

Stewardship Month

A Testimony of faith and service

By Thomas Tan

I came to Jurong Christian Church in 1986 and was baptised in 1987 by Rev Terry Kee.



Three decades have gone by in the wink of an eye. In these three decades, I have participated in various ministries – serving as usher, chargehand, worship leader in the English and dialect services, cell leader, councilman and chairman of the recent church rebuilding committee.

I am a firm believer in Christ, hungry for spiritual growth. Yet, despite my varied involvements in God's service, I am just like many of you, often feeling inadequate with a lack of expertise that I see others possess.

In my weakness, I see more of the godness of God. He does not despise me, but take me as I am. He sees my willing and sincere heart. He trains and moulds me. I am very much gladdened at every moment of struggle and on every reflection of hindsight that I can totally surrender and trust God for his guidance.

Sis. Doris encouraged me to lead in worship, Deacon Peter gave me the opportunity to sing in dialect. When Bro. Ronnie told me to take over as Cell leader, I found myself in Christian book stores almost weekly surveying suitable material for bible study. In 2008, Bro. Swee Leong challenged me to serve in the church council. I stepped into the council with much uncertainty of how long I would survive the rigours of service as a councilman. By God's help through the stresses, it came to pass that I was led through three full terms; i.e., 6 years; in the council and thereafter followed by 2 full years in the church rebuilding committee.

Service is an Expression of Worship

I have grown much in faith because of serving. Service to God is also an expression of worship.

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God--this is your true and proper worship.” – Rom. 12:1

Without service, there really is no true worship or following of the Lord. The result would be that there is little or no spiritual growth.

Service is Exemplifying Christ

If we were to look at the life of Christ and try to find several overriding themes, servanthood would have to be at the top of the list.

Christ, though He is God, took the form of a servant in order to accomplish man's redemption (Phil 2:6-8). In a similar vein, Jesus stated in Mt. 20:28 that concerning His earthly ministry, He did not come to be served but to serve.

Therefore, if the believer is being conformed to the image of Christ, then he is being conformed to that of a servant engaged in service. A believer then is growing spiritually when he is increasingly becoming a servant engaged in service.

Service Is Exhibiting Spiritual Gifts

When we as believers are engaged in the service for the Lord, we are inevitably using our spiritual gifts. The very purpose for spiritual gifts is to bring about spiritual growth in the life of believers. This spiritual growth is called edification - which means to build up the body of Christ. (1 Cor 14:3-5,12, 26)

Serving the Lord in any capacity brings spiritual growth to the server because he is being used by the Lord. The purpose for service is to bring spiritual growth and maturity to the body of Christ. (Eph. 4:11-12)

Service is co-labouring with God

Each and every one of us can be of service in any capacity. One of the most exciting considerations about the Christian's service is that he is a co-labourer with God. There are many ways to serve the Lord in ministries. No one is too old, too young, too poor, or too far gone in failure and sin. All believers are by default in full-time Christian service. Ultimately, all service and labour for the Lord is never in vain. (1 Cor. 15:58)

May I challenge you seriously: Take this stewardship month to re-dedicate your life to God. Remember the “Alabaster Jar” hymn we sang:

*“Here I am, take me as an offering
Here I am, giving every heartbeat for Your glory
Take me”*

God has good, pleasing and perfect plans for his children. He wants us to be new people with freshness of thought, alive to glorify Him. Since he wants only what is best for us, and since he gave his Son to make our new lives possible, we should joyfully offer ourselves as living sacrifices for him.

5 keys to Spiritual Growth

Scripture, Prayer, Fellowship, Witnessing, Service

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