

The Servant hood

God's noblest vocation for you

FREDRICK G. OMONDI

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Servanthood**

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Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are taken from King James Version of the Holy Bible.

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INTRODUCTION

Many people want to serve God both the believers and the non-believers alike but many don't know what is required from them for them to qualify and serve him.

Many at the same time don't know what it entails to be a servant of the Lord and the implications therein and assume that it is just like any other work unaware that it is unique in itself and carry heavy responsibilities but has a high reward at the end of it all. As you read this book you are going to find the various aspects of Servanthood which will give you an insight as to what it takes to serve the Lord God.

Many people entered Servanthood and found it too tough for them and left, yet others entered it with ill motives and behaved unbecomingly and are also going to get their reward according to the discretion of the Lord. (2Timothy 4:9-10, 2Timothy1:15, Philippians 3:17-19).

This book is a must for a servant of God as it is full of facts about Servanthood which you may not have

known before and as you finish reading you will be most glad that you did so.

In this book and in all my other books, I have endeavoured to restrict myself in King James version of the Holy Bible in quotations and the subsequent texts, as it is the best ever translation in English and in case you are uncomfortable with of don't despair, as all is well and not lost. Whenever you find I have given a scripture quotation, just go to your Bible (whatever version it is) and read and you will be in the same page with me in your reading.

CONTENTS

Introduction	4
Chapter 1	7
Requirement for Servanthood	
Chapter 2	29
God's servants	
Chapter 3	65
Qualities of God's servants	
Chapter 4	126
Being in God's Service	

Chapter 1

Requirement for Servanthood

To be a servant of God means to be His representative here on earth. You are to work for God here as His ambassador (2 Corinthians 5:20). It follows therefore that you must know God well to represent him. You need to have a close personal relationship with him. But no man can have a personal relationship with God expect he or she be with the Spirit of God because God is a Spirit and you can only communicate with him in the spirit (John 4:24). To have the Spirit of God one must be born of the Spirit first, that is, to be born-again which comes only by repenting of sin turning away from it and believing in God's sacrifice by Jesus Christ on the cross and inviting Him in one's life. (John 3:1-6, Romans 3: 23-25)

Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

John 4:24

THERE was a man of the Pharisees, named Nic-o-de'-mus, a ruler of the Jews:

The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Nic-o-de'-mus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born again?

Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

John 3:1-6

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

Romans 3: 23-25

Also get to know that the work of God is purely spiritual and therefore you must be spiritual to be able to tackle it otherwise you cannot. You may be asking why? Because spiritual matters can only be understood and tackled spiritually. (1 Corinthians 2:11-15)

For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit of God, that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

1 Corinthians 2:11-15

You can now see very clearly the point I raised that spiritual matters can only be understood and dealt with spiritually. Apostle Paul was addressing the church at Corinth in this first letter (epistle) to them telling them that after they had heard him preach the word of God and they believed repenting of their sins God saved them and gave them not another spirit of another man as they had, but His own Spirit to help them to understand spiritual matters and that God freely gives this.

He further told them that what he was speaking was not words of men but the words of God (wisdom of God) comparing them spiritually by God's Spirit.

He told them that such is only possible to a born-again Christin and no other, because any other person not yet born again (natural man) cannot comprehend spiritual matters as does not have God's Spirit and to such, will appear just as foolishness as lacks discernment. That is exactly what he said earlier in chapter 1 and verses 17 to 25.

I have seen in some churches sometimes back, a person who has no personal relationship with Christ (Not yet born again) given an opportunity to serve and whatever he or she does is just so dry and can't touch a soul and if you look at the person you see him or her struggling as if he or she is being choked- just playing some circus at the pulpit. I can blame the leadership in such Churches as you can't allow a non- believer to serve in the church, No. The Church of Jesus Christ was not a playing ground and should not be so now until the Lord takes His Holy Church to be with him. There are just so many short falls in many churches and it is most unfortunate. Any church in the world that claims to be part of the Church of Jesus Christ must

be serious now before it is too late and must do everything right. The Lord is coming for a righteous church, a holy church. All filth in the church must be removed now including corruption and all sorts of sin (Mark 11:15-19).

And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the money changers, and the seats of them that sold doves;

And would not suffer that any man should carry any vessel through the temple.

And he taught, saying unto them,

Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? But ye have made it a den of thieves.

And the scribes and chief priests heard it, and sought how they might destroy him: for they feared him, because all the people was astonished at his doctrine.

And when even was come, he went out of the city.

Mark 11: 15-19

What the Lord Jesus did during that time need to be done right now as many churches are no longer houses of prayer but are houses of circuses and markets for selling merchandise! Many funny yet sad things are happening and these days doves are not sold and bought but instead ‘anointing oil’, handkerchiefs, faked miracles of healing and many such activities take place, Even for Water baptism and the Holy Communion one has to pay some fee in some churches in order to be baptised and to partake of the Holy Communion.

Initially God chose the children of Israel and set them apart to be his people called by his name and made them from the tribe of Levi, to be priests unto him and to serve him.

Later after Christ Jesus had offered himself as a sacrifice on the cross for the remission of the sins of mankind, God began to make all those that came to Christ for their salvation in faith and repentance, to be His servants. Generally, all those who are born again become God’s servants. But if we narrow down to specifics, those called in the five-

fold Ministry of the Holy Spirit are more regarded as the servants of God probably because of the offices and the authority they hold and carry.

Unto you therefore which believed he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

1 Peter 2:7-10

**I THEREFORE, the prisoner of the Lord,
beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation
wherewith ye are called.**

**With all lowliness and meekness, with long-
suffering, forbearing one another in love;
Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in
the bond of peace.**

There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are
called in one hope of your calling;

One God, one faith, one baptism, One God and
Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and
in you all.

But unto every one of us is given grace according
to the measure of the gift of Christ.

Wherefore he saith, when he ascended up on high,
he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

(Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also
descended first into the lower parts of the earth?

He that descended is the same also that ascended up
far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

**And he gave some, apostles; and some prophets;
and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and
teachers;**

For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Ephesians 4:1-16

It seems those called above have a more specific task of perfecting the saints (all those born again). But all the same, each Christian individually has been given a gift or gifts of the Spirit to enable one

to serve the Lord with and that of course includes even those called to the five-fold ministry. Now let us look at the scripture concerned.

NOW concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led.

Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom, to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

But all these worketh that one and selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

God is good as every Christian has a gift or gifts to work with and there should be no envy or cause for concern. Now let me come to another thing. Some Christians are more concerned and preoccupied in positions than in serving. But get to know that at the end one's position will not count but one's good or excellent service to the Lord will. On the same note, it is not one's position that will enable one to enter heaven but one's Christian walk, that is, how well one walked with the Lord. Let us look at some scriptures and see what the Lord had to say.

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 7:21

There is need to do God's will in service to the Lord.

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Hebrews 12:14

Holy living is required by God's servants.

AT the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them,

And said, Verily I say unto, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

And whosoever shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.

Matthew 18:1-5

Many are preoccupied with positions in service which should not be the case.

THEN spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples.

Saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:

All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.

For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.

But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments,

And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues,

And greetings in the markets and, to be called men,
Rabbi, Rabbi.

But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master,
even Christ; and all ye are brethren

And call no man your father upon the earth: for one
is your Father, which is in heaven.

Neither be ye called masters: for one is your
Master, even Christ.

**But he that is greatest among you shall be your
servant.**

**And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be
abased; and he that shall humble himself shall
be exalted.**

Matthew 23:1-12

A true servant will be busy in serving and not in
merely giving orders to people wanting to be
served. Let us look at this scripture as well.

**And James and John, the sons of Zeb'-e-dee,
come unto him, saying, Master, we would that
thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall
desire.**

And he said unto them, What would ye that I should do for you?

They said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory.

But Jesus said unto them, Ye know not what ye ask: can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? And be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?

And they said unto him, We can.

And Jesus said unto them, ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized.

But to sit on my right hand and on my left hand is not mine to give; but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared.

And when the ten heard it, they began to be much displeased with James and John.

But Jesus called them to him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them.

But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister:

And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.

For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Mark 10:35-45

He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal.

If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.

John 12:25-26

BE ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:1

From the above scriptures we still see that for one to serve God as His servant one must hate his or her life in this world and be humble following the footsteps of Jesus Christ who is the perfect example of Servanthood to God the Father in order to get God's approval. If one lacks them one is not

qualified enough. Now look at this scripture what it has to say on the priesthood and those who need to serve Him.

And thou shalt say to the rebellious, even to the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord God; **O ye house of Israel, let it suffice you of all your abominations,**

In that ye have brought into my sanctuary strangers, uncircumcised in heart, and uncircumcised in flesh, to be in my sanctuary, to pollute it, even my house, when ye offer my bread, the fat and the blood, and they have broken my covenant because of all your abominations.

And ye have not kept the charge of mine holy things: but ye have set keepers of my charge in my sanctuary for yourselves.

Thus saith the Lord God; No stranger, uncircumcised in heart, nor uncircumcised in flesh, shall enter into my sanctuary, of any stranger that is among the children of Israel.

And the Levites that are gone away far from me, when Israel went astray, which went astray away

from me after their idols; they shall even bear their iniquity.

Yet they shall be ministers in my sanctuary, having charge at the gate of the house, and ministering to the house: they shall slay the burnt offering and the sacrifice for the people, and they shall stand before them to minister unto them. **Because they ministered unto them before their idols, and caused the house of Israel to fall into iniquity;** therefore have I lifted up mine hand against them, saith the Lord GOD, and they shall bear their iniquity.

And they shall not come near unto me, to do the office of a priest unto me, nor to come near to any of my holy things, in the most holy place: but they shall bear their shame, and their abominations which they have committed.

But I will make them keepers of the charge of the house, for all the service thereof, and for all that shall be done therein.

But the priests the Levites, the sons of Za'dok, that kept the charge of my sanctuary when the children of Israel went astray from me, they

shall come near to me to minister unto me, and they shall stand before me to offer unto me the fat and the blood, saith the Lord GOD:

They shall enter into my sanctuary, and they shall come near to my table, to minister unto me, and they shall keep my charge.

Ezekiel 44:6-16

God requires holiness in his sanctuary and the unholy (unbelievers) are not expected to transact business there as they will pollute it. The church as well as its compound is holy to God and God expects only holy conduct there. Such people as politicians should not be allowed to do politics there. Unfortunately, many churches have invited them say for funds raising and so on and allowed them to play politics. It is very bad, it is an abomination before a holy God and those ministers who allow that, must bear their iniquity. They need not actively continue to serve as priests (pastors) but only the faithful (corrupt free) pastors need to take charge and control the affairs of the church. Pastors must stop lowering God's standards and only true believers are to serve Jehovah Yahweh in

his house. Now look at this other scripture touching on the same.

Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the children of the captivity builded the temple unto the LORD God of Israel;

Then they came to Ze-rub'-ba-bel, and to the chief of the fathers, and said unto them, Let us build with you: for we seek your God, as ye do; and we do sacrifice unto him since the days of E'-sar-had'-don king of Assur, which brought us up hither.

But Ze-rub'-ba-bel, and Jesh'-u-a, and the rest of the chief of the fathers of Israel, said unto them, ye have nothing to do with us to build a house unto our God; but we ourselves together will build unto the LORD God of Israel, as king Cyrus the king of Persia hath commanded us.

Ezra 4:1-3

You can see that the Israelites refused to include outsiders to help them rebuild the temple of God as God does not like such a unity and also ideally His work need be done by the believers and not the

enemies. Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-18. The decree of the king of Persia was in God's will (Ezra 1:1-3).

