approaching His presence inappropriately. If we fail to take that into account then it actually cheapens the grace and mercy we are all so grateful for.

Back to my point, this God who is so set apart and needs nothing from us, yet has chosen to partner with us and equip us. That thought gives me chills and humbles me all at the same time. God's work that we have been invited to participate in, is more significant and has more power behind it than nations, armies, leaders, politics, and pandemics. All of these things we think are so important, rise and fall, yet God's work is eternal and he allows us to be a part of that. Talk about exciting!

Now within this partnership it is always important to remember that God is the senior partner. That's why it is God's way. It can be easy to fall into the trap of coming up with all kinds of ideas, good ideas, well-intentioned ideas, and then asking God to bless them. However, if God is senior partner and He is, then wouldn't make more sense for us to seek His will, His ideas, His thoughts first and then ask, how do we fit into it? how can we best carry it out? The benefits of this simple tweak in approach are tremendous! Is this the right direction? Of course, it is. Will we have the resources? Yep, the senior partner will see to that! What if the plans evolve or change? No problem, no feelings hurt here because it wasn't our way to begin with.

When we get the first two parts of the phrase right, then the last naturally follows. If we do God's work, God's way, then the only option is that God gets the glory. Turns out that's good news for all of us since I seem to recall that's what our purpose is.

We are all living in a rapidly changing, sometimes confusing, and even concerning time but by bringing it back to the basics of God's work, God's way, for God's glory we are sure to continue to make an eternal impact wherever we find ourselves.