

APRIL 2019 PREACHING RESOURCE MANUAL

Sunday April 7, 2019: God can use you, don't count yourself out

Sunday April 14, 2019: Growing stronger in usefulness in your church and the kingdom

Sunday April 21, 2019: CONVENTION

Sunday April 28, 2019: Serving God without fear

Sunday, April 7, 2019

Dear Pastor/Minister,

We implore you by the mercies of God to prayerfully deliver this message. Use this as a guide. Study the outline thoroughly in advance, meditate on the points and let the message become part of you that you may deliver it from the spirit and the head. You can make relevant additions and illustrations. May God bless your labours with abiding fruits.

GOD CAN USE YOU, DON'T COUNT YOURSELF OUT

But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. Jer 1:7

Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Heb 11:34

And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 2Co 12:9

Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong. 2Co 12:10

But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 1Co 1:27

Lead Text: Exodus. 3:1-15; Jeremiah.1:4-10.

God is awesome. He is so loving that He does not want anyone to perish. 2Pe 3:9 says He "- - - is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." God is however in **a very serious need of people** who would partner with him and who could be sent out to proclaim His great love, joy, power and deliverance to all groups of people- the young and the old; the rich and the poor; the educated and the uneducated, the hopeless, the hurting, the sick, the imprisoned, the oppressed of the devil etc. He needs people to preach the word, to plant His church, to follow up the new converts, to call back the backslider and to edify His people. You can be of use in any of these. Please don't count out yourself. You have what it takes to be of use to God in one area or the other. Wherever you find yourself, as His child remember you are there by His Grace to be used by Him to show forth His Glory.

It is wise to desire and seek to be used by God

1. It adds glorious meaning to your life.
2. It makes your life really count.
3. It gives a type of joy which no possession or position could give.

It is a great privilege to be used by God. Don't count yourself out.

God can use you in His service. He will equip and enable you to accomplish His calling.

Pointers to the fact that God can use you

1. He used the rod of Moses- Ex. 4:2, 4, 17. God can use you.
2. He used a donkey of prophet Balaam to speak to him and save him- Numbers 22:23-32; God can use you.
3. Jesus said God can use stones if human beings refused to be used- Luke 19:40. God can use you.
4. God used a prostitute to save the people of God- Joshua 6:17. God can use you.
5. God used a bird to feed his prophet Elijah during a long period of drought - 1Ki 17:4-6 God can use you.

Things that hold people back from being used of God

1. Feeling of inadequacy:

From the text, Moses was to be used by God in the deliverance of a nation, Israel. Moses' response was (vs. 11) 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring Israelites out of Egypt?' He gave excuse because he felt inadequate for the assignment.

God appointed Jeremiah to bring His word to Nations. In Vs. 6, Jeremiah thought he was too young and inexperienced to be God's spokesman to the world. "I don't know how to speak, I am a child". We should not allow feelings of inadequacy to keep us away from God's assignment. He will provide all we need to accomplish the assignment. God is sovereign and with His presence, we will fulfill.

2. Rejection of God and His plans

3. Evil suggestions, deceits and discouragements by the Devil

- I. You are not good enough for God to use.
- II. You don't know enough to be used by God.

4. Worldliness and indifference among His people.

5. Fears of various types.

Tips to becoming a person God would use

1. Establish a living relationship with God.

2. Believe that God wants to use you whatever your present state.

Moses was born a slave. He confronted Pharaoh and led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. Rehab, a prostitute risked everything she had including her life for God. In Jos. 2:8-11 Rehab recognized the God of the Spies as the God in heaven, God of Strength and God the Almighty. God qualifies the unqualified, when they truly humble and submit themselves to serve Him.

3. Have strong desire to be used by God.

4. Make yourself available. God will make you able. 2 Cor. 3: 5-6.

5. Be there when there is duty call.

Offer yourself to God a living sacrifice.

Make your gift(s) available to Him. He will sanctify and use.

Make your substance available. He will sanctify and use. Our competence to be used by God comes from God himself. Holy Spirit empowers and enables us to do His will.

Eph. 4: 11. The Spirit of God will give illumination. Do not dwell on your fears but on the reliability of God's promises.