Chapter 2

God's Servants

God's servants were many, many years back and even now, and we are going to look at the Scriptures and see some who God acknowledged as His servants

Moses

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the seashore.

And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and **the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and his servant Moses.**

Exodus 14:30-31

Job

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.

And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said,

From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered walking up and down in it.

And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?

Job 1:6-8

Jesus Christ

Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him, he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

He shall see the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

Isaiah 53:10-11

David

I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant,

Thy seed will I establish for ever, and build up thy throne to all generations. Selah.

Psalm 89:3-4

The above touching on the seed of David, that seed was a prophecy on the birth of Jesus Christ who would have an everlasting kingdom and rule for ever.

Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah

And these three men, Sha'-drach, Me'-shach, and A-bed'-ne-go, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

The Neb-u-chad-nez'-zah the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no

hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

Then Neb-u-chad-nez'-zah came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Sha'-drach, Me'-shach, and A-bed'-ne-go, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come hither. Then Sha'-drach, Me'-shach, and A-bed'-ne-go, came forth of the midst of the fire.

And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was a hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.

Daniel 3:23-27

These leaders in the kingdom of king Nebuchadnezzar were gathered to witness another wonder of the world. God intervened on behalf of the three men as they were his very servants who were being punished for refusing to bow down to an idol raised by king Nebuchadnezzar.

They were now in the midst of the fiery furnace that was burning as punishment from the king. God acknowledged his servants by presenting Himself amongst them and protected them from the great fire.

Daniel

Then the king rose up very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions.

And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and **the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?**

Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever.

My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

Daniel 6:19-22

Now God cannot just shut the mouths of lions from devouring you if you are not his child who is serving him.

Elijah

And it come to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that **E-li'-jah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant**, and that I have done all these things at thy word.

Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.

Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

1 Kings 18:36-38

The Lord God acknowledged his servant Elijah the prophet by answering by fire thereby bringing His very presence. It was so at that time and God the

Almighty has repeated the same in our very time. This time round it was not fire coming from heaven but the Holy Spirit came from heaven and poured heavily on people at Gusii stadium in Kisii town in Kenya on a sunny day and I was present and got totally wet and shivered continually for quite sometime uncontrollably. It was a revival meeting in the month of September in the year 2011. This time round it was not a prophet in Kenya for Kenyans but for all the nations of the world with an end - time message for ushering in the coming of the Messiah for His bride. The servant of the Lord said if I'm not wrong, 'This is the time of Elijah, the time of His servant' and ordered the heavens to open and let it rain, for the people to see and believe that God sent him to proclaim the coming of the Messiah for His Church. It was such a mammoth crowd and many miracles were witnessed in broad daylight.

Zerubbabel

And again the word of the LORD came unto Hag'-gai in the four and twentieth day of the month, saying,

Speak to Ze-rub'-ba-bel, governor of Judah, saying, I will shake the heavens and the earth;

And I will overthrow the throne of kingdoms, and I will destroy the strength of the kingdoms of the heathen; and I will overthrow the chariots, and those that ride in them; and the horses and their riders shall come down, every one by the sword of his brother.

In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, will I take thee, O Ze-rub'-ba-bel, my servant, the son of She-al'-ti-el, saith the LORD, and will make thee as a signet: for I have chosen thee, saith the LORD of hosts.

Haggai 2:20-23

One has to be chosen by God Himself to become His servant.

Paul

And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named An-a-ni'-as; and to him said the Lord in a

vision, An-a-ni'-as, And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord.

And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,

And hath seen in a vision a man named An-a-ni'-as coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight.

Then An-a-ni'-as answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem:

And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name.

But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

Acts 9:10-15

In closing, let me come to an incident that happened to those who chose by themselves to become servants of God when actually they were not as God never called them.

And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul:

So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.

Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth.

And there were seven sons of one sce'-va, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so.

And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?

And the man in whom the evil was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Eph'-e-sus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.

Acts 19:11-17

These youths who were sons of the chief of the priests thought that it is fun to serve the Lord and were seriously mistaken. I wish these had chosen rather to play football. They attempted to serve but belonged not among the servants of the Lord and it turned out that tragic. Satan knows very well those who belong to God. He knows who are God's servants and who are not so don't ever deceive yourself to be one when you are not. You must be chosen by God to be one, just as we saw in the scriptures. Evil spirits can only be cast out by the Holy Spirit so one must have the Holy Spirit to be in a position to command them. The evil spirit acknowledged knowing Jesus and Paul, who were true servants of God and knew these sons of sceva were not servants of God and that is why succeeded in opposing them and prevailed and had them wounded and they had to fled away out of that house. Read also an account in the book of Mark and see that evil spirits know you and me and know who is who in the spiritual realm. (Mark 1:23-26).

Do you know why all the Jews and Greeks that were dwelling at Ephesus and heard of what had happened to the sons of Sceva fear fall on them? It is because they realized that it is a dangerous thing to play about with the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

So instead of playing with the name by using it in vain they glorified it. In the Ten Commandments we are told that we should not take the name of the Lord in vain for we will not escape judgement. (Deuteronomy 5:11) The sons of Sceva reaped what they sowed as God is not mocked (Galatians 6:7). So, if you are not called by God to be a servant don't ever try, as you are a fake. Look at the language the vagabond Jews and the sons of Sceva used, it was all fake as they were not part of the servanthood and distanced themselves in their statement. (Acts 19:13-14).

All those that are saved are called to eternal life in heaven but before they go there while still on earth they are servants to God generally and are equipped with the Holy Spirit which also endows them with a gift or gifts of the same and among them God

specifically appoints some to ministry work. Let us read some of those so appointed in the scriptures, in their epistles to the Church of Christ in various locations and worldwide. We will be looking at the introductory address to the various churches.

THE Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him, to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

Revelation 1:1-3

JUDE, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:

Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.

Jude 1-2

SIMON Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

2 Peter 1:1-4

JAMES, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

James 1:1

PAUL and Timothy, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Phi'-ippi, with the bishops and deacons:

Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:1-2

Now there is something which is of much importance and I am bringing it to your attention basing the facts on what the scriptures say and what is actually happening now in many churches.

As they went, behold, they brought to him a dumb man possessed with a devil. And when the devil was cast out, the dumb spake: and the multitudes marvelled, saying, It was never so seen in Israel.

But the Pharisees said, He casteth out devils through the prince of the devils.

And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted,

and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few;

Pray ye therefore the Lord of harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest.

Matthew 9:32-38

Jesus Christ was at work and was accompanied with his disciples and the multitudes marvelled at his work because they were hardly seeing such work in Israel. The reason was because there were very few true labourers (servants) of God just as it is today in many churches and therefore many people continue to suffer even when they attend church services, which should not be the case at all, at all. The few true labourers (servants) of God continue to be called names and even opposed but they continue serving the Lord unperturbed just as Jesus did not get discouraged at all. Jesus saw the need for more labourers (servants) at that time to this our present time and asked his disciples to pray to God.

They were to pray to God for true servants and not just ‘servants’ as he was witnessing at that time and which was to continue over the ages.

AND it came to pass after many days, that the word of the LORD came to E-li’-jah in the third year, saying, Go, show thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth.

And E-li’-jah went to show himself unto Ahab. And there was a sore famine in Sa-mar’-i-a.

And Ahab called O-ba-di’-ah, which was the governor of his house. (Now O-ba-di’-ah feared the LORD greatly:

For it was so, when Jez’-e-bel cut off the prophets of the LORD, that O-ba-di’-ah took a hundred prophets, and hid them by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water.

And Ahab said unto O-ba-di’-ah, Go into the land, unto all the fountains of water, and unto all brooks: peradventure we may find grass to save the horses and mules alive, that we lose not all the beasts.

So they divided the land between them to pass throughout it: Ahab went one way by himself, and O-ba-di'-ah went another way by himself,

And as O-ba-di'-ah was on his way, behold, E-li'-jah met him: and he knew him, and fell on his face, and said, Art thou that my Lord E-li'-jah?

And he answered him, I am: go, tell thy Lord, Behold, E-li'-jah is here.

And he said, What have I sinned, that thou wouldest deliver thy servant into the hand of Ahab, to slay me?

As the LORD thy God liveth, there is no nation or kingdom, whither my lord hath, not sent to seek thee: and when they said, He is not there; he took an oath of the kingdom and nation, that they found thee not.

And now thou sayest, Go, tell thy lord, Behold, E-li'-jah is here.

And it shall come to pass, as soon as I am gone from thee, that the Spirit of the LORD shall carry thee whither I know not; and so when I come and tell Ahab, and he cannot find thee, he shall slay me: but I thy servant fear the LORD from my youth.

Was it not told my lord what I did when Jez'-e-bel slew the prophets of the LORD, how I hid a hundred men of the LORD'S prophets by fifty in a cave, and fed them with bread and water?

And now thou sayest, Go, tell thy lord, Behold, E-li'-jah is here: and he shall slay me.

And E-li'-jah said, As the LORD of hosts liveth, before whom I stand, I will surely show myself unto him today.

So O-ba-di'-ah went to meet Ahab, and told him: and Ahab went to meet E-li'-jah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel?

And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Ba'-a-lim.

Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto Mount Carmel, and the prophets of Ba'-al four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jez'-e-bel's table.

So Ahab sent unto all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together unto Mount Carmel.

And E-li'-jah came unto all the people, and said,
How long halt ye between two opinions? if the
LORD be God, follow him: but if Ba'-al, then
follow him. And the people answered not a word.

Then said E-li'-jah unto the people, I, even I only,
remain a prophet of the LORD; but Ba'-al's
prophets are four hundred and fifty men.

Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let
them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it
in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under:
and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on
wood, and put no fire under:

And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will
call on the name of the LORD: and the God that
answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the
people answered and said, It is well spoken.

And E-li'-jah said unto the prophets of Ba'-al,
Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress it
first; for ye are many; and call on the name of your
gods, but put no fire under.

And they took the bullock which was given them,
and they dressed it, and called on the name of Ba'-
al from morning even until noon, saying, O Ba'-al,

hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made.

And it came to pass at noon, that E-li'-jah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked.

And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them.

And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the time of the evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any answer, nor any that regarded.

And E-li'-jah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down.

And E-li'-jah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the LORD came, Israel shall be thy name:

And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD: and he made a trench about the altar, and great as would contain two measures of seed.

And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood.

And he said, Do it the second time. And they did it the second time. And he said, Do it the third time. And they did it the third time.

And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water.

And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that E-li'-jah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word.

Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.

Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and

the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God. And E-li'-jah said unto them Take the prophets of Ba'-al; let not one of them escape. And they took them: and E-li'-jah brought them down to the brook Ki'-shon, and slew them there.

And E-li'-jah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain.

So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And E-li'-jah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees,

And said unto his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, There is nothing. And he said, Go again seven times.

And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand.

And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not.

And it came to pass in the meanwhile, that the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode, and went to Jez'-reel. And the hand of the LORD was on E-li'-jah; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jez'-reel.

1 Kings 18

You can see for yourself that out of hundreds of prophets there was only one true prophet (servant) of God and who was courageous enough to face the king and tell him in his face the sin he and his family had committed and not mincing his words (Proverbs 28:1). Even now just as during the time of the prophet Elijah, we have just some few true servants of God who are obedient and faithful to the Lord and who the Lord is using in a mighty way to bring deliverance to people. In case you are not sure, just parade or assemble them together and you can come to know among the lot who actually are the true servants of God and those that are not. As

for now we just have so many calling themselves the servants of God and if you switch on your T.V set you will see them (and if one is deeply in the Spirit) one can differentiate between the wheat and the chaff going by their utterances and actions (Matthew 3:11-12).

