

True Freedom Is In Servanthood

As a pastor, I've seen too many people fall out of the race; they didn't finish what they started. The same thing happens in this natural world as well; people quit it when things get tough. I've asked God why this happens, and I believe this Newsletter will explain it.

I believe that unless you have the attitude of a servant, you will quit when things get tough. Jesus Himself demonstrated a servant's heart. Let's read some Scriptures on this subject.

Hebrews 12:1-2 KJV Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, [2] Looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith; Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

In these verses we see Jesus and the great cloud of witnesses (the Old Testament saints spoken of in Hebrews 11) giving us examples of how to not quit. These people did not just live for themselves. They were served God as #1 and then served the people that He asked them to help. Just think about it; Jesus did not come to this earth for Himself. He had it made before He became a man! Why did He leave the glory of Heaven, come to the earth and become a man subject to pain and sorrow and even death? He came to serve. In that second verse it says for the joy that was set before Him, He endured the cross, despising the shame. He was looking past the cross; He was seeing us being saved by the pain He was suffering! That is why He could have joy while He was on the cross, much like a mother giving birth to her child. People that become Christians just for what God can do for them will not last very long. Unlike Jesus, when pressure comes, they will probably drop out of the race.

In the last few months I've been re-evaluating what I preach. I've asked God if the message I'm preaching is causing people to serve Him or just making them selfish. I've come to this conclusion: people that already have a servanthood mentality will take the message and use it to help others. But those who have a selfish mentality will use it to become more selfish. We must re-evaluate why we think God left us on the earth after we were saved. Are we here just to gain more wealth and power? Or are we here to serve God by serving others? I can't find anywhere in the New Testament where Jesus was selfish. We must become like Him to experience true freedom, which is not just having great material wealth and our bodies well! I believe God wants us to have these things, but I believe true freedom is when we get to the point where we think more about others than we do ourselves.

I'm so blessed to be a pastor in a military town! So many of the Christian Center members are, or have been, in the military. Many of them signed up because a recruiter sold them on the wonderful benefits they could receive if they would just join up. When they got in, they really experienced what true servanthood is. They learned that by serving others, your life becomes more valuable. When I went into the military, I was forced to go in because the draft was going on. I would have been drafted into the army and sent to Vietnam if I hadn't joined the Navy Seabees. Because of my schooling as a

mechanic, the Navy offered me the rank of E-4; but I would not have gone without being forced. My life before going into the military was very self seeking; but after being in for a while, I noticed that I was not the same person! Even though I was not a Christian, I seemed to have a desire to serve others. After I became a Christian that desire really exploded!

Please meditate on these Scriptures, and I believe you will receive revelation to help you get free from yourself.

Luke 12:42-44 NLT And the Lord replied, "A faithful, sensible servant is one to whom the master can give the responsibility of managing his other household servants and feeding them. [43] If the master returns and finds that the servant has done a good job, there will be a reward. [44] I tell you the truth, the master will put that servant in charge of all he owns.

Love you, Pastor Paul