

**SAVED TO SERVE**  
**Friday night Bible Study**

**Jan 9, 2009**  
**Ps Dora**

God is interested in turning you into an excellent person. Christianity is not stoicism. God does not call us to extremes, indulging or suppressing ourselves. Our service unto Him is our heartfelt response of love. We find the joy and fulfilment in serving Him. Christianity is not about suppressing all your talents and desires to serve God. If you are not joyful in your service unto God, everything you do, you will do with a bad attitude. Our relationship with Jesus is compared to a marriage, a lifelong relationship of love. We need to go back to our first love. Everything we do is out of that love. As parents, we need to be careful with our children that we do not present God wrongly to them. To follow the Lord is not a duty, but a desire. We need to show Jesus Christ to them. Don't be mean and harsh with them. Always portray a loving relationship. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. Explain, motivate, nurture and guide. The more we compel our children to serve God, the more they are turned away. Don't have and don't foster a stoical attitude towards God.

Firstly, we must serve God with a strong, godly character. The more we want to serve Him, the more He will train our character. God will allow difficult situations to train our character. How do you react when you are criticised unjustly? God wants to prune, refine and train us, so that our character can sustain the anointing when it comes upon us. Our character is OUR responsibility. We are the manager of our soul- our thoughts, emotions and will. We must manage our character, for this is our duty. Secondly, we must serve God with our spirit. Your character alone is no match for the devil- he can break you very easily. We need the strength of the spirit. Jesus gave us two commandments- Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength, and love your neighbour as yourself. We must receive love from God to love others. This is the Agape love- this is not something that we can generate. It is not that we first love God, but He first loved us. When you are hurt by your children, take it as a training process for you to mature as a parent. Sometimes it is good to see ourselves from our family's point of view, so you have an idea of what you are like to them. Then God will be able to teach, correct and edify us to influence others in a positive way. One of

the awesome responsibilities of a minister is that he must command people's honour and respect for him. The devil loves to slander God's servants for once they lose their reputation, they lose their ministry; and God's name suffers. As Paul said, "Follow me as I follow the Lord." It is impossible to witness to non-Christians if they cannot respect or honour you due to unruly or immoral conduct. Our lifestyle and character are important when it comes to serving God. Character is related to our feeding on God's Word to strengthen our spirit to lead our will, thoughts and emotions. God has saved us from the power of sin through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, we just need to walk in Him, and not in our own strength!

Thirdly, the anointing upon is essential. Great men and women such as Wigglesworth and Katherine Kuhlman, they operated mightily under the anointing of God. "The anointing upon" comes with the calling. The message that God wants me to preach always burns in my heart. God's anointing will come upon us to fulfil His calling on and assignment for us.

If you want your life to be good, live for Him and serve God. Don't live your own life and expect God to patch it up for you. Christianity is we serving God, not the other way round. Put your life on the altar- die to yourself and live for God. The more you live for God, the more the glory will come upon your life and the more you will know Him.

**Luke 2:49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?**

The Word of God says to conform to the image of Jesus, to follow Him in character and in deeds. What He does is NOT too big for me to imitate. The Word tells us to do what He does. Therefore the centre of our lives is to serve the Father's business. We are never too young to serve God. Don't ever refuse to serve God. You will be more joyful and happy by maturing in the Lord. Maturity is a decision. Maturity is to recognise the meaning of your life and live, not just survive. Live to the best of your vision unto God. A mature person treasures life. Don't take our relationship or assignments for granted. God does not work by accidents. Nothing is a coincidence. Examine your connections with people. Friends are not easy to make; hence preserve and protect the

friendships that we have. Feelings may wax and wane but cherish your marriages. Don't allow our fallen nature and soulish condition to guide our lives. Christians do not believe in "luck" or "accidents". We believe that our lives are ordered by God and He has a destiny for us. If you want God to add to us, we must be a good steward of what we possess now- family, relationships, calling... For godly prosperity to manifest, your relationship with people is the most important. A prosperous person is one who can deal with his relationships with integrity of heart.

Once we are born again, we have a desire to serve our Father in heaven, to do His Kingdom business. His protection is with those who actively serve Him. God will seal the foreheads of all of His servants. A fighter is a winner. If you give up easily, you will never win. If you give up on yourself, you won't win. Everything the devil puts across our path is to keep us defeated. Therefore when confronted with problems, we must be determined to win- don't quit! All our victories are preceded with a quality decision, from which there is no turning back. Our God perseveres, He never gives up on us. So fortify yourself to be strong to serve Him.