Get to know that the true altar of the Lord was broken but thank God it has now been repaired and once again the God of prophet Elijah answers perfect sacrifices laid on it with fire for the world to see and to be turned back to Him and him only. My advice to all false servants is that their days are now numbered and soon they will be slaughtered by God, Jehovah El-Gibbor, Jehovah El Olam.

NOW there was a certain man of Ra-ma-tha'-im-zo'-phim, of mount E'-phra-im, and his name was El-ka'-nah, the son of Je-ro'-ham, the son of E-li'-hu, the son of To'-hu, the son of Zuph, an Eph'-ra-thite:

And he had two wives; the name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other Pe-nin'-nah: and

Pe-nin'-nah had children, but Hannah had no children.

And this man went up out of his city yearly to worship and to sacrifice unto the LORD of hosts in Shi'-loh. And the two sons of E'-li, Hoph'-ni and Phin'-e-has, the priests of the LORD, were there.

And when the time was that El-ka'-nah offered, he gave to Pe-nin'-nah his wife, and to all her sons and her daughters, portions:

But unto Hannah he gave a worthy portion; for he loved Hannah: but the LORD had shut up her womb.

And her adversary also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the LORD had shut up her womb.

And as he did so year by year, when she went up to the house of the LORD, so she provoked her; therefore she wept, and did not eat.

Then said El-ka'-nah her husband to her, Hannah, why weepest thou? and why eatest thou not? and why is thy heart grieved? am not I better to thee than ten sons?

So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shi'-loh and after they had drunk. Now E'-li the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the LORD.

And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore.

And she vowed a vow, and said,

O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

1 Samuel 1:1-11

Now by simply looking at that scripture in a casual way and not going further one can easily miss very important facts. Let me take you to other chapters in the same book to see a clear picture of what transpired.

Now the sons of E-li were sons of Be'-li-al; they knew not the LORD.

And the priests' custom with the people was, that, when any man offered sacrifice, the priest's servant

came, while the flesh was in seething, with a flesh hook of three teeth in his hand;

And he stuck it into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; all that the flesh hook brought up the priest took for himself. So they did in Shi'-loh unto all the Israelites that came thither.

Also before they burnt the fat, the priest's servant came, and said to the man that sacrificed,

Give flesh to roast for the priest; for he will not have sodden flesh of thee, but raw.

And if any man said unto him,

Let them not fail to burn the fat presently, and then take as much as thy soul desireth; then he would answer him, Nay; but thou shalt give it me now: and if not, I will take it by force.

Wherefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD: for men abhorred the offering of the LORD.

But Samuel ministered before the LORD, being a child, girded with linen e'-phod.

Moreover his mother made him a little coat, and brought it to him from year to year, when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.

And E'-li blessed El-ka'-nah and his wife, and said, the LORD give thee seed of this woman for the loan which is lent to the LORD. And they went unto their own house.

And the LORD visited Hannah, so that she conceived, and bare three sons and two daughters.

And the child Samuel grew before the LORD.

Now E'-li was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they lay with the women that assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

1 Samuel 2:12-22

Now here in that scripture lies the gravity of the whole matter. Hannah did not weep sore just because she had no child but more so because what she was witnessing in Shiloh year in, year out. All the rottenness in the temple of God with fake priests who know not God and everything was gloomy with no solution in sight. It seemed the priest Eli had no control over his sons and also the sons of her fellow co-wife Peninah were not serving the Lord and with her she had no son to be

part of the priesthood to bring restoration in the priesthood for the Israelites.

She got more concerned on the state of Shiloh than her state of childlessness. No wonder she specifically asked God for a son (a man child) to be taken back to God as a servant in the temple. (Only male sons were to serve as priests and more so from only the tribe of Levi).

If I was there during her time and was among those who choose the best person of the year I would have chosen Hannah as the woman of the year for an award for what she asked God for. She too had seen the shortage of faithful servants in the house of God. Let me repeat it to you if you had been told earlier but ignored. Children born out of God-fearing couples don't automatically become Christians they have to be properly nurtured in a godly environment and be introduced to Christianity by them repenting of their sins and giving wholly their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ. If not, they easily become the likes of Hophni and Phinehas. Therefore, parents have a big responsibility on their young ones how they bring

them up, they (parents) being good role models as well.

And there ran a man of Benjamin out of the army, and came to Shi'-loh the same day with his clothes rent, and with earth upon his head.

And when he came, lo, E'-li sat upon a seat by the wayside watching: for his heart trembled for the ark of God. And when the man came into the city, and told it, all the city cried out.

And when E'-li heard the noise of the crying, he said, What meaneth the noise of this tumult?

And the man came in hastily, and told E'-li.

Now E'-li was ninety and eight years old; and his eyes were dim, that he could not see.

And the man said unto E'-li I am he that came out of the army, and I fled today out of the army. And he said, What is there done, my son?

And the messenger answered and said, Israel is fled before the Phil'-is-tines, and there hath been also a great slaughter among the people and thy two sons also, Hoph'-ni and Phin'-e-has, are dead, and the ark of God is taken.

And it came to pass, when he made mention of the ark of God, that he fell from off the seat backward by the side of the gate, and his neck brake, and he died: for he was an old man, and heavy. And he had judged Israel forty years.

And his daughter-in-law, Phin'-e-has' wife, was with child, near to be delivered: and when she heard the tidings that the ark of God was taken, and that her father-in-law and her husband were dead, she bowed herself and travailed; for her pains came upon her.

And about the time of her death the women that stood by her said unto her, Fear not; for thou hast born a son. But she answered not, neither did she regard it.

And she named the child Ich'-a-bod, saying, The glory is departed from Israel: because the ark of God was taken, and because of her father-in-law and her husband.

And she said, The glory is departed from Israel: for the ark of God is taken.

1 Samuel 4:12-22

Here is yet another thing. All the likes of Hophni and Phinehas be careful as God will cause you to be defeated and slaughtered by the enemy. Many churches continue to self-advertise - 'The glory is here', 'Miracle centre', 'Celebration centre' and so on yet the ark of God had been taken and there is no glory of God left but just fake glory, fake miracle and nothing worth celebrating about. Why is that so? Because the doctrines of Christ are no longer there and therefore not practiced and God left them to themselves to say and do their own things. The authority of God is in His word coupled with godly fear, living godly lifestyle or else you and I miss it all.

For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which, they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.

One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies.

This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith;

Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth.

Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.

They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him being abominable, and disobedient and unto every good work reprobate.

Titus 1:10-16

The truly circumcised are the circumcised in heart and who must be obedient to the word of God practicing it in order to remain with sound minds and in true faith and not to lust for money and so on. If not, here comes the bombshell.

Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he

that doeth the will of the Father which is in heaven.

Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Matthew 7:21-23

Let us be careful in our walk lest we are disowned in that day. Prophesying, casting out demons and doing many wonderful works are not enough for one to have entry in the kingdom of God. Read the following scriptures and sober up: Exodus 7:7-12, 1 Kings 18:20-29 (verse 29) Matthew 24:24.

The above is not all. I have touched most of the New Testament servants of the Lord. You can see their testimony is true and that they did not appoint themselves but were called to be servants and appointed to be in office as reported.

Chapter 3

Qualities of God's Servants

God's servants have some good qualities that distinguish them from the other people and we are going to look at the following qualities which in themselves are not necessarily the limit as per God's standards. Their qualities is that they are:

1. Born again

Unto you therefore which believe, he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, The stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

But **ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood**, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

1 Peter 2:7-9

2. Humble

AND Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the E-thi-o'-pi-an woman whom he had married: for he had married an E-thi-o'-pi-an woman.

And they said, Hath the LORD indeed spoken only by Moses? Hath he not spoken also by us? And the LORD heard it.

(Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)

Numbers 12:1-3

Let this mind be in you, which was also in **Christ Jesus**: Who, being in the form of God thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

But **made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant**, and was made in the likeness of men:

And being found in fashion as a man, **he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.**

Philippians 2:5-8

And **the servant of the Lord** must not strive; but **be** gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, **In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves.** If God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

2 Timothy 2:24-25

PUT them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,

To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, **showing all meekness unto all men.**

Titus 3:1-2

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

1 Peter 5:6

3. Faithful

And the LORD spake suddenly unto Moses, and unto Aaron, and unto Miriam, Come out ye three unto the tabernacle of the congregation.

And they three came out.

And the LORD came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam: and they both came forth.

And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream.

My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house. With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?

Numbers 12: 4-8

4. Honest

And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;

That ye may **walk honestly** toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

Romans 13:13

5. Righteous

For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but **righteousness**, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Romans 14:17

Flee also youthful lusts: but **follow righteousness**, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

2 Timothy 2:22

6. Peaceable

For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and **peace**, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Romans 14:17

To speak evil of no man, to **be no brawlers**, but gentle, showing all meekness unto all men.

Titus 3:2

Flee also youthful lusts: but **follow** righteousness, faith, charity, **peace**, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

2 Timothy 2:22

7. Loving

A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as **I have loved you, that ye also love one another.**

But this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

John 13:34-35

LET **brotherly love** continue

Hebrews 13:1

FOLLOW after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.

1 Corinthians 14:1

And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness **charity**.

2 Peter 1:7

8. Persevering

But watch out in all things, **endure afflictions**, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

2 Timothy 4:5

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit and watching thereunto with all **perseverance** and supplication for all saints;

Ephesians 6:18

9. Blameless

A bishop then must be blameless the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

1 Timothy 3:2

Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and **unblamably** we behaved ourselves among you that believe:

1 Thessalonians 2:10

Abstain from all appearance of **evil**

1 Thessalonians 5:22

10. Vigilant

This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, **vigilant**, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

1 Timothy 3:1-2

Be sober, **be vigilant**; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

1 Peter 5:8

11. Hospitable

Be not forgetful to **entertain strangers**: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

Hebrews 13:2

Use hospitality one to another without grudging

1 Peter 4:9

Distributing to the necessity of saints; **given to hospitality**.

Romans 12:13

12. Sober

For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think himself more highly than he ought to think; but **to think soberly**, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Romans 12:3

Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us **watch and be sober**.

1 Thessalonians 5:6

Wherefore **gird up the loins of your mind, be sober,** and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

1 Peter 1:13

13. Teachable

And **the servant of the Lord** must not strive; but **be** gentle unto all men, **apt to teach,** patient

2 Timothy 2:24

And a certain Jew named A-pol'-los, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Eph'-e-sus.

This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.

And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: **whom when Aq'-uil-a and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.**

Acts 18:24-26

14. Ungreedy

A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

Not given to wine, no striker, **not greedy of filthy lucre**; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous

1 Timothy 3:2-3

15. Godly

But **godliness** with contentment is great gain

1 Timothy 6:6

I EXHORT therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving thanks, be made for all men;

For kings, and for all that are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all **godliness** and honesty.

1 Timothy 2:1-2

And to **godliness** brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

2 Peter 1:7

16. Knowledgeable

But, beloved, **be not ignorant** of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

2 Peter 3:8

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15

But **grow** in grace, and **in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ**. To him be glory both now and for ever. A'-men

2 Peter 3:18

17. Gentle

And **the servant of the Lord must** not strive; but **be gentle** unto all men, apt to teach, patient,

2 Timothy 2:24

To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but **gentle**, showing all meekness unto all men.

