



Fall 2021 Quarter: Spiritual Maturity
September Series: "Moving Forward Together"

Saved To Serve

Key Verses:

Luke 4:18-19 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

Lesson Outline

INTRODUCTION

Today we will discuss the Christian calling of being Saved to Serve. Some think that a person is most like Jesus when he preaches like Jesus preached, teaches like Jesus taught, or performs miracles like Jesus performed miracles. The essence of our Lord Jesus' work here on the earth was that He helped, healed – ultimately served mankind. We really are most like Jesus when we give, sacrifice, and serve. Service is a vital element in living like Christ and advancing the Kingdom.

I. What Is Serving?

As we embark upon this season of "transition", know that getting Christians working is one of the greatest challenges of the local church! Pastors and church staff are overwhelmed with work – especially after a season of pandemic. With thousands of souls in need of salvation in our communities, others in need of basic ministry such as food, clothing, and guidance, many more individuals are in need concerning prison ministry, youth ministry and homeless prevention, etc. – there is just not enough "manpower" for the work at hand.

Sunday services, mid-week activities and other empowerment programs lack workers. First-time guests need someone to reach out to them. New people need people to befriend them and get them acclimated to the church. The Missions program needs dedicated workers. Facilities need maintenance and improvements. And the list goes on, but the fact remains – God needs laborers for the harvest at hand.

Our Lord Jesus said this:

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"...The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest." Matthew 9:38

When we all work together and serve in the Kingdom the following can come to pass:

- Effective Local Church operations
- Programs to help ease world suffering (salvation, hunger, homelessness)
- A successful Missions Center in Kenya
- Effective Prison Ministry
- Community Outreach programs – reaching souls for Christ
- Programs for guiding children in Christian principles
- Build a New Worship Center
- Powerful conferences and events
- Programs for domestic issues / development (marriage, parenting, etc.)
- Christian Education programs

And the list goes on...

Things cannot happen without people serving and giving. It is imperative that God's people "roll up their sleeves" and get to work! This is our time!

Esther 4:14 "...And who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

James 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

II. As Christians We Are Saved to Serve

1 Corinthians 15:58 - Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

The fact is - God does not save us so we can sit, but so we can serve. Just as there is no such thing as a non-functioning member of your human body, so there "really" shouldn't be such a thing as a non-functioning member of the body of Christ. If God has saved you from your sin, He has called you to serve Him in some way in accordance with your gifts and abilities.



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1 Corinthians 12:12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also, *is* Christ.

III. The Blessing of Serving

Our job is to serve – but know that God may have greater things in store! God will also honor us for the hard work. But whatever you do, keep on working because God will reward in the end.

Matthew 25:20-21 And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. 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.

IV. FINAL REFLECTIONS

Whether we serve in the community, teach children, pray, or clean the church building, each one of us is contributing to the kingdom of God. Whatever your gift may be, it is wasted if you are not using it in God's service. We are not saved to SIT; we are saved to SERVE! A Christian's call to serve should be a core principle that is lived out. It is mandated by God throughout the Bible and is primary in Pastoral teaching. Because we live in a challenging, sinful world, there will be times that work, and ministry will require a degree of sacrifice and extreme effort. But know this, the people of God will receive satisfaction and joy as well as reward as they maintain their labor.

Acts 20:35 - I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Ecclesiastes 5:12 - The sleep of a labouring man [is] sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep.