

forms, as in the nouns ἐργάτης ("workman," "laborer") as in Matt 9:37; Luke 10:2; and Acts 19:25, ἐργασία ("practice," "working," "business," "profit") as in Luke 12:58 and Acts 16:19; and in the verb ἐργάζομαι ("work," "be active," "do," "accomplish") as in Matt 7:23, Mark 14:6; Luke 13:14; John 5:21; and Acts 10:35). The compound ἐνεργέω is more dynamic ("be at work," "be effective," "produce", Matt 14:2; Mark 6:14). One further compound συνεργέω ("work together," "cooperate," "help") occurs in the disputed passage in Mark 16:20.

A word that complements ἔργον is the verb ποιέω which occurs many more times in the Gospels and Acts. It occurs in such passages as Matt 7:17 (a good tree brings forth good fruit); Mark 2:24 (why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?); Luke 8:21 (those who do the Word of God); John 3:21 (the one who does, practises the truth); Acts 14:15 (the living God made heaven and earth), etc.

Another root stressing "activity" or "function" is πράσσο- or πραττ-. The noun πράξις ("acting," "activity," "function") is used in Matt 16:27 of deeds (acts) good or bad for which the Son of Man will pay back each man (cf. also Luke 23:51 and Acts 19:18).

The verb πράσσω is also used in our literature in the Gospel of Luke and Acts with the implication of good in Luke 23:15, Acts 15:29 and 26:20, 26. In several cases the verbal activities spoken of are evil as in Luke 22:23; Luke 23:41; Acts 3:17; 5:35; 17:7; 19:36; 25:11, 25; 26:9, 31.

Other related words for work are forms of λειτουργία⁶ ("service," particularly religious service to God; Luke 1:23) and λειτουργέω Acts 13:2, of the disciples serving the Lord. The word λατρεία (John 16:2) and λατρεύω (Matt 4:10; Luke 1:74; Acts 7:7, etc.) are also used to indicate religious service to God.⁷

The stem κόπ-, in the words κόπος, ("work," "labor," "toil," "trouble", Matt 26:10; Mark 14:6; Luke 11:7; John 4:38, etc.) and κοπιάω ("become weary," "tired," "work hard," "struggle," etc., Matt 6:28; Luke 5:5; John 4:6; Acts 20:35) carries the concept of hard work, toil, and struggle.⁸

The stem ἀγών⁹ also carries the concept of struggling, fighting. The noun ἀγωνία conveys the idea of a contest (athletics) used metaphorically in Luke 22:44 (a verb omitted in some early manuscripts). The verb form ἀγωνίζομαι ("fight," "struggle," "strive") is used in Luke 13:24 and John 18:36.

The stem δουλό-¹⁰ carrying the meaning of conscious subservience and submission in work is used in several forms in the Gospels and Acts. The noun δοῦλος carries the meaning of "slave" in Matt 10: 24, of "servant" in Mark 13:34; Luke 12:37; John 8:34; Acts 16:17, etc. The feminine form δούλη ("female slave," "servant") is also used in Luke 1:38; 1:48 and Acts 2:18.

The verb δουλεύω ("be a slave," "be subjected," "perform the duties of a slave") is used in Matt 6:24, Luke 15:29, John 8:33, Acts 20:19, etc. A companion verb is δουλόω ("make someone a slave," "enslave," "subject") used in Acts 7:6. Another verb indicating submission is ὑπωπιάζω used (Luke 18:5) in the sense of "wearing the person out."

A milder word for servant is ὑπηρέτης ("the servant," "the helper,"