Titus 3:2

18. Patient

And **the servant of the Lord** must not strive; but **be** gentle unto all men, apt to teach, **patient**,

2 Timothy 2:24

Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

James 5:7-8

Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feeble-minded, support the weak, **be patient** toward all men.

1 Thessalonians 5:14

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, **long-suffering**, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Galatians 5:22

19. Just

For a **bishop must be** blameless, as the steward of God; not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;
But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, **just**, holy, temperate;

Titus 1:7-8

Finally, brethren whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, **whatsoever things are just**, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, **think on these things**.

Philippians 4:8

AND I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God.
And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and

over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God.

And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; **just** and true, are thy ways, thou King of saints

Revelation 15:3

20. Holy

I BESEECH you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, **holy**, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Romans 12:1

But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

Because it is written, **Be ye holy; for I am holy**

1 Peter 1:15-16

Follow peace with all men, and **holiness**, without which no man shall see the Lord

Hebrews 12:14

21. Obedient

AND it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and **to do all his commandments** which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

Deuteronomy 28:1-2

And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to **obey** is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

1 Samuel 15:22

22. Honourable

Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord Knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.

If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto **honour**, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

2 Timothy 2:19-21

Marriage is **honourable** in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

Hebrews 13:4

FURTHERMORE then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.

For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus.

For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and **honour**;

Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:

That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.

For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.

1 Thessalonians 4:1-7

23. Pure

Beloved, now are we the sons of God and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

And every man that hath this hope in him **purifieth himself, even as he is pure.**

1 John 3:2-3

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Matthew 5:8

Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a **pure heart** fervently:

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

1 Peter 1:22-23

24. Courageous

Be strong and **of a good courage**: unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them.

Only **be** thou strong and very **courageous**, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not

from it to the right hand or to the left that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Have I not commanded thee? **Be** strong and **of a good courage**; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Joshua 1:6-9

THE wicked flee when no man pursueth: but **the righteous are bold as a lion.**

Proverbs 28:1

25. Truthful

For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the **truth that is in thee**, even as thou

walkest in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children **walk in the truth.**

3 John 1:3-4

26. Prayerful

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Ephesians 6:18

Pray without ceasing

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Wherefore also **we pray always** for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness, and the work of faith with power:

That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:

That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

Colossians 4:2-4

Ep'-a-phras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, **always labouring fervently** for you **in prayers**, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

Colossians 4:12

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, **praying** in the Holy Ghost,

Jude 20

I EXHORT therefore, that, first of all, supplications, **prayers**, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

1 Timothy 2:1

Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation;
continuing instant in prayer;

Romans 12:12

AND he spake a parable unto them to this end, that
men ought **always** to **pray**, and not faint;

Luke 18:1

27. Steadfast

Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things
before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the
error of the wicked, fall from **your** own
steadfastness.

2 Peter 3:17

28. Compassionate

And of some **have compassion**, making a
difference:

And others save with fear, pulling them out of the
fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

Jude 22-23

But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his **bowels of compassion** from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

My little children; let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

1 John 3:17-18

Then **Jesus** called his disciples unto him, and **said, I have compassion on the multitude**, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way.

Matthew 15:32

29. Spiritual

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be **filled with the Spirit**.

Ephesians 5:18

Praying always with all prayer and supplication **in the Spirit**, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Ephesians 6:18

This I say then, **Walk in the Spirit**, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

But if ye **be led of the Spirit**, ye are not under the law.

Galatians 5:16-18

30. Thankful

In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

But we are bound to **give thanks always to God** for you brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through scarification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.

2 Thessalonians 2:13

Continue in prayer, and watch in the same **with thanksgiving**;

Colossians 4:2

31. Comforter

Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, **comfort** the feeble-minded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.

1 Thessalonians 5:14

32. Joyful

Rejoice evermore

1 Thessalonians 5:16

For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and **joy** in the Holy Ghost.

Roman 14:17

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, **joy**, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Galatians 5:22

Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

Romans 12:12

33. Hopeful

Blessed be the God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto **a lively hope** by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you;

1 Peter 1:3-4

For we are saved by **hope**: but hope that is seen is not hope, for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

But if we **hope** for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

Romans 8:24

According to my earnest expectation and my **hope**, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be

magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.

Philippians 1:20

But I will **hope** continually, and will yet praise thee more and more.

Psalms 71:14

And now abideth faith, **hope**, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

1 Corinthians 13:13

For our conversation is in heaven; from whence **also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:**

Philippians 3:20

Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and **hope** to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

1 Peter 1:13

34. Watchful

Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us **watch** and be sober.

1 Thessalonians 5:6

But **watch** thou in all things endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

2 Timothy 4:5

Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Luke 21:36

35. Sincere

Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of **sincerity** and truth.

1 Corinthians 5:8

35. Kind

Be **kindly** affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;

Romans 12:10

And to godliness **brotherly kindness**; and to brotherly kindness charity.

2 Peter 1:7

36. Undefined

But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would **not defile** himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

Daniel 1:8

37. Exemplary

Let no man despise thy youth; but **be thou an example** of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

38. Integrity

Behold, here I am: witness against me before the LORD, and before his anointed: whose ox have I taken? Or whose ass have I taken? Or whom have I defrauded? whom have I oppressed? Or of whose hand have I received any bribe to blind mine eyes therewith? And I will restore it you. And they said, Thou **hast not defrauded** us, nor oppressed us, neither hast thou taken aught of any man's hand. And he said unto them, The LORD is witness against you, and his anointed is witness this day, that ye **have not found aught in my hand**. And they answered, He is witness.

1 Samuel 12:3-5

LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill?

He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and **speaketh the truth in his heart.**

Psalms 15:1-2

He that walketh uprightly walketh surely; but he that perverteth his ways shall be known.

Proverbs 10:9

I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? **I will walk within my house with a perfect heart.**

Psalm 101:2

But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but **let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay;** lest ye fall into condemnation.

James 5:12

You can read also proverbs 11:3

39. Impartial

MY brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with **respect of persons.**

For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;

And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good

place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:

Are ye not then partial in yourselves?

James 2: 1-4

40. Fruitful

And let ours also learn to maintain **good works** for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.

Titus 3:14

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and **bring forth fruit**, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

John 15:16

41. Repentant

And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to **repent**.

Acts 17:30

Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and **repent**, and do the first works, or else I will

come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except **thou repent**.

Revelation 2:5

42. Wise

For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you **wise unto that which is good**, and simple concerning evil.

Romans 16:19

Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: **be ye therefore wise** as serpents, and harmless as doves.

Matthew 10:16

For **wisdom** is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.

Proverbs 8:11

Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and **wisdom**, whom we may appoint over this business.

Acts 6:3

See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools,
but as **wise**,

Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Ephesians 5:15-16

43. Responsible

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 broken-hearted, 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.

Luke 4:18-19

Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil
against thee out of thine own house, and I will take
thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy
neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the
sight of this sun.

For didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.

And **David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD.** And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.

2 Samuel 12:11-13

And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Phil-is'-tine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Phil-is'-tine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?

And **David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy Servant will go and fight with this Phil-is'-tine.**

1 Samuel 17:26, 32

44. Self - Controlled

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, faith,

Meekness, **temperance**: against such there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23

45. Mature

Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

I press towards the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Let us therefore, **as many as be perfect**, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

Nevertheless, whereunto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing

Philippians 3:12-16

Not a novice, Lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

1 Timothy 3:6

46. Diligent

The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a **diligent** man is precious.

Proverbs 12:27

And beside this, giving all **diligence**, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

2 Peter 1:5

47. Confident

Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

For the which cause I also suffer these things:

Titus 2:11-14

48. Zealous

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Looking for the blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ;

Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, **zealous of good works**.

Titus 2:11-14

Jesus saith unto them, my meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

John 4:34

Nevertheless I am not ashamed: **for I know whom I have believed, and am persued** that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

2 Timothy 1:11-12

49. Forgiving

For if ye **forgive** men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Matthew 6:14-15

And be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, **forgiving one another**, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Ephesians 5:32

Forbearing one another, and **forgiving** one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

Colossians 3:13

50. Disciplined

For **whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.**

If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: **nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.**

Hebrews 12:6-11

And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he **strive lawfully.**

2 Timothy 2:5

51. Discerning

But Peter said, An-a-ni'-as, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?

Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord?

Behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out.

Acts 5:3, 9

And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:

The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which show unto us the way of salvation.

And this did she many days. But **Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.** And he came out the same hour.

Acts 16:16-19

52. Submissive

Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

Ephesians 5:21

Likewise, ye younger, **submit** yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and

be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

1 Peter 5:5

Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but **in lowliness of mind** let each esteem other better than themselves.

Philippians 2:3

PUT them in mind to **be subject to** principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work

Titus 3:1

LET every soul **be subject** unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

Romans 13:1

53. Earnest

E-li'-jah was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed **earnestly** that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

James 5:17-18

54. Expectant

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Titus 2:11-13

55. Strong

Finally, my brethren, be **strong** in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Ephesians 6:10

56. Transparent

For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.

But **he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest**, that they are wrought in God.

John 3:20-21

57. Pitiful

Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be **pitiful**, be courteous:

1 Peter 3:8

58. Generous

And above all these things **put on charity**, which is the bond of perfectness.

Colossians 3:14

Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and **sell that thou hast, and give it to the poor**, and

thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.

But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.

Matthew 19:21-22

There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.

Proverbs 11:24

59. Bold

The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are **bold** as a lion.

Proverbs 28:1

Now when they saw the **boldness** of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

Acts 4:13

And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad.

But he said, I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness.

For the king knoweth of these things, **before whom also I speak freely**: for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him, for this thing was not done in a corner.

King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest.

Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds.

Acts 26:24-29

According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: in whom we have **boldness** and access with confidence by the faith of him.

Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

Ephesians 3:11-13

59. Listener

My sheep **hear** my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

John 10:27

Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to **hear**, slow to speak, slow to wrath:
For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

James 1:19-20

Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and **keep those things which are written therein**: for the time is at hand.

Revelation 1:3

A wise man will **hear**, and increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

Proverbs 1:5

And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and **to hearken** than the fat of rams.

1 Samuel 15:22

Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.

O that thou hadst **hearkened to** my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea:

Thy seed also had been as the sand, and the offspring of thy bowels like the gravel thereof, his name should not have been cut off nor destroyed from before me.

Isaiah 48:17-19

He that is of God **heareth** God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.

John 8:47

Read also Proverbs 18:13; 28:9 and Ecclesiastes 5:1

60. Exhorter

But **exhort** one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Hebrews 3:13

Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able to sound doctrine both to **exhort** and to convince the gainsayers.

Titus 1:9

For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

Now them that are such we command and **exhort** by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

2 Thessalonians 3:11-12

Young men likewise **exhort** to be sober-minded.

Titus 2:6

And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lys'tra, and I-co'-ni-um, and An'-ti-och.

Confirming the souls of the disciples, and **exhorting** them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

Acts 14:21-22

61. God-fearing

THERE was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that **feared God**, and eschewed evil.

Job 1:1

62. Contented

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be **content** with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

So that we may boldly say, the Lord is my helper,
and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Hebrews 13:5-6

But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last
your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye
were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.

Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have
learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be
content.

I know both how to be abased, and I know how to
abound: everywhere and in all things I am
instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to
abound and to suffer need.

Philippians 4:10-12

63. Hard-working and committed

And the LORD God took the man, and put him into
the Garden of Eden to **dress it and to keep it.**

Genesis 2:15

In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till
thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou

taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Genesis 3:19

Now we command you brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you; Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:

Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an example unto you to follow us.