6. Don't dwell on your disability. Step out of your limitations Ex. 3: 11, Jer. 1:6.

7. Don't wait until you are perfect and don't be unconcerned about perfection.

8. Trust the Holy Spirit to help you. In humility rely absolutely on Him.

9. Focus on God and what He has done. Joshua 2:8-11.

10. See that your confidence is from God. II Cor. 3:5.

11. Be willing and determined. Acts 4:13.

Conclusion

God is not limited by your age, time, even if you are not educated- Don't rule out yourself. Acts 4 :13. God intends to use you in your weakness for His glory- Don't rule out yourself. God sees possibilities not problems as long as Christ lives in you. Don't rule out yourself. You can be a vessel unto honor in His hands. Don't rule out yourself.

Prayers

You are the potter, I am the clay- Break me,

- Take me- I offer myself. Accept me as a vessel unto you.
- Break me and let all hindrances to you be poured out of my life.
- Mold me- Make me by your power the right person I must be.
- Fill me- Fill me with your Holy Spirit, wisdom and power.
- Use me as you choose but in very noble way.

Sunday, April 14, 2019

Dear Pastor/Minister,

We implore you by the mercies of God to prayerfully deliver this message. Use this as a guide. Study the outline thoroughly in advance, meditate on the points and let the message become part of you that you may deliver it from the spirit and the head. You can make relevant additions and illustrations. May God bless your labours with abiding fruits.

GROWING STRONGER IN USEFULNESS IN YOUR CHURCH AND THE KINGDOM

Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. 2 Timothy 2:21

Text: Luke 19: 12-27

Introduction:

Christians are supposed to be occupied and working for the growth of the Kingdom of God on earth. This can only be achieved by the power and the strength of God (John 15:5).

Usefulness in the church means to be engaged and to work with the gifts of the Holy Spirit that has been given to individual Christian. It is expected that the work will yield fruits of souls for the Kingdom of God. Productivity in every work in life is expected to increase as the business grows; in the same way, as Christians grow, usefulness and productivity in the House of God should also increase. Growing stronger spiritually is thus necessary for improved service in the Church leading to increase productivity.

As much as it is desirable that we improve in our services to God and bring more people to His Kingdom, there may be issues of life and predisposition of the mind that reduces strength, usefulness and consequently productivity. These and other things that can help us to be stronger in our service to God shall be addressed in this message.

Requirements for growing stronger in usefulness in the church and the kingdom

1. Assurance of salvation: This is the starting point. One cannot be positively useful in the Kingdom where he or she does not belong. Everyone who would be useful in the Kingdom of God must first surrender his/her life to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior(1 John 5:12-13)

2. Desire to grow and know more of God and His kingdom: (1Peter 2:2) No force-feeding in God's Kingdom.
3. Love for God and love for mankind: This propels the Christian to serve God and to want other people to join the Kingdom (Romans 5:5) Love is a necessity to be useful in the kingdom.
4. Determination: It takes a strong determination for someone to be growing stronger and stronger in useful to God in the church and the kingdom. One has to desire it and determine to achieve the desire. (1Corinthians 9:24-27, 1 Corinthians 16:13, Romans 12:11-12.)
5. Obedience: Obedience to the word of God. Obedience to the constituted authority in the church is a key factor. (Hebrews 13:17.)
6. Being at peace in your mind with the pastors and your church members.
7. Continuous self-development in mind and spirit: The more developed you are in knowledge, wisdom, understanding of the word and ways of God, of people, of time and seasons, and of the areas of service, the more you will be useful to God.
8. Sound health: Attend to your health by eating and drinking and eating only things that are good for your health in proper quantity; ensuring adequate physical activities, etc. Remember only the healthy can work for God.
9. Learn to work selflessly: Don't wait for praise or recognition.

Sources of Spiritual Strength

God is the one and only source of the strength we need to be useful in the Church. (John 15:1-5) The following are ways to draw strength from God, to increase strength and remain strong.

1. Regular and repeated self-dedication and consecration.
2. Get closer and closer to God.
3. Praying: Luke 18:1, 1Thessalonians 5:17
4. Reading and meditation on the Word of God. Joshua 1:8, 2 Timothy 2:15
5. Fellowship with other Christians. Hebrews 10:25, Proverbs 27:17
6. Reading edifying books.
7. Submitting to mentorship: Mentored learning is better and faster than self-learning.
8. Attending Bible College, etc.
9. Service and Commitment to church and workers' unit. The more you serve, the more you are strengthened. Luke 19:24-26, 2 Peter 1:10, Hebrews 6:11.