In God's Kingdom, there are different kinds of vessels. There are different kinds of Christians. It is up to you what kind of Christian you want to be. You can be a religious pew-warmer if you want to. How much you want to know God is up to you. You are the one to determine the quality of your life.

**Matthew 4:10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him ONLY shalt thou serve.**

A good sermon shall challenge to build up and not to put down. A good sermon will empower you, detoxify you. A good sermon makes our Lord real to us in daily living. If you serve God and let Him lead you then all your family will follow God. If not, everyone will get on the wrong track. We must live by biblical principles. Teenagers and children need a mentor. Sometimes we may be tempted to act just like them- DON'T! Parents must stay parents. Don't attempt to be like one of them, otherwise you can easily lose their respect. Don't lose your leadership over your children. Don't be ruled by your critics. Don't be intimidated

by your critics. Children will watch you to criticise you. Don't be intimidated by them. Stay calm and cool. It is your God-given position. It is by your anointing that you mentor and lead them. It is not by your perfection. That anointing will protect you, in spite of your imperfection. God's grace will cover your insufficiency. Don't live with the timidity and fear that you might fail to be perfect and disappoint people. Leadership is by His Grace, not our perfection!

**Luke 22:27 For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? Is not he that sitteth at meat? But I am among you as he that serveth.**

**Romans 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers.**

We serve God with our spirit in the gospel- that I know the Word of God, following biblical principles with the strength in our spirits. Manage your soul with the Word of God. We must wait upon the Lord. Love does not come automatically. Love between spouses does not come automatically. You must nurture your marriage and commit yourself to it. Understand that there are many forces which attack marriages. The devil is the one to break all marriages. Your marriage is also a testimony. You cannot serve God and despise your spouse. You cannot talk reconciliation if you are constantly in strife. The more you are committed to your marriage, the better it will be. Be gracious to one another; don't be a legalist. Mercy triumphs over judgment. Don't be mean towards others. The bottom line is your own character. It is not my duty to judge if my spouse is good to me; but it is my duty to judge whether I am walking in love or not. Judgment brings strife. But the Word of God instructs us to pray for, edify and see the good in one another. Quick to forgive, quick to repent, quick to say sorry, and quick to forget. Keep a short account of others' faults. Don't recall past wrongs and hurts. Forgive and forget. When you find that you need to justify yourself by finding fault with someone else, something is wrong with you. Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Nothing can separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus. If the love of God is not in you, you will find it hard to love people. It is the love of God in and through you.

Money is not as important as loving people. Your achievement is not as important as loving people. Loving people is God's priority.

The Gospel is the Good News of reconciliation and salvation. Christian leaders should not serve God with condescending attitudes and thoughts towards those who are weaker. If you are a leader you should be able to carry those who are weaker by your love and mercy. Every soul is unto God, even if he/she is your spouse or child. We have a direct, personal relationship with Him- this shall be the fundamental of all relationships. We are not controlling, possessive, judgmental nor manipulative. Respect every person's relationship with God.

**Romans 7:6 But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.**

We should serve as a new creature in Christ with a born-again spirit. Don't be legalistic and serve the law. Motivate our children and give them a vision and a dream. Don't harness their mistakes against them. Love covers over mistakes and sins. Continue to encourage them, and believe in the best of what they can do.

**Romans 7:25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord, so then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.**

There are two elements here- mind and flesh. Don't serve God with your mind nor flesh. Serve Him with your spirit. **My Words are spirit and they are life.** The Word of God will empower the spirit of your mind to be right.

**Galatians 5:13 For brethren ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. If you can't love people whom you can see, don't say that you love God whom you cannot see.** God tells us that we must by love serve one another. We must serve people.

Some of the practical ways we may serve one another:

Cooking food for others, supportive of those who are going through a hard time, overlooking one another's weaknesses, edifying each other, a big hug and a warm hand shake, praise and not curse, a good listener, washing dishes, cleaning church, tithing...

**2 Timothy 1:3 I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day.**

Conscience is one of the ways God speaks to us. If you continue to suppress your conscience, you cannot serve God. It is therefore important that our conscience be sensitive. If you have an unkind attitude and God has been telling you this in your conscience, do not ignore it. You serve God by keeping your conscience sensitive.

Ways the devil uses to suppress the conscience:

Alcohol, drugs, inconsideration, ignorance of the Word of God, compromises, pride, disobedience, self-justification, excuses and temptations , the teachings of the world like competition and survival of the fittest.

So, stick to your Quality Decision to Serve God, not men, not even your children nor yourself.