For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

2 Thessalonians 3:6-12

And let ours **also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses**, that they be not unfruitful.

Titus 3:14

The king's favour is towards a wise servant; but his wrath is against him that causeth shame.

Proverbs 14:35

Therefore, my **beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord,** for as much as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:58

I CHARGE thee therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; **Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season,**

reprove, rebuke, exhort with all suffering and doctrine.

2 Timothy 4:1-2

64. Monogamous

And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him.

And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Genesis 2:18, 21-24

THIS is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife,.....

1 Timothy 3:1-2

65. Ruler / leader

One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

1 Timothy 3:4-5

66. Communicator

The **tongue** of the just is as **choice silver**.....

Proverbs 10:20a

The **mouth** of the just bringeth forth **wisdom**:.....

Proverbs 10:31a

Let not corrupt **communication** proceed out of your mouth, but that **which is good to the use of**

edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

Ephesians 4:29

Let your **speech be always with grace**, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

Colossians 4:6

67. Enthusiastic

Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? And they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar?

Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

But I have used none of these things: neither have I written these things, that it should be so done unto me; for it were better for me to die, than that any man should make my glorying void.

For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea woe is unto me, if I preach not, the gospel!

**For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward:
but if against my will a dispensation of the
gospel is committed unto me.**

**What is my reward then? Verily that, when I
preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of
Christ without charge, that I abuse not my
power in the gospel.**

1 Corinthians 9:13-18

68. Disciplinarian

IT is reported commonly that there is fornication
among you, and such fornication as is not so much
as named among the Gentiles, that one should have
his father's wife.

And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned,
that he that hath done this deed might be taken
away from among you.

For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit,
have judged already, as though I was present,
concerning him that hath so done this deed.

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are
gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of
our Lord Jesus Christ,

To deliver such a one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators:

Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.

But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner, with such a one, no, not to eat.

For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? Do not ye judge them that are within?
But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore
put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

1 Corinthians 5:1-13

69. Ambitious

Brethren, I count not to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

I press toward the mark for the price of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 3:13-14

70. Excellent

Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, **seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.**

1 Corinthians 14:12

Know ye not that they which run in a race run all,
but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may
obtain.

1 Corinthians 9:24

Chapter 4

Being in God's Service

In this chapter we are now going into real business which is in serving the Lord. We are going to see how we need to transact in this noble task. If you want to be a servant first you need lose your identity and humble yourself. (Philippians 2:5-11)

The urgency of the work.

The work of the Lord is urgent in that it is a matter of life and death. First many souls get lost on a daily basis as they leave the world without having received salvation. Secondly, many people are suffering the world over being vexed by the Devil and also have other myriad of problems/challenges that require solutions.

All the above can only be solved by the Lord through Christians who are supposed to minister to them. Let us look at the following scriptures:

And when the child was grown, it fell on a day, that he went out to his father to the reapers.

And **he said unto his father, My head, my head.**

And he said to a lad, Carry him to his mother.

And when he had taken him, and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and then died.

And she went up, and laid him on the bed of the man of God, and shut the door upon him, and went out.

And she called unto her husband, and said, Send me, I pray thee, one of the young men and one of the asses, that I may run to the man of God, and come again.

And he said, Wherefore wilt thou go to him today? It is neither new moon, nor Sabbath. And she said, It shall be well.

Then she saddled an ass, and said to her servant, Drive, and go forward; slack not thy riding for me, except I bid thee.

So she went and came unto the man of God to Mount Carmel. And it came to pass, when the man of God saw her afar off, that he said to Ge-ha'-zi his servant, Behold, yonder is that Shu'-nam-mite:

Run now, I pray thee, to meet her, and say unto her, Is it well with thee? is it well with the child?

And she answered, It is well.

And when she came to the man of God to the hill, she caught him by the feet: but Ge-ha'-zi came near to thrust her away. And the man of God said, Let her alone; for her soul is vexed within her: and the LORD hath hid it from me, and hath not told me.

Then she said, Did I desire a son of my lord? did I not say, Do not deceive me?

Then he said to Ge-ha'-zi, Gird up thy loins, and take my staff in thine hand, and go thy way: if thou meet any man, salute him not; and if any salute thee, answer him not again: and lay my staff upon the face of the child.

2 Kings 4:18-29

AFTER these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.

Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore

the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.

Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves.

Carry neither purse, nor scrip, nor shoes: and salute no man by the way.

Luke 10:1-4

From the above two scriptures you can see some pattern and it is that there is no saluting on the way or answering of a salute. Do you know why? It is because no delays are required which can come about in salutes, as such normally extend to conversations and which may be long as well. So to speak it is not being disrespectful or something of the sort, but what is at stake!!

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Who, being in form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of man:

And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:5-11

As I said, you lose your identity, humble yourself and be obedient then you are lifted by the Lord at his own time (1 Peter 5:6). It is not in our own time, please do take note. I first got saved way back in the year 1984 and it is only in the year 2011 that the Spirit of the Lord whispered to me that I should come up with a book based on what I know and what I have experienced in salvation and how God has treated me that is how I came up with the first book with the title 'The Christian Walk' and I thought it would end there only to see myself continue writing by His grace and I don't know

when it will end but just thank him and pray he continue to lead me in this only to the point he will have determined, in Jesus' name, Amen.

MAKE a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.
Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves, we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

Psalms 100

We need to be joyful and glad thanking God for who he is and blessing his name, as we go about serving him. Look at what the Lord says for those without joy and gladness.

Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness and 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

And Je-hosh'-a-phat dwelt at Jerusalem: and went out again through the people from Beer-she'-ba to mount E'-phra-im, and brought them back unto the LORD God of their fathers.

And he set judges in the land throughout all the fenced cities of Judah, city by city,

And said to the judges, Take heed what ye do: for ye judge not for man, but for the LORD, who is with you in the judgement.

Wherefore now let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take heed and do it: for there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts.

Moreover in Jerusalem did Je-hosh'-a-phat set of the Levites, and of the priests, and of the chief of the fathers of Israel, for the judgment of the LORD, and for controversies, when they returned to Jerusalem.

And he charged them, saying, Thus shall ye do in the fear of the LORD, faithfully, and with a perfect heart.

2 Chronicles 19:4-9

That's it. Serving faithfully with a perfect heart in the fear of the Lord respecting no person, being without sin and taking no gifts. Here many servants have failed as they are fond of taking gifts and show partiality.

Only fear the LORD and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.

1 Samuel 12:24

We are to serve God in truth and with all our hearts (whole heartedly and not half-heartedly)

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:

But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the
defence of the gospel.

Philippians 1:15-17

Our motive in preaching must be right out of love
in all sincerity.

For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of
God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight
of God speak we in Christ.

2 Corinthians 2:17

We should as apostle Paul told the church at
Corinth, not bring corruption in our preaching the
word of God but to preach it with all its purity
(undefiled).

Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark
them which walk so as ye have us for an example.
(For many walk, of whom I have told you often,
and now tell you even weeping, that they are the

enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

Philippians 3:17-19

May the Lord help us not to be among this bad lot becoming not enemies of the cross of Christ.

Although God's servants have some rights and obligations in serving God, some have unfortunately misused them by their bad conduct such as telling the congregation to sow a seed for this or that or when hosted become choosy demanding this or that; as if he or she is in some Hotel and can ask for whatever he/she wants as if going to pay for it. Let them be gentle men and women and humbly eat or drink whatever is presented to them as long as it cannot harm him/her. Yet others do demand for a house or a car from the congregation and so on and so forth. Let the congregation do whatever is good and necessary to God's servants and that cannot constrain them unnecessarily financially without the servants demanding as they are not to serve for material gain but for spiritual gain which the Lord

shall reward them with even the material ones as he is their employer working in his vineyard. Most of God's servants seem to have forgotten that, if truly they are God's servants.

By being choosy or demanding we become a burden to those we minister to and more so to the widows, the orphans and the poor and that in itself is sin before the Master.

As God's servants, we need to think more vertically than horizontally as we are working for our eternity (Colossians 3:1-4, 1 Corinthians 15:50-58, Galatians 6:7-8, Romans 8:5-6) so that we can confidently say before our departure as apostle Paul said to Timothy his son in the faith (2 Timothy 4:7-8). He also told him to do likewise though it is not rosy but to endure in all things (2 Timothy 4:1-5).

Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let everyone the nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

2 Timothy 2:19

For one to have a good foundation in service one must be firm in obeying the Lord. If one is disobedient to the Lord and at the same time serving, one is actually not serving the Lord as the Lord is not with him and therefore is serving somebody else (John 8:37-39, Luke 6:46-49).

Serving the Lord is not a joking matter but is a serious business that calls for holiness and soberness as one cannot get away unpunished who has any unbecoming behaviour while serving. Let us take a look at the following examples.

AND Nadab and A-bi'-hu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not.

And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them and they died before the LORD.

Then Moses said unto Aaron,

This is it that the LORD spake, saying, I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified. And Aaron held his peace.

And Moses called Mish'-a-el and El-za'-phan, and the sons of Uz'-zi-el the uncle of Aaron, and said unto them, Come near, carry your brethren from before the sanctuary out of the camp.

So they went near, and carried them in their coats out of the camp; as Moses had said.

And Moses said unto Aaron, and unto El-e-a'-zar and unto Ith'-a-mar, his sons, Uncover not your heads, neither rend your clothes; lest ye die, and lest wrath come upon all the people: but let your brethren, the whole house of Israel, bewail the burning which the LORD hath kindled.

And ye shall not go out from the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: for the anointing oil of the LORD is upon you. And they did according to the word of Moses.

And the LORD spake to Aaron, saying,

Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations:

And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean;

And that ye may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the LORD hath spoken unto them by the hand of Moses.

Leviticus 10:1-11

The above was as a result of the two sons of Aaron being irreverent to God and being casual in the service to him and as I said earlier, it is serious business and no joking around. Moses told Aaron and his other two sons not to mourn over the two dead as they had blatantly disobeyed the commandment of the Lord and that rather all the whole house of Israel need to bewail the fire God had kindled in his fierce anger, so that it may be quenched.

In serving the Lord one need be sober enough to remember that the God of Israel is not only holy but is also a consuming fire (1 Peter 1:15-16, Hebrews 12:28-29).

NOW Kor'-ah, the son of Iz'-har, the son of Ko'-hath, the son of Levi, and Da'-than and A-bi'-ram, the sons of E-li'-ab, and On, the son of Pe'-leth, sons of Reuben, took men:

And they rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown:

And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?

And when Moses heard it, he fell upon his face:

And he spake unto Kor'-ah and unto all his company, saying, Even tomorrow the LORD will show who are his, and who is holy; and will cause him to come near unto him: even him whom he hath chosen will he cause to come near unto him.

This do; Take your censers, Kor'-ah, and all his company;

And put fire therein, and put incense in them before the LORD tomorrow: and it shall be that the man whom the LORD doth choose, he shall be holy: ye take too much upon you, ye sons of Levi.

And Moses said unto Kor'-ah, Hear, I pray you, ye sons of Levi:

Seemeth it but a small thing unto you, that the God of Israel hath separated you from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to himself to do the service of the tabernacle if the LORD, and to stand before the congregation to minister unto them?

And he hath brought thee near to him, and all thy brethren the sons of Levi with thee: and seek ye the priesthood also?

For which cause both thou and all thy company are gathered together against the LORD: and what is Aaron, that ye murmur against him?

