

SERVING GOD (PART 1)

Luke 4:8 (KJV) "And Jesus answered and said unto him, get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, thou shalt WORSHIP the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou SERVE."

The desire of God for his children is not for them to fill church buildings crying every day to him for things and for help. No! God did not send his son Jesus to come and die to produce victims and weaklings. Believers are not victims but people who are empowered to stand in the presence of God to serve him.

In our opening scripture above, our Lord Jesus Christ is responding to the temptation of the devil. He said to him." It is written, though shalt worship the Lord your God, and him only shalt though serve." This shows us something here, that the relationship between humanity and God is that humanity should serve and worship God. Always examine yourself as to whether you have time to serve God or you only have time to ask from him.

There is nothing wrong in asking God for things. The Bible says "ask and it shall be given to you." However, if we make asking God for help to form the basis of our relationship with God, then we miss the point. God wants us to serve him and he then supplies all our needs. Our supply is a direct response to our serving. What you do for God is directly linked to what he does for you. He always rewards those that serve him.

Maybe this scripture may help explain this to us, **Job 36:11 (KJV)** "If they obey and SERVE him, they shall spend their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasures." Pleasure and prosperity are reserved for those who obey and SERVE the Lord not for those who ask for themselves. God wants to give us pleasure and prosperity in response to our serving. God does not lie. Surely his servants shall be prosperous in the land.

Commit your life to serving God and he will reward you **Colossians 3:24 (KJV)**" Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ"

Did you see that? When you serve Christ, there is a reward. You do not ask for a reward; you get rewarded in response to your serving.

Asking God for things is the lowest way of getting anything from the Lord. It is the cheapest way or kindergarten (pre-school) way of getting from the Lord. In most cases this way is so congested with many people, even unbelievers are also busy asking God for things. This way is very much abused such that very few people benefit through it.

However, the mature way of getting anything from God is through him rewarding you for serving him. God is faithful, he will never ignore or abandon those who serve him. **Hebrews 6:10 (KJV)** "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister."

In closing brethren, the shortcut to God's storehouse of his blessing in your life is serving him. You cannot work for God and not get paid. If God is angry about your boss for not paying you (**James 5:4-5**), then he cannot be doing the same himself. He is a good payer of those who work for him.... DO NOT MISS PART 2 TOMORROW. HALLELUJAH!!

Pastor C&S



12/05/2021

SERVING GOD (PART 2)

Joshua 24:15 (KJV) "And if it seems evil unto you to SERVE the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will SERVE; whether the gods which your fathers SERVED that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will SERVE the LORD."

Serving God is a choice. It is not a calling or gift or a title, it is a choice. You choose to serve God, you choose to live for him, sadly you can also choose not to.

In the above scripture, Joshua is giving people a chance to choose to serve God against the choice of serving the gods of their fathers. Even today, you still have to choose between serving God and serving the gods of your fathers... Do you know that sometimes you have to separate yourself from the gods that your fathers served? It is not rebellion to your parents at all. Most families live in curses because they chose to worship the gods of their fathers as opposed to serving Jehovah, The Almighty God.

Most people, even when they have believed in the Gospel, they still cannot break away from serving the "gods of their fathers. "Some feel that if they do not participate in it, it will be disrespectful to their parents and elders and they end up mixing the two, serving God and serving the gods of their fathers. Some will be smart to say, they will not directly involve themselves by attending the events, but will just send money to sponsor such events. Don't you know that where your money is, your heart is also? Just choose to serve God and serve him alone.

Gideon was a mighty man of valor and God wanted to mightily use him but he was still under the spell of his father's gods. His father Joash was a priest of Baal. One night the Lord approached Gideon with an instruction. **Judges 6:25 (KJV)** "And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, take thy father's young bullock, even the second bullock of seven

years old, and throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and cut down the grove that is by it."

Do you see that Gideon's father Joash was the one who had built an altar unto another god called Baal? When the Lord came to Gideon, he instructed him to first rebel against the serving of Baal in his family and to destroy Baal's altars. Look, he did not destroy his father, he did not hurt/hate him, he only dealt with altars of a foreign god. It is still very possible to respect your fathers and elders without worshipping their gods. It is still possible to honour your parents and elders without bowing down to their gods. It is still possible to respect your culture without worshipping the gods associated with that culture.

Our fathers unknowingly served other gods, that is what they were only exposed to. But as for us, we have come to the light of the Gospel. Let us choose to serve the Lord. The energy and the zeal our fathers put in serving other gods was unmatched, imagine if it was being channeled towards serving God. They would put in resources, do nights of dancing and beating drums, dedicate children and even livestock in worship of that god, but today, you cannot do that, you cannot worship those gods, you have our Lord Jesus Christ to follow now, choose him and be free for the rest of your life.

Joshua said "as for me and my household we will serve the Lord." You should make this quality choice today, choose to serve the Lord!

You might be born again but not really doing anything to participate in serving God, you were just born again to be safe and you are saying "in case it works." My brother, you are not at all different from an unbeliever, you have to serve God publicly without any shame, tell your household that we will serve the Lord. Hallelujah...!!

Do not miss tomorrow's episode...

Pastor C & S



13/05/2021

SERVING GOD (PART 3)

Romans 12:11 (NIV) "Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, **SERVING** the Lord."

