

# John 5:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.

## Analysis

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Jesus defends His Sabbath work: 'My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.' God doesn't cease all activity on Sabbath—He sustains creation, gives life, exercises providence. If the Father works, the Son works. This claim to partnership with God in continuous divine activity asserts equality. Jesus' Sabbath healing isn't law-breaking but God-imitating. He shares the Father's prerogative of sovereign beneficence.

## Historical Context

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Jewish theology recognized God's ongoing activity on Sabbath—babies are born, people die, providence continues. Jesus claims the same authority. The Jews immediately recognized this as a claim to deity (verse 18), escalating their opposition from Sabbath-breaking to blasphemy charges.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does Jesus' claim to work as the Father works assert His deity?
2. What does God's continuous work teach about the purpose of Sabbath rest?

## Interlinear Text

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ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς ἀπεκρίνατο αὐτοῖς Ὁ πατήρ μου ἕως  
G3588 But Jesus answered them G3588 Father My hitherto  
G1161 G2424 G611 G846 G3962 G3450 G2193

ἄρτι ἐργάζομαι καὶ ἐγὼ ἐργάζομαι  
G737 work and I work  
G2038 G2504 G2038

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 14:10** (Parallel theme): Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

**John 9:4** (Parallel theme): I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

**Colossians 1:16** (Parallel theme): For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

**1 Corinthians 12:6** (Parallel theme): And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

**Hebrews 1:3** (Parallel theme): Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

**Acts 17:28** (Parallel theme): For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

**Isaiah 40:26** (Parallel theme): Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth.

**Acts 14:17** (Parallel theme): Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

**Matthew 10:29** (Parallel theme): Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.

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