And Moses sent to call Da'-than and A-bi'-ram, the sons of E-li'-ab: which said, we will not come up:

Is it a small thing that thou hast brought us up out of a land that floweth with milk and honey, to kill us in the wilderness, except thou make thyself altogether a prince over us?

Moreover thou hast not brought us into a land that floweth with milk and honey, or given us inheritance of fields and vineyards: wilt thou put out the eyes of these men? we will not come up.

And Moses was very wroth, and said unto the LORD, Respect not thou their offering: I have not taken one ass from them, neither have I hurt one of them.

And Moses said unto Kor'-ah, Be thou and all thy company before the LORD, thou and they, and Aaron, tomorrow:

And take every man his censer, and put incense in them, and bring ye before the LORD every man his censer, two hundred and fifty censers; thou also, and Aaron, each of you his censer.

Numbers 16:1-17

From the above account one can see clearly that Korah and all his company were rebelling against Moses challenging his authority over them and were in the process usurping the leadership of the Levitical priesthood and Moses was not amused and told the lot that they all appear before the Lord the next day and God will prove to them who is holy and who he has chosen. Korah and company seemed to be too stubborn. If one reads further from verse 18 through to 33 one will see the outcome.

The lesson here is that one need to be satisfied where God has placed one to serve and not to be too ambitious wanting to be in others' positions lest one is judged by the Lord (Romans 12:3, Galatians 6:3, 1 Corinthians 8:2; 2 Corinthians 3:5).

Now the sons of E'-li were sons of Be'-li-al; they knew not the LORD.

And the priests' custom with the people was, that when any man offered sacrifice, the priest's servant came, while the flesh was in seething, with a flesh hook of three teeth in his hand;

And he struck it into the pan, or kettle, or caldron, or pot; all that the flesh hook brought up the priest took for himself. So they did in Shi'-loh unto all the Israelites that came thither.

Also before they burnt the fat, the priest's servant came, and said to the man that sacrificed, Give flesh to roast for the priest; for he will not have sodden flesh of thee, but raw.

And if any man said unto him, Let them not fail to burn the fat presently, and then take as much as thy soul desireth; then he would answer him, Nay; but

thou shalt give it to me now: and if not, I will take it by force.

Wherefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD: for men abhorred the offering of the LORD.

Now E'-li was very old, and heard of all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they lay with the women that assembled at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

1 Samuel 2:12-17, 22

If one reads of the account of the two sons of Eli one will realize that the scripture actually describes them very well as sons of Belial as they knew not the Lord otherwise, they would have not behaved the way they did in greed and immorality of the highest order!!! The result of all their doings one can find reading chapter 4 what transpired thereafter.

One among other lessons is that one need not try to serve God if one does not know him as it is disastrous.

Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests,

And said unto them, what will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.

And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him.

Now the first day of the feast of unleavened bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying unto him, where wilt thou that we prepare for thee to eat the Passover?

And he said, Go into the city of such a man, and say unto him, The Master saith,

My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at thy house with my disciples.

And the disciples did as Jesus had appointed them; and they made ready the Passover.

Now when the even was come, he sat down with the twelve.

And as they did eat, he said,

Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.

And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I?

And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me.

The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born.

Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, Master, is it I? He said unto him, Thou hast said.

Matthew 26:14-25

THEN Jesus six days before the Passover came to Bethany, where Laz'-a-rus was which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead.

There they made him a supper; and Martha served: but Laz'-a-rus was one of them that sat at the table with him.

Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odor of the ointment.

Then saith one of the disciples Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him,

Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?

This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.

John 12:1-6

The above two cases talk about the same disciple of Jesus Christ, Judas Iscariot who was lusting for money and ended not only in dishonesty on the bag but in disloyalty as well to his Master. The end result of all that one can read in the book of Matthew chapter 27 verses 1 through to 5. No wonder the Holy Spirit led Apostle Paul to caution his son in the faith on matters touching on money (1Timothy 6:6-10)

BUT a certain man named An-a-ni'-as with Sapph-i'-ra his wife, sold a possession,
And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

But Peter said, An-a-ni'-as why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and keep back part of the price of the land?

While it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

And An-a-ni'-as hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.

And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out and buried him.

And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in.

And Peter answered unto her,

Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much.

Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out.

Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men come in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband.

And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.

Acts 5:1-11

From the above account one can see that Ananias and Sapphira were not sincere to the apostles and they ended their lives prematurely. Honesty is part of the game in serving the Lord as dishonesty can prove to be catastrophic.

From the above examples one can see one common denominator which is, death. Therefore, it is not worth it to serve the Lord just any how as he is principled in nature.

For the LORD your God is God of gods, and the Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward:

Deuteronomy 10:17

Surely oppression maketh a wise man mad; and a gift destroyeth the heart.

Ecclesiastes 7:7

And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.

Matthew 10:7-8

Thou shalt not wrest judgment; thou shalt not respect persons, neither take a gift: for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous.

That which is altogether just shall thou follow, that thou mayest live, and inherit the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

Deuteronomy 16:19-20

MY brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.

For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;

And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:

Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?

Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgement seats?

James 2:1-6

Now let me come to the servants of the Lord who refused to take gifts or rewards “blessing” and two that were anxious to get them.

Something which is equally very important in serving the Lord is prayer. Ideally prayer should precede preaching. It can be normal prayer or

prayer and fasting which should be preferred as it is most effective.

Prayer need to be done where one is, before setting out to go preaching. Our Lord Jesus Christ did just that. Read on.

And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;

Luke 6:12-13

Before Jesus began his public ministry, he went into prayer and fasting after which he also chose the twelve disciples in addition to preaching to people, read also in the book of Matthew (Matthew 4:1-25).

And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

And Simon and they that were with him followed after him.

And when they had found him, they said unto him, All men seek thee.

And he said unto them, Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also: for therefore came I forth.

And he preached in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and cast out devils.

Mark 1:35-39

In the above incidence too, you can see that Jesus was seeking the face of his Father in prayer prior to going out to preach in seeking the souls of the lost.

Samuel

AND Samuel said unto all Israel, Behold, I have hearkened unto your voice in all that ye said unto me, and have made a king over you.

And now, behold, the king walketh before you: and I am old and grey headed; and, behold, my sons are with you: and I have walked before you from my childhood unto this day.

Behold, here I am: witness against me before the LORD, and before his anointed: whose ox have I taken? Or whose ass have I taken? or whom have I defrauded? whom have I oppressed? Or of whose hand have I received any bribe to blind mine eyes therewith? And I will restore it you.

And they said, Thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, neither hast thou taken aught of any man's hand.

And he said unto them, The LORD is witness this day, that ye have not found ought in my hand. And they answered, He is witness.

1 Samuel 12:1-5

Elisha

And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him: and he said, Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel: now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant.

But he said, As the LORD liveth, before whom I stand, I will receive none. And he urged him to take it; but he refused.

2 Kings 5:15-16

Now those two are the kind of servants that the Lord is pleased with and not those that request or run for gifts.

Gehazi

But Ge-ha'zi, the servant of Eli'sha the man of God, said, Behold, my master hath spared Na'-a-man this Syrian, in not receiving at his hands that which he brought: but as the LORD liveth, I will run after him, and take somewhat of him.

So Ge-ha'-zi followed after Na'-a-man. And when Na'-a-man saw him running after him, he lighted down from the chariot to meet him, and said, Is all well?

And he said, All is well. My master hath sent me, saying, Behold, even now there be come from mount E'-phra-im two young men of the sons of the prophets: give them, I pray thee, a talent of silver, and two changes of garments.

And Na'-a-man said, Be content, take two talents. And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and laid

them upon two of his servants, and they bare them before him.

And when he came to the tower, he took them from their hand, and bestowed them in the house: and he let the men go, and they departed.

But he went in, and stood before his master. And Eli'-sha said unto him, Whence comest thou, Ge-ha'-zi? And he said, Thy servant went no whither.

And he said unto him, Went not mine heart with thee, when the man turned again from his chariot to meet thee? Is it a time to receive money, and to receive garments, and oliveyards, and vineyards and sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and maidservants?

The leprosy therefore of Na'-a-man shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed for ever. And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow.

2 Kings 5:20-27

Gehazi had thought Elisha had made a mistake by refusing to take a blessing. He did not realize that he himself was walking in the flesh and his master on the other hand was walking in the Spirit. (Galatians 5:16-18). Because Gehazi was not

walking in the Spirit, he sinned three times in a span of minutes by accepting a bribe, lying both to Naaman and Elisha. But he did not escape judgement, just as Ananias and Sapphira before Apostle Peter (Acts 5:1-10)

Balaam

As for this man Balaam a prophet who ended as a soothsayer you can read the long story in the book of numbers how he behaved suspiciously (numbers 22) and he ended in the following scriptures (Joshua 13:22, and Jude 11).

Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his Lord hath made ruler of his household, to give them meat in due season?

Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all is goods.

But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My Lord delayeth his coming;

And shall begin to smite his fellow servants and to eat and drink with the drunken;

The lord of that servant shall come in a day he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of,

And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: these shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 24:45-51

And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear.

He said therefore, A certain noble man went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.

And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us.

And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.

Then came the first, saying, Lord thy pound hath gained ten pounds.

And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.

And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds.

And he said likewise to him,
Be thou also over five cities.

And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin:

For I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou taketh up that thou layest not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow.

And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow:

Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury?

And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds.

(And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.)

For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given, and from him that hath not even that he hath shall be taken away from him.

But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me.

Luke 19:11-27

Verse 12 above the noble man is Jesus Christ who was going back to heaven (a far country) and to come back later with the kingdom of God (John 14:1-3, 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, John 17:1-26, Philippians 2:5-11) Verse 13 above the ten servants represent the body of Christ (the Church) which he gave work to do while he would be away (Matthew 28:16-20; 25:1-13).

The ten pounds delivered to the ten servants are the gifts of the Holy Spirit (John 14:15-18, Ephesians 4:7-13, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11). Verse 14 above the citizens that hated him represent the world (John 1:10-11; 15:18-20, Matthew 27:15-31).

Verse 15 above Jesus Christ will come back for His holy church in the rapture after which he will sit with the saints and get their account individually and will expect to get from each of them some profit/interest (gain) from the gift/s he gave to each on the work he had assigned them (1 Corinthians 15:50-58, Romans 14:9-13, 1 Corinthians 3:1-15) .

After the above exercise of getting account of each saint, all of them will get into the marriage supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:5-9). Verses 16 to 23 above each saint is to give an account of his or her work to the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 12:4-7) - The gift/s of the Spirit are not given (delivered) to Christians merely to keep/sit on but are for doing God's business (trading) by using them to benefit mankind.

In God's business one must be zealous in serving being both faithful and working hard and being

slothful as that servant in Luke 19:20-21, but do the necessary as the scriptures say eg. in 1 Corinthians 15:58, Romans 12:1-11, Proverbs 11:30, Proverbs 14:35 and so on.

Let every born-again Christian endeavour to properly exercise with the gift / s delivered to him or her and at one's disposal in order to have a good report/account of one's work at the appearance of the Lord and to be rewarded accordingly (Revelation 22:12-14). If not, then one will have no excuse at that time just as you have read on that unfaithful servant (Luke 19:22-26). Also read in the book of Matthew (Matthew 24:45-51).

Verse 27 of the same book of Luke in chapter 19 you can see that those who totally reject Christ to be their Lord and Saviour while still here on earth will be judged for sure just as is recorded also elsewhere - John 3:17-19; 36, Revelation 20:11-15.