Hindrances to growing stronger and stronger in the work of the kingdom of God

1. Sin. Psalm 66:18, Proverbs. 28:13
2. Pride. Proverbs 16:18-19, James 4:6
3. Rebellion, Division, Strife, Pettiness and Sedition in the Church. 1 Corinthians 1:10, Philippians 1:27 John 17:11.
4. Apathy, Laziness and Indifference. Luke 19:20

Conclusion:

Christians are saved to serve. We need the power of the Holy Spirit in order to be effective in this service. There is therefore the need for us to grow from strength to strength spiritually, physically, socially and economically. God is the Source of this strength, the owner of the work and the rewarder of the laborers.

Sunday, April 28, 2019

Dear Pastor/Minister,

We implore you by the mercies of God to prayerfully deliver this message. Use this as a guide. Study the outline thoroughly in advance, meditate on the points and let the message become part of you that you may deliver it from the spirit and the head. You can make relevant additions and illustrations. May God bless your labours with abiding fruits.

SERVING GOD WITHOUT FEAR

**This is a power ministration Sunday.
Spend maximum of 30 minutes on the message and let the people cry unto God for grace to serve with all their hearts.**

Lead texts Luke 1:74-75

74 that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear,
75 in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

Lead Bible References

Daniel 3:13-18; Matthew 10: 26-33; Luke 9:26

Introduction

To serve implies to work for somebody or to attend to customers, especially in a store, and provide them with goods, supplies or services.

A worker working or serving in fear has the tendency of encountering various difficulties in the performance of his duty. He has the propensity to commit errors that may even be costly. For a person working in a shop with fear, he will make mistake in serving goods at times, beyond what has been paid for. A house help serving his master in fear will damage items in the home. Breakable items will get broken by him and food items will get overcooked or burnt when griped with fear. Serving with fear is therefore not an encouraging practice for a human master and it is totally unacceptable to our heavenly Father.

Luke 1:74 says we are delivered out of the hands of our enemies so we might serve God without fear. Serving God is more than working for God in the church. You do not have to be a pastor or in “full-time” ministry to be considered a servant of God. Serving God involves following His word, doing His will and wanting to please Him.

Every believer has been called to serve God. Every child of God must serve God without fear.

The fear referred to in the scripture above is not the reverential fear of God, but the fear of your enemies. The Jews were serving God in the Temple in the days of Zechariah the priest, who said the words, with fear of the Romans who were ruling over them.

Today, our enemies are not flesh and blood as Ephesians 6:12 tells us. God knows that we cannot serve two masters. If we have to serve Him effectively, then we must be first delivered out of the hands of fears that our enemies are fond of causing. The enemies are the flesh, the world and the Devil. The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life” We must mention our stomachs (what to eat and drink) and our desires.

Things that make people fear serving God- Matthew 10:26-33

1. Persecution of various types
2. What would people say
3. Loosing cherished friends or lovers
4. Lies of the Devil for example
 - 1) That you will miss much in life
 - 2) That you will not enjoy your life
 - 3) That it is too hard to serve the Lord.
 - 4) That you will never be able to continue serving him all your life.

What is serving God without fear Acts 5:27-29

1. It is taking open stand for Jesus everywhere. Luke 9:26
2. Serving Lord whatever the consequences e.g Daniel and his friends, the Apostles when they were instructed by authorities to stop preaching.
3. Serving with confidence and faith that His rewards are sure.

Why we must serve God without fear

1. If we have to serve God effectively, it must be without fear. Fear disrupts and interferes with our service to God. Serving God will be greatly hampered when you are caught between pleasing God and pleasing those who have the oppressive rule over you.
2. It promotes our spiritual growth.
3. It makes it easier for the Holy Spirit to fill and control us.
4. It makes people to respect us and our God. Timid children of God are hindrances to unbelievers.

What serving God without fear entails.

1. Reading your Bible and praying even if people think you are odd or that prayer doesn't work, or that the Bible isn't really true or isn't the word of God.
2. Daily living your life in such a way that people notice a difference in you.
3. When people ask about the change they observe in your life, you are able to tell them what Jesus has done in your life, transforming you and making you a new creation that loves and serves Him.
4. That you take the bold step in confronting life's situations in faith as revealed by the word of God.
5. Involvement in the work of the gospel in obedience to the injunction from Jesus Christ.

Secrets of enduring strength to serve the Lord without fear

1. Making Jesus not just your Saviour but the Lord of your life.
2. Being filled with the word of God. This is more than knowing the word. It is believing in the word of God so much that it controls your thoughts and your actions.
3. Covenant commitment to Christ Jesus. I will continue to follow Him come what may.
4. Fearing Him who can kill the soul more than those who can only kill the body.

Conclusion

We must therefore serve God reverently as a Father and not a foe. Likewise we must serve him and stand for him boldly in the face of human and satanic oppositions.