

A person wearing white robes is shown from the waist down, pouring water from a coconut shell into a dark, shallow bowl on a brown carpet. The person's hands are visible, holding the coconut shell. The background is dark and out of focus.

In Service Of God

DAVIDSON GOODNEWS

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A*nd ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee. There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land: the number of thy days I will fulfil. Exodus 23:25*

Working for the Lord in any capacity is serving him. Doing anything in the interest of God as commanded is a service unto God. When we put ourself to work in God's course and purpose, we are serving God . Serving, God among other things, is serving his interest.

However, it is not enough to claim to serve the Lord, or to merely go about working for him. One has to learn properly how to serve the Lord in such a way that is worth his approval. There are fringe

benefits that God attached to his service just like any rich organization or any government parastatal. And anyone interested has to be employed and working to be qualified for the benefits. This idea that we see in businesses is actually borrowed from God. Man learnt it from his maker to give benefits for service. God set forth in the Scripture text above his benefits for all his employees which consist of all his children excluding those who exempt themselves from serving. But like I said earlier, it is not enough to claim to serve the Lord, or to merely go about working for him, one has to learn how to serve the Lord in such a way as He will accept. There are kingdoms rules by which one must serve if he or she must secure God's blessed approval. And these from Scriptures are here put together in this book.

How to Serve the Lord

1. Serve the Lord with Gladness of Heart

Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Psalms 100:2

We can't serve the Lord complaining. We mustn't serve him with a sense of an unwanted burden placed upon our life. We must understand that he is our maker and we are not the maker of our own selves. We must never allow ourselves to be tempted to grumble or grudge. Working for God is the greatest privilege we can ever have. We are actually unworthy to serve the holy God who is so very holy. And for him to have counted us worthy as imperfect as we are to serve him is a thing that should fill us with appreciation and joy. This is the one sure way to we can reap the blessings in the

service of God -- serving the Lord with gladness of heart. Serving the Lord gladly brings our souls in greater bond of relationship with God. The gladness of our heart shows our deep interest in God which consequently culminates in our enjoyment of being in his service. Not only is murmuring in the work of the Lord unrewarding, it greatly provokes God to anger. God is not man, you don't grudge against him.

Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things; Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee, in hunger, and in thirst, and in nakedness, and in want of all things: and he shall put a yoke of iron upon thy neck, until he have destroyed thee.

Deuteronomy 28:47-48

2. Serve the Lord as commanded

In 1 Samuel 13 and 15 we see how the service of Saul was rejected. Two times was Saul given the opportunity to serve the Lord, and he misbehaved those two times. At the second time when he was told to go and destroy the people of Amalek, he did not destroy them utterly as he was commanded. And when he was rebuked by Samuel, he acknowledged that he had sinned but all he said to Samuel was please honour me in the sight of the elders and go back with me that I may worship God-- to worship a God that will not accept his worship. The Bible says *And Saul worshipped God*. But that the Bible says that does not in any way infer that God accepted the worship. We see God telling Samuel that he regretted anointing Saul king-- that was the God he worshipped. In other words, the God he worshipped did not accept his worship. Why? The God he worshipped was angry

with him. There are those today serving the Lord whose ways displease God. There are those who pray, worship, and serve God whose prayer, worship and service God can tolerate. Saul's rejection was simply because his service was not as commanded. He had very many "good reasons" why he didn't destroy the Amalekite as commanded. On the first occasion he claimed to have forced himself to carry out the sacrifice that Samuel alone should have conducted because of pressure of war. And on the second occasion he didn't destroy the Amalekite utterly, according to him, because of his men. No. When God bids you do a thing, he expects you to do it as commanded, not as convenient; not as it pleases you or seems good in your sight. And always remember that the Lord's work must be done the Lord's way.

3. Serve the Lord with a sense of Sacrifice

Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. Mark 10:28

The Lord's service must be with a sense of sacrifice, acknowledging that you, your strength, your voice, intellect and all your natural endowment were given to you by God and so you sacrifice them all upon his altar for his lofty service. It is this sense of sacrifice that makes your service to God a sweet smelling savour, worthy of acceptance before God, not a sense of you own yourself and you are, as it were, a hireling employed to contribute your quota to God's kingdom. You must give yourself wholly to God before you can do anything for him. We all must be willing to sacrifice for the high course of God. Abraham was willing to sacrifice his son in his walk with God. The Apostles were willing to lay down their life for the gospel. We must not only follow Christ, we must serve our Lord and Saviour at all cost.

4. Serve the Lord in Righteousness

That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.
Luke 1:74-75

No one working for God who does it not in righteousness that will ever have his service accepted. God is not in dire need of anyone's service. Every service unto the Lord is an opportunity for the server to be blessed. It is only he that has a clean hand and a pure heart that shall ascend unto the hill of the Lord(Psalms 24). Men must lift up nothing but holy hands unto the Lord. God accepts the individual first before considering his work for him. A sinner has no capacity to serve in the kingdom of God. The prayer of a sinner is an abomination let alone anything else he want to do unto God in his unrepented state. The same with a worker in the house of God living in secret sin. So long Judas remained a secret thief his service as a

treasurer and as a preacher accrued to him no eternal reward.