Let me say something on verse 26. Some people have taken that verse literally with the idea of physical / material things which is not true as Jesus was talking to them touching on spiritual principle / law and therefore was dwelling on spiritual issues.

Materialism has its limit and also takes one nowhere and is only for this temporal life here on earth and hence spiritual matters must be highly esteemed in life. In heaven only the spiritual will enter and live there - those who have matured spiritually and not those who have amassed wealth here on earth but are not spiritual as it is in spiritual maturity that one has learned pretty well to live right first time, from the word go.

LET a man so account us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

1 Corinthians 4:1-2

As a servant one is a steward of God and must be faithful to one's calling.

For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me.

What is my reward then? Verily that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.

1 Corinthians 9:16-18

Serving the Lord is a personal commitment by those called by God and that alone should be the joy of a servant knowing in his or heart that he or she is doing the will of God.

But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat? And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink?

Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not.

So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are

unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.

Luke 17:7-10

So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, son of Jonah, Lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee.

He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonah, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

He saith unto him the third time, Simon, the son of Jonah, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou

shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not.

This spake he, signifying but what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.

John 21:15-19

From the above scripture we can see that Jesus was emphasizing to Simon Peter the need for love in serving the Lord and the service being in taking care of others spiritual wellbeing by feeding them with the word of God. Let us look at other scripture too.

And the Apostles gathered themselves together unto Jesus, and told him all things, both what they had done, and what they had taught.

And he said unto them, come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.

And they departed into a desert place by ship privately.

And the people saw them departing, and many knew him, and ran afoot thither out of all cities, and outwent them, and came together unto him. And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.

And when the day was now far spent, his disciples came unto him, and said, This is a desert place, and now the time is far passed:

Send them away, that they may go into the country round about, and into the villages, and buy themselves bread: for they have nothing to eat.

He answered and said unto them, Give ye them to eat.

And they say unto him, Shall we go and buy two hundred penny worth of bread, and give them to eat?

He saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? go and see, and when they knew, they say,

Five, and two fishes.

And he commanded them to make all sit down by companies upon the green grass.

And they sat down in ranks, by hundreds, and by fifties.

And when he had taken the five loaves and the two fishes, he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and brake the loaves, and gave them to the disciples to set before them; and the two fishes divided he among them all.

And they did all eat, and were filled.

Mark 6:30-42

From the above scripture we do see Jesus being moved by compassion to attend both to the spiritual and material welfare of the many people because he had love for them. It follows therefore that you must have love for others to be able to solve their issues and which is not limited to spirituality only but also materially. So as a servant of Jesus Christ you must be ready to sacrifice in addressing other issues of others in life not only limiting yourself to their spiritual well being only. If not, then you become a good for nothing person (James 2:14-17) and you are likely to be as the shepherds of Israel who God reproveth in the following scripture:

AND the word of the Lord came unto me, saying,
Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of
Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the
Lord God unto the shepherds;

Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed
themselves! should not the shepherds feed the
flocks?

Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye
kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock.

The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have
ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye
bound up that which was broken, neither have ye
brought again that which was driven away, neither
have ye sought that which was lost; but with force
and with cruelty have ye ruled them.

Ezekiel 34:1-4

As a servant of Christ need not be only on the
receiving end for personal gain taking advantage of
others and doing nothing for them by not caring for
their welfare. If you are a servant true to speak, you
were called to allow yourself to be used by God to
serve humanity to better their lives and not to work
for your personal gains as that is not God's

intention in calling you. Remember what Jesus told Simon Peter to follow him (John 21:15-19) and ask yourself this question ‘Why am I following Jesus, is it for God or just for my personal gain here on earth?’

Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

John 4:34

From that scripture ask yourself this question ‘Am I working tirelessly to finish God’s work and does that give me joy or it doesn’t?’

I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

John 9:4

In that scripture Jesus essentially told his disciples that the time they were in was the right time (the day) when it is convenient to serve as a time of great distress (the night) would come when it would be very difficult for his followers to work as he was referring to the Tribulation period (Revelation 6:7-9; 13:1-7).

And he came to Ca-per'-na-um: and being in the house he asked them, What was it that ye disputed among yourselves by the way?

But they held their peace: for by the way they had disputed among themselves, who should be the greatest.

And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be the first, the same shall be the last of all, and servant of all.

And he took a child, and set him in the midst of them: and when he had taken him in his arms, he said unto them,

Whosoever shall receive one of such children in my name, receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me, receiveth not me, but him that sent me.

Mark 9:33-37

The disciples missed the point as they were more concerned with position / leadership than with what they were called to do, that is, to serve the Lord by spreading the gospel of the kingdom of heaven to all the people so that when they respond positively, to be partakers in that glorious kingdom. The

disciples lost focus as many Christians do today by desiring more to be leaders in the house of the Lord than to serve and what a pity it is! No wonder we have wrangles in churches and divisions as a result of that madness!! Let us sober up and serve the Lord faithfully whether we are in leadership or not and be content and wait to be rewarded according to how well we served.

And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

Revelation 14:13

It is important to serve the Lord and to be holy in life so that when you die you die in him and your righteousness in the Lord goes with you into God's presence in heaven which is a great blessing indeed.

And unto the angel of the church in Thy-a-ti'-ra write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath

his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet are
like fine brass;

I know thy works, and charity, and service, and
faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last
to be more than the first.

Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee,
because thou sufferest that woman Jez'-e-bel,
which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to
seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to
eat things sacrificed unto idols.

Revelation 2:19-20

It is equally important for one to strive in
improving one's service to the Lord and not to tire
up (Galatians 6:8-9).

Having then gifts differing according to the grace
that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us
prophesy according to the proportion of faith;

Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he
that teacheth, on teaching;

Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth,
let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with

diligence, he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

Romans 12:6-8

It is important to note that one serves the Lord according to the proportion of faith that God gave one at one's conversion (Romans 12:3).

Let no man despise thy youth; but be an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, given attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

1 Timothy 4:12-16

It is important to be a good example in one's conduct in life, not neglecting one's gift and continuing in God's doctrine.

As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. A'-men.

1 Peter 4:10-11

Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

And when they saw him, they worshiped him: but some doubted.

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. A'-men.

Matthew 28:16-20

From that scripture you can see very clearly that the work of preaching the good news about Jesus Christ and the salvation he brought and the kingdom of God to the world was given only to those who had believed in him and who became his disciples/followers. It is therefore not the work of just everybody and any body. It is the work of the saints who by their virtue are called and set apart as God's servants; to have the will of God also done here on earth. You can see clearly that Isaiah had to encounter God and after repentance was cleaned and was ready to go and serve as God's servant – one need be called by God to serve him (Isaiah 6:1-9).

After you have now been called to serve, there is left for you another homework which you must do, as you don't just jump into Service straight away just that way. You need to begin to follow God's instructions slowly but surely, step by step and is as follows:

I BESEECH you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.

Romans 12:1-2

And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;
And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Ephesians 4:23-24

Now the apostle Paul led by the Holy Spirit wrote to the church in Rome and in Ephesus touching on this one thing- the renewing of one's mind as a Christian, is paramount. Why? Because in the mind as some have said, is where battles (spiritual battles) are either won or lost. The enemy usually attack the mind with all sorts of negative and discouraging words so as to be able to dissuade you from doing what is good and also persuade you in

doing what is bad / wrong (sin). If you are not sober mind wise renewing it by the Spirit, you will have failed and the devil succeeded in directing you away from the will of God. That is why you must put on the new man (The Holy Spirit) and put off the old man (The flesh). We are told the new man after God is created in righteousness and true holiness (which of course is the very nature of God). The old man is sinful and hypocritical in nature. These issues of putting away (off) and putting on things have been repeated elsewhere in the scriptures and may the Lord help us to heed and act accordingly for reasonable living as well as service. (Colossians 3:5-11, Romans 13:12-14, Ephesians 6:10-18).

Now in God's vineyard there is just so much work and no man is early for the work, or is late for the work as long as one wants to be engaged. Moreover, the terms and conditions of employment are the same for everybody. In this work, you are not required to have had some years of experience in work but you must have some qualifications which are:

- You have repented of your sins
- You have asked for forgiveness
- You have believed in Jesus Christ
- You have been baptized in much water by complete immersion and in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost
- You have been baptized in the Holy Ghost

If you have all the above, you don't need to be short listed for an interview as you are automatically engaged in a permanent and pensionable employment. If you don't have the above qualifications don't dare to enter the vineyard of God lest you are harmed, shocked and ashamed as the sons of Sceva (Acts 19:11-17).

FOR the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is a householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard. And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard.

And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the market place,

And said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way.

Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise.

And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle?

They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive.

So when even was come, the Lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call all the laborers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first.

And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny.

But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny.

And when they had received it, they murmured against the goodman of the house.

Saying, These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and the heat of the day.

But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny?

Take that thine is, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee.

Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?

So the last shall be first, and the first last: for many be called, but few chosen.

Matthew 20:1-16

Now in this employment in the vineyard which is the work place and which is the world; The Managing Director / Chief Executive is a just man who will apply justice and be fair to every employee and there is no need of joining a Trade Union to fight for your rights. Those who complain are out of order and are just a few disgruntled elements in the vineyard.

This employer does not vary the Terms and Conditions of Employment as stick to the contract he entered into with the employee and therefore there is no cause for concern. The employer does not mince his words and means what he says. I hope you are one of us, if not, I had already told you the qualifications required and as I said, the employer is a good just man who does every thing right. I encourage you to join Vineyard Incorporated and you will not regret it but just be happy as the terms are so good, and if you serve well you are assured of eternal life as well as other fringe benefits. The work mainly involves winning souls to Christ and doing any other duties from time to time as may be assigned.

Now if you have been engaged by the Lord to serve him, be focused and don't look back so as to serve him well.

And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow whithersoever thou goest.

And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.

And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.

Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.

And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house.

And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

Luke 9:57-62

In that scripture Jesus discouraged those who wanted to follow him from looking back and also from giving excuses at the expense of serving him in life as the work of the Lord is a full time job and is to be done come rain, come sunshine.

I CHARGE thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach

the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine.

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

2 Timothy 4:1-4

While serving the Lord try to be self-sufficient so as not to burden those you minister to unnecessarily. It follows therefore that you need have some ways of earning a living and not to depend on hand-outs but to work to fend for yourself and to serve the Lord with too. Also be not a lover of money (covetous for money).

Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;

Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:

Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an example unto you to follow us.

For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

2 Thessalonians 3:6-12

In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury.

Proverbs 14:23

Yes, as servants of the Lord we have to do some work as well otherwise we may, live miserable lives and probably end in begging which is a disgrace in the Service. Apostle Paul was actually

walking the talk when he addressed those at Thessalonica.

AFTER these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth; And found a certain Jew named Aq'-uil-a, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome;) and came unto them.

And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: (for by their occupation they were tent makers).

Acts 18:1-3

Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an example. (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ.

Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things)

Philippians 3:17-19

One need to be careful in serving the Lord so as not to become an enemy of the cross of Christ by working merely as a means of earning a living and not for God's glory.

But godliness with contentment is great gain.
For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.
But they that will be rich fall into temptation and snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.
For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

1 Timothy 6:6-10

Without contentment one may not serve well in life. Something else a servant needs to watch out and examine oneself in one's thoughts and speech if there is some pride when seeing success in service / ministry, as it is very easy for that to crop up in one's life which later can lead to one's down

fall. As a Christian you are special yes, before the eyes of your Father, but as a servant before people humble yourself and be an ordinary person (but of course with an extra ordinary person- Christ, with a supernatural power- the Holy Spirit). All the good in you is from God (1 Corinthians 4:7). You need not be puffed up because of your eternity in heaven not on the results of your service per se. (Luke 10:17-20).

