

Bible Examples

Read Hebrews Chapter 11 (often referred to as the Heroes of Faith chapter.) In this section of Scripture, God provides a clear presentation of what it means to serve Him.

It is evident in this passage that some servants of God experienced mighty deliverance, while others were brutally killed.

Another stark comparison is the difference between Peter's sermon on the Day of Pentecost and Stephen's preaching (read Acts chapters 2 and 7.) Both of these men spoke very similar messages, yet Peter's resulted in the conversion of 3,000+ and Stephen's ended with him being martyred.

Why? Because of God's sovereign plan.

Enthusiasm to serve the Lord is admirable and desirable, but this zeal must be accompanied by knowledge. Zeal is not problematic; zeal without knowledge is.

*"For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge."
(Romans 10:2)*

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## You Are In Good Company

If you are having problems choosing to serve God, you are in good company. God chose the following people, and each preferred not to do God's plan. Yet they submitted to the Father's will and obeyed. Would you also yield to God?

Moses said: *"Please, Lord, I have never been eloquent..."* (Exodus 4:10)

Jeremiah said: *"...I cannot speak: for I am a child"* (Jeremiah 1:6)

Isaiah said: *"Then said I, Lord, how long?..."* (Isaiah 6:11)

Peter said: *"...Not so, Lord..."* (Acts 10:14)

Even Jesus Himself said: *"...Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done."* (Luke 22:42)

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Conclusion

Be zealous of good works. Earnestly desire to obey and serve Christ. Seek to excel in God's Kingdom.

But do it God's way! Not with self-effort! Instead, with death to self!

Allow Jesus to do it through you!

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me..." (Galatians 2:20)

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Many people who repent of their sins, give their lives to Jesus, experience His glorious forgiveness and redemption, and then excitedly decide they want to serve God. This desire is genuinely wonderful and should be nurtured and encouraged.

However, there are potential pitfalls that should be avoided.

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Throwing Water On The Fire

Satan hates all people, and he particularly despises it when someone leaves his kingdom of darkness and is transferred into God's Kingdom of Light!

"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:" (Colossians 1:13)

"...the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." (Revelation 12:12)

Sadly, the enemy has successfully used fellow believers to attempt to douse the fire of these

SO, YOU WANT TO SERVE GOD?

newly saved saints. Senior Christians often cast waters of "logic" and "experience" on the flames of the freshly redeemed.

If the devil's plans prevail, he will leave the novice impotent and unable to impact others for the Kingdom of Christ.

Encouragement for any 'on fire' people must be Holy Spirit led and not give any false, unbiblical, or humanistic expectations; however, it is never appropriate to quench the Holy Spirit's work in any follower of Jesus.

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### False Expectations

*"I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. (13) I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." (Philippians 4:12-13)*

Many zealous newbies will be given a false assurance that in Jesus, they can do anything. However, one needs to read the context (see Philippians 4:12-13 above.) In Christ, we can live properly if we have an abundance or if we are suffering need. The Apostle Paul's life is a commentary on this. He suffered many things for the sake of serving Jesus.

In Christ, a life led by the Holy Spirit can accomplish anything! **Anything that God calls us to do!**

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Use Your Talents To Serve God

Often new believers are encouraged to pursue their former goals, in Jesus. Especially those who have skills and talents that are beloved by the public.

Musicians and athletes are most susceptible to this trap. Newly saved 'stars' are routinely encouraged to use their God-given talents in the service of God's Kingdom.

This approach is a subtle demonic trap, think about it.

- Their talent is God-given
- They have used this gift for their own (and Satan's) glory for years
- The skill has been twisted, perverted, and contorted for selfish gains

Now, after salvation, well-intended believers are encouraging them to use this perversion of God's gift, and try to glorify God with it!

It is far more realistic to give this talent back to God, let Him clean it up, and allow Him to return it to you (if that is His will.) This process may take time, but if He gives the skill back to you and calls you to use it, it will be a pure gift and bring Him much glory.

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### Realistic Expectations

*"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." (John 15:5)*

As the Spirit leads, we must set realistic expectations of how serving God may look.

Regularly, only half of the truth is presented as encouragement. Often saints are told of slaying giants, city walls falling, rivers and seas parting, the dead restored to life, etc. Rarely are the trials and difficulties mentioned. Seldom do we hear of years of slavery and imprisonment, boils, lions, furnaces, etc.

Daniel knew that the lions' den awaited him if he was caught violating the king's law. Daniel broke the king's edict anyhow. Likewise, with the men in the fiery furnace. See what they had to say:

*"If it be so, our God whom we serve **is able** to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and **he will** deliver us out of thine hand, O king. (18) **But if not**, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up."*  
(Daniel 3:17-18)

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stated that God can and will deliver them, but even if He doesn't, they will serve Him and not bow to the idol.

This faith shows a genuine commitment to serving God!

Service and obedience to God should be every believer's intention; however, one should not enter into this path flippantly, seeing only half of the truth.

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