For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness...But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. Romans 6:20,22

No one can be servant of sin and rightly be servant of God no matter his good character, efforts, competence and skill. No one can serve two masters. He that committeth sin is of the devil (1Jn3:8). No matter the position he in which he serve, whether a bishop, or a sanctuary cleaner; whatever the service is, whether a member of the prayer team, a street preacher, an interpreter, or anythingelse: any tree that bring not forth fruits of righteousness is cut down.

Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance... And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth

good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

Matthew 3:8,10

5. Serve the Lord with a Right Heart

God searches the heart and tries the reins. The heart must first be right before the work can be accepted, no matter how properly done. A haphazard service is forbidden by God. Anything done unto God out of grudge and compulsion is of no value to God. The heart just has to be right before God.

The motive behind a service has to be right and purified before it can be of any value to God. Services born out of wrong motives do not only displease God, they serve the purpose of the devil.

Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds:Philippians 1:15-16

For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple. Romans 16:18

6. Serve the Lord with Burning Passion

And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. Mark 12:30

Any acceptable service unto God must be born out of genuine love for God, not love for a reward, not love for the approval of men, not even love for the work, but love for the Lord of the work. Any work done unto the Lord but not out of a genuine love for God, no matter how diligently done, is like gold not properly purified. Christ reprimanded the Ephesian church in Revelation 2 for leaving their first love, and therefore called them back to their first works. You see, having left their first love, they

had left their first works-- the works they were now doing fell short of God's glory much unlike their excellent works in the past which glowed with burning love. We must realize that only a loving heart can produce living works.

7. Serve the Lord with Holy Reverence

Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire. Hebrews 12:28-29

The service of God should be done with holy reverence and great regard. Working for God is no child's play nor jokes. The warning that God is a consuming fire is surprisingly to us his covenant children not the world. We shouldn't mistake God's love for joviality and inordinate maternal indulgence which can birth disrespect. Our Father, God, is a consuming fire! That is what he reveals of himself. Apostle Paul warned of the terror of the

Lord (2Cor 5:10-11). These things must sink into our heads before we soon dare to treat God or anything in his name with discontent, contempt, frivolity, irreverence, disregard, disrespect, or what have you. The old and new testaments are very clear on this sternness of God should anyone saved or unsaved dared to treat him low.

8. Serve the Lord in the Spirit

*So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.
Romans 8:8*

Quality service unto God such as suit God's taste is as it is done in the Spirit and in the leading of the Spirit. Any true preacher, for example, who gives in to the flesh would make a mess of his preaching hour. It all must be in the leading of God's Spirit. It must be in the strength of the Spirit. Outside the joy of the Spirit, you will lose strength for service. Carnal enthusiasm can't breathe life into the Lord's work which is essentially a spiritual service.

The Lord's work must be done in the wisdom of the Spirit not in worldly wisdom which is sensual, self-pleasing, men-pleasing and devilish. Worldly wisdom will only make the Lord's work secular, killing it's spiritual power, and making it void of God.

Furthermore, services acceptable unto the Lord must be characterized by clear manifestations of the fruits of the Spirit: fruit of humility, temperance, meekness, long-suffering and suchlike.

9. Serve the Lord in Faith

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Hebrews 11:6

Has God called you to service? Serve him in faith. You may not have the full blue print of what he has called you to do. Look up to him at every point.

Trust him for everything. Go about your call, believing all he has told you. Don't give in to doubts, fears and double-mindedness. The Lord's work can only be done in faith.

10. Serve the Lord with a spirit of Subordination

For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry... 1 Samuel 15:23

You serve God by serving under someone. Hierarchy is of God. God doesn't expect us to break ranks in service. We must submit, and receive directives from those placed above us in authority. We must serve under their directives in the spirit of subordination. In doing this we make our own services pleasing to God. Christ stands subordinate to the Father and neither him nor God will tolerate rebellion and usurpation in us. Rebellion

not only disqualify our service unto God, it incurs God's wrath upon us.

11. Serve the Lord in Faithfulness

Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. 1 Corinthians 4:2

Faithfulness is key in stewardship.

Working the Lord's work is simply doing that which God has entrusted in your hand. Having this sense is very crucial to faithfulness in service. For example, if God has entrusted his business of ushering into my hands, I must do it timely. It must be dignified in my sight.

Every work of the Lord is stewardship and stewardship is trust. Sense of honesty and duty makes your service honourable in the sight of God. Seriousness and punctuality must first characterize the service which God will bless. All those working for God must guard against all

hidden works of dishonesty, compromise, perversion and politicking. We must render nothing but a faithful service to a faithful God.

Take my Life and Let it be
Havergal, Frances Ridley (1874)

1 Take my life and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in endless praise,
let them flow in endless praise.

2 Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.

3 Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King.

Take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.

4 Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use
every power as thou shalt choose,
every power as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store.

Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.