And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.

Luke 10:17-20

Your name to be in the Lamb's book of life is more important. Please also note that going by what I experienced when ministering the gospel, it is not your make-up or dressing that necessarily will appeal to your audience and win them to Christ but your spiritual preparation, humility and anointing that will count most.

One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon The son of Jona: thou shalt be called Ce'-phas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me.

Now Philip was of Beth-sa'-i-da, the city of Andrew and Peter.

Philip findeth Na-than'-a-el, and saith unto him,
We have found him, of whom Moses in the law,
and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the
son of Joseph.

John 1:40-45

Now the above is a very good pattern required with
God's servants in serving the Lord. (2 Timothy 2:1-
2).

THOU therefore, my son, be strong in the grace
that is in Christ Jesus.

And the things that thou hast heard of me among
many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful
men, who shall be able to teach others also.

2 Timothy 2:1-2

John the Baptist told Andrew about Christ and
Andrew followed Jesus and went further to
introduce his brother Simon to Christ. Jesus Christ
found Philip and told him to follow him, which he
did and told Nathaniel about Jesus. Quite a good
chain of events.

Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phoe-ni'-cia, and Cyprus, and An'-ti-och, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.

And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cy-re'-ne, which, when they were come to An'-ti-och, spake unto the Grecians, preaching the Lord Jesus.

And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.

Then tidings of these things came unto the ears of the church which is in Jerusalem: and they sent forth Barnabas, that he should go as far as An'-ti-och.

Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with the purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord.

For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.

Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul: And when he had found him, he brought him unto An'-ti-och. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and

taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in An'-ti-och.

Acts 11:19-26

Another wonderful pattern indeed, in the service of the Lord. The believers who were scattered abroad did not get intimidated but continued with the task of preaching Jesus to the Jews and God was with them and a great number believed their message and turned to the Lord. The turn of events was heard by the church in Jerusalem who were wise enough and hesitated not but straight away set Barnabas to go and encourage those believers. Then Barnabas exhorted them accordingly that they cleave unto the Lord. Now Barnabas it is reported was a good man, why? He was full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. For that reason, the Holy Spirit was at work and many people received the Lord through the word Barnabas ministered.

Now the Holy Spirit must have whispered to him the work is much, get a brother to assist you; and it must have flashed in his mind most probably through the Spirit 'look for Brother Saul.' When Barnabas did find Saul at Tarsus, he took him to

Antioch where they exhorted and taught a period of one whole year and the result was tremendous. The believers (the church) lived like Christ Jesus and they were nicknamed/called Christians, which they had not been called elsewhere before. Glory to the most High God.

I SAY the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost,
That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart.

For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:

Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises;

Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. A'-men.

Romans 9:1-5

What a heart apostle Paul had for his kinsmen according to the flesh. What about you and me, what heart do we have?

For though I be free from all man, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. And unto the Jews I became a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law;

To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law. To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

1 Corinthians 9:19-22

Eh! That is Brother Paul, a true servant (bond servant) of the Lord Jesus Christ. That is quite challenging to me, how about you?

Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which

converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

James 5:19-20

That scripture underscores the importance of converting one who has erred in the faith.

But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;

How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.

These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

And of some have compassion, making a difference:

And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

Jude 17-23

By having compassion on others one can make a difference in their lives. One other aspect which is equally important in serving the Lord is teamwork as we are going to see from some scriptures.

Then came Am'-a-lek, and fought with Israel in Reph'-i-dim. And Moses said unto Joshua, choose us out men, and go out, fight with Am'-a-lek: tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand.

So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Am'-a-lek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.

And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Am'-a-lek prevailed.

But Moses' hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.

And Joshua discomfited Am'-a-lek and his people with the edge of the sword.

Exodus 17:8-13

Now the above was a good team work in a physical battle and for sure the Israelites came out victorious. While Joshua and other men fought for Israel, Moses was busy interceding to God. Joshua doing the physical as well as other men but Moses doing the spiritual having his hands up- where their help came from (from God), of course) Remember when God wanted to give Moses the ten commandments Moses was instructed to go upon Mt. Sinai. Even king David said that he would lift up his eyes unto the hills where his help (help of God) comes (Psalm 121:1-2). Unity of purpose is important in teamwork so that each person has a role or task and all these is for accomplishing what is required. You can see the same is applied in church services and in crusades- many workers with each playing a role and all these roles played well accomplish the required results. I remember at one time we went to some trading centre to evangelize by holding a crusade during day time

and having a night vigil at a home of one of our sisters in the Lord. Prior to the crusade the Pastor in charge of the evangelistic team had us in groups of two going to sensitize and also to preach to those we meet at the same time.

Now before I go to the other scriptures and for your information evangelism is spiritual warfare between the servants of God and Satan and his demons by fighting using the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God and salvation as their helmet to bring people/remove people from the kingdom and power of Satan to the kingdom and power of God, (Ephesians 6:17, Colossians 1:12-13)

Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the children of the captivity builded the temple unto the LORD God of Israel;

Then they came to Ze-rub'-ba-bel, and to the chief of the fathers, and said unto them, Let us build with you: for we seek your God, as ye do; and we do sacrifice unto him since the days of E'-sar-had'-don king of Assur, which brought us up hither.

But Ze-rub'-ba-bel, and Jesh'-u-a, and the rest of the chief of the fathers of Israel, said unto them, ye have nothing to do with us to build a house unto our God; but we ourselves together will build unto the LORD God of Israel, as king Cyrus the king of Persia hath commanded us.

Ezra 4:1-3

We must have reservations when it comes to God's work or project and not to allow any Tom, Dick and Harry to join us in the work be it with their labour or their finances. The work of the Lord is to be done by the true servants of God (his children) who know him personally as their God and Father and have a close relationship with him. Let us have a look at another scripture on the same issue at hand.

Then went I up in the night by the brook, and viewed the wall, and turned back, and entered by the gate of the valley, and so returned.

And the rulers knew not whither I went, or what I did; neither had I as yet told it to the Jews, nor to

the rulers, nor to the rulers, nor to the rest that did the work.

Then said I unto them, ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach.

Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work.

But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian, heard it, they laughed us to scorn, and despised us, and said, What is this thing that ye do? Will ye rebel against the king?

Then answered I them, and said unto them, The God of heaven, he will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build: but ye have no portion, nor right, nor memorial, in Jerusalem.

Nehemiah 2:15-20

Even Nehemiah refused to allow God's enemies to join and assist them in the work of the Lord and said only God's servants will rise up and do it.

Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:

(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus).

Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.

Repent therefore this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.

Acts 8:14-23

Simon the sorcerer in Samaria was thoroughly rebuked by Apostle Peter and was told off that he had neither part nor lot in God's work. The apostle clearly realized that Simon had not genuinely converted to Christ Jesus and was thus still bound in sin going by what he uttered and which of course came from his heart (Mark 7:20-23). Now in the same vain I do add that we need not also as Christians to go and support the work of God's enemies in any way and must separate ourselves from such useless and worthless ventures.

AFTER these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his

face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.

Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.

Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves. Carry neither purse, nor scrip, nor shoes: and salute no man by the way.

And into whatsoever house ye enter, first say, peace be to this house.

And if the son of peace be there, your peace shall rest upon it: if not, it shall turn to you again.

And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the labourer is worthy of his hire. Go not from house to house.

And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you:

And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.

But into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you not, go your ways out into the streets of the same, and say,

Even the very dust of your city, which cleaveth on us, we do wipe off against you: notwithstanding be ye sure of this, that the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.

Luke 10:1-11

The pattern that Jesus Christ gave to these seventy continued as the scriptures do record.

NOW Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour. And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;

Who seeing Peter and John about to go in to the temple asked an alms;

And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.

And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.

Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus of Nazareth rise up and walk.

And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

And all the people saw him walking and praising God:

And they knew that it was which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him.

Acts 3:1-10

Apostles Peter and John were walking together and ministered to the lame man.

Now while Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made inquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate,

And called, and asked whether Simon, which was surnamed Peter, were lodged there.

While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee.

Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them.

Then Peter went down to the men which were sent unto him from Cornelius; and said, Behold, I am he whom ye seek: what is the cause wherefore ye are come?

And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by a holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee.

Then called he them in, and lodged them. And on the morrow Peter went away with them, and certain brethren from Joppa accompanied him.

Acts 10:17-23

You can see apostle Peter was accompanied by other brethren to Cornelius' house

NOW there were in the church that was at An'-ti-och certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Ni'-ger, and Lu'-ci-us of

Cy-re'-ne and Man'-a-en, which had been brought up with Herod the te'-trarch, and Saul.

As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

Acts 13:1-3

God called both Apostles Paul and Barnabas to work for him.

And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought masters much gain by, soothsaying: The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which show unto us the way of salvation.

And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them in to the market place unto the rulers, And brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city, And teach customs, which are not lawful for us to receive, neither to observe, being Romans. And the multitude's rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them.

And when they had laid many stripes upon them they cast them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely:

Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.

And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sung praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bonds were loosed.

Acts 16:16-26

You can see here also the duo working together for the Lord.

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels in heaven, but my Father only.

But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark.

And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Then shall two be in the field; the one will be taken and the other left.

Two women shall be grinding with at the mill; the one will be taken and the other left.

Mathew 24:35-41

All those who are serving by preaching and teaching are doing so with high expectation of being rewarded by the Lord in heaven when he shall come for them in the rapture of the holy Church. But the truth of the matter not all shall be taken by the Lord when he comes for his Church.

The reason for the Lord leaving the others is because they did serve in sin (2 timothy 2:19, Matthew 7:21-23) or handled the word of God deceitfully (2 Corinthians 4:1-2) or did not present to people the truth of the word of God (sound doctrine) (2 timothy 2:15, 2 timothy 3:16-17) and therefore presented an unsound doctrine/ a totally different gospel (Galatians 1:6-9) and they ended becoming a cursed lot and which is unacceptable in heaven (Revelation 21:27). Those did not abide in the word which never passes away (Matthew 24:35, Isaiah 40:8) yet the Scripture expects them to abide therein (1 John 2:24-25, John 15:5-8). If you are serving the Lord do so without fear or favour sticking only to the truth and nothing else, otherwise all your efforts will come to nought when the Lord comes to take his Church and to reward

each servant accordingly as apostle Paul anticipated at the time of his departure (2 Timothy 4:6-8) and as the Lord also promised (Revelation 22:7-14).

Notes to the reader

I thank you for taking your time to read this book and hope it has been of much help to you. If you are not yet saved but had wanted to serve the Lord and is serious about it, then pray in repentance believing God to save you as follows: Lord Jesus I come to you today as a sinner, I now repent of all my sins, kindly please forgive me for sinning against you, cleanse me now with your precious blood which you shed for me on the cross at Calvary and please make me your servant. I ask all this trusting in Jesus' name, Amen.

If you have sincerely said the above prayer, join a church that preaches and teaches the word of God from the Holy Bible and practises it and ask the pastor for a believer's water baptism and after which ask to be prayed to be filled with the Holy Spirit, if not yet filled. You can write for any thing else you need to say about the book using the address given.

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The Author Fredrick Geoffrey Omondi is the Author of ‘The Christian Walk,’ ‘A Christian and How not to backslide’ ‘The growing faith’ ‘The World of Wisdom’ among other books. He is a born again



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