

VOLUNTEER: SERVE GOD JOYFULLY!

AUG 11, 2024

WORSHIP

Great Things, Go and Follow, Wonderful Cross, Take My Life, Worthy of It All

WELCOME

When was the last time you volunteered to help meet someone else's need? What motivated you?

WORD

EXCUSES FOR NOT SERVING:

A. We want to serve out of comfort and convenience, according to our own terms and our own time

If serving is too easy, it becomes a 'praise me' job. There would be no need to be dependent on God, and we would see no necessity to be empowered by the Spirit - it would all be self-reliance, without God in the picture. Read Deuteronomy 8:12-14. Therein is an observation, as well as a reminder, that people have a tendency to think that there is no need to be dependent on God when things are going well. May it never be! Remember: comfort and complacency are two of the greatest threats to Christianity.

B. I am not ready yet - In God's Time

What does it mean for us to 'be ready'? Is it reaching a certain level of skill? Achieving our desired status at work? When we have finished putting the kids through college, have retired, and are confident that we have more than enough free time and resources accumulated to volunteer? If we wait for us to be "very much ready" before we serve, it only means that we rely on ourselves so completely that we don't feel the need to rely on God. We are to give God the very best portion of our life and energy, and if we're reading this today, that simply means 'NOW'. Make our hearts ready to respond to God's call to do God's work.

C. "I am JUST a Volunteer" Mindset

When we say, "I am just a volunteer", is it as a show of humility, or as a show of pride? Sometimes, when we have this mindset, the underlying thought is that we are just volunteering - we are providing a service for free, therefore we should be admired and praised for it. This paves the way to prideful thinking, feeling entitled, and believing that we are the ones doing God a favour. The fact is GOD DOESN'T NEED US, WE NEED HIM. We don't volunteer because we can do things for God, but because of the things He did and continues to do for us! What God wants is not our contribution, but for our character to grow more Christ-like every day. Serving is a privilege from God - it is a great honour to be able to serve Him.

WHY WE SHOULD VOLUNTEER

1. Because of the Grace of God (Ephesians 2:8-10, Romans 3:23)

- He REDEEMED us
- He DIED for us
- He RESTORED us

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1 Samuel 12:24 says, "Only fear the Lord and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you." We are all recipients of God's Grace.

2. Our Gratitude to God

Ephesians 2:10 says, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them." God orchestrates good things for us to accomplish. Service, along with strength, talent, resources, our very lives - all these are gifts from the Most High. And with these gifts, God gives us the burden in our hearts and the power in our hands to do the work He prepared for us. How are we doing in the area of serving? Are we filled with doubt in our capacity to serve, resorting to excuses and delays? God is calling us today! We are blessed to bless others, called to serve, and to have the honour of being used by God in His perfect plans for His people. Answer the call to serve today, and put your trust and dependence completely on Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think! To God be all the glory!

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ROMANS 12:1-2

(READ UP TO V.8)

Therefore, I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

- 1. Self-Check.** How does the grace of God become a solid reason for us to serve?
- 2. Setting It Right.** How do you express your gratitude to God through volunteering and serving?
- 3. Living It Out.** What have you been gifted with that allows you to be a blessing to others?