You cannot serve God without zeal. You will later find out that you are backsliding. I have written many times about zeal because without it no one can successfully be of any service to God. Pray that you do not lose your zeal of serving, always fan that zeal inside of you. Do not allow your zeal to drop.

THINGS THAT TAKE AWAY THE ZEAL TO SERVE.

1. Familiarity

Never be too familiar with sacred things especially those to do with serving God. You can do something for fifty years but never get too familiar with it. Do not get familiar with prayer, the Word of God, the Holy Spirit, the Man of God, the more you get familiar with these the more your zeal to serve dies. In most cases people miss great opportunities because of familiarity. Some will not even read this whole text because they think they know everything about serving God and about the Daily Bread.

2. Seniority

Whether you are senior by age or by title, so what? Before God you are his child. He does not care much about your age or your title. Most elderly people in church have no zeal to serve, they say it is for the young. They now think because they are old, they are now the same age with God... Whatever your age, God still sees you as his child. God expects you to serve him like a teenager, you have to renew your strength to serve him, be like Caleb, who had the strength of a 40-year-old when he was 85 (**Joshua 14:10-12**).

It is sad that things like Praise and Worship are left only to the young, do the elderly think that they are too old to worship God, or to dance and jump for the Lord? As long as there isn't that zeal in you, whatever you do, you will end up backsliding.

Some have their zeal cut when they got titles. They stop serving God and concentrate on securing their title. Be very careful about a title, it can lead you away from serving God and leave you to concentrate on the politics around the title you carry. Many believers are preoccupied with who is bigger than who in church and forget that the whole essence of us coming together is to serve God.

In fact when the disciples of Jesus were discussing about who would be great amongst them, Jesus heard about it and reminded them in a very powerful way, he said in **Mathew 20:26** "whoever wants to be great, he should be the servant of all." You become great by your serving not by playing politics. Let your serving speak for you. The more you serve the more important you become. The works you do for God will be there for everyone to see. Do not speak for yourself, let your works speak for you.

3. Bitterness

Bitterness can take away your zeal to serve. Most people in churches have stopped serving because they were angered by people during their serving and they vowed that they will never do it again. Some were even angered by their pastors. They thought their pastors did not appreciate them enough for what they did or the pastor did not pick them for an important role.

All the above reasons may douse the fire inside of you to serve but you must remember that serving is a responsibility placed on you by God when you became a Christian. You cannot use it to score cheap political points. You cannot punish the church by not serving, you will simply be **punishing yourself**. If you are angered, continue to serve God in tears, he sees you, when no one says thank you to you, when no one appreciates what you are doing, do not remind them and say "look, I am doing this by myself," continue serving your God, he will reward you publicly for everyone to see. **YOUR BEST REVENGE IS NOT QUITTING BUT IMPROVING.**

HALLELUJAH!!

Pastor C&S

SERVING GOD (PART 4)

When we serve of God, we are not doing it for him but mainly for ourselves. It is of great benefit to us than it is to God. We are not doing him any favors; it should be us to thank him for the opportunity to serve him. Remember, he has billions of angels in heaven whose duty is worship and serve him. So, when we serve him, we do it with the right heart and attitude otherwise our serving will be in vain...

1. When you serve, give yourself fully to the work of God. Your dedication to the work of God is what will be rewarded. Put your heart in what you are doing for God because your labour is not in vain. Paul says in

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NIV) "Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

The scripture is reminding us to give ourselves FULLY TO THE WORK OF GOD. The reason most of us will not see the benefits of serving God is because of our casual approach to it. If you do not give yourself fully to serving God then you will not benefit from it. Be very deep in your serving, be given to the work of God without excuse. Whatever you need to do, make sure you do it without complaining and murmuring.

3. **Galatians 6:9** is very interesting. It says "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." Most people miss the rewards of serving God because they get weary along the way and give up. They give up without getting to the finishing line. It will not matter how well you started, as long as you do not finish well, you will not be crowned a champion. Push yourself in difficult situations, persevere in serving, even with tears in your eyes do not give up serving God for in due season you will be rewarded.

Many have started so well but along the way, they allowed weariness to crop in and they gave up. You will be shocked to hear them speaking saying "we used to sing at huge crusades, or to

preach at crusades, some will even say we were pastors of churches," What then happened? They gave up! Child of God, renew your strength and move forward for the scripture has openly said " AT THE PROPER TIME YOU WILL REAP A HARVEST IF YOU DO NOT GIVE UP." It will be sweet one day.

4. Serve faithfully.

Many people have lost it here. Their serving never satisfied faithfulness. They serve dishonestly, they do not fear God in their serving. Faithfulness is the test given to your serving. If your serving fails the test of faithfulness then it will be thrown away. What happens when you are alone, do you represent the Lord well? Are you a faithful minister when no one is looking at you? If the pastor is not there, do you still serve faithfully or you slack and compromise? Faithfulness is therefore the quality of your service to God. God does not reward you for being successful but for being faithful.

Matthew 25:21 (KJV) "His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

Scripture shows us how the good and faithful servant was rewarded by the master. God rewards faithful servants. The scripture says, "you have been faithful over few things, I will make you ruler over many things." Your faithfulness is measured in a time of few/little things. If you are not faithful with the few things, how will you be faithful with many? If you cannot be faithful with the cell group, how then will you be faithful with the whole assembly? END OF SERIES. HALLELUJAH!!

PASTOR C&S