



Lively Stones | PETER 2:5

Holding forth the word of life

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The Secret of Serving is Serving Secretly!

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ." (Colossians 3:23-24)

Last year, together with all like-minded BP members, Life Bible-Presbyterian Church celebrated sixty years of God's faithfulness in the founding of the Bible-Presbyterian Church in 1950. The Life Church English Service was launched at 5.30 p.m. on October 20, 1950, at 144, Prinsep Street, in that "old, grey, little Church". About 120 gathered at this inaugural service. The Sunday school was launched the following month with an initial enrolment of 27 divided into three classes with the pastor as superintendent. Today, including children, we have a regular weekly attendance of 1,200 at all our services and an average weekly attendance of 450 in more than 40 classes at our Sunday school. This is truly the Lord Jesus Christ's doing. Without His faithfulness, we will never be what we are today. Hence, our theme for the 60th Anniversary celebration was "Saved to Serve; Jesus is Coming!" As we march into 2011, let us remind ourselves to continue to serve the Lord Jesus Christ. The secret of serving is serving secretly!

The Apostle Paul gave a series of instructions to various members in the Body of Christ – to wives, husbands, children, fathers and servants. In summary: "And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ." (Colossians 3:23-24) Paul was teaching the Colossians the true attitude of Christian service. "Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily" is the attitude that every Christian must possess. Whatever our roles may be, we are to serve heartily. Hearty services are not burdensome. Not only we will enjoy serving, we also receive blessings through serving other believers. King Solomon wrote: "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest." (Ecclesiastes 9:10) We must therefore always serve the Lord Jesus Christ with the spirit of excellence. Every task must be carried out with utmost earnestness and commitment to its faithful and

successful completion. Every task is an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to glorify Christ because "there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest". As the Lord Jesus Christ's blood-bought saints, we must live sanctified life and serve humbly in accordance to His calling.

The secret of serving is serving secretly. Knowing that our services are not unto men, but to the Lord Jesus Christ, we must serve quietly in the spirit of meekness. As

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our services are "to the Lord, and not unto men", we want to consecrate our bodies as living sacrifices in accordance to Romans 12:1-2, to serve the Lord to the best of our God-given gifts and talents. Let us make every effort this year to bring a soul to Christ. Bring a friend to your Sunday school class, and allow the Holy Spirit to minister to this soul. We are saved to serve the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus' second coming is imminent; hence, we must make haste to bring every soul we know to the Lord Jesus Christ before His imminent return. The spirit of indebtedness will motivate us to evangelize where we are planted. Understanding the Gospel-debt is incentive enough for us to strain every effort to bring souls to Christ. But God is no man's debtor, "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister." (Hebrews 6:10) The Apostle Paul affirmed us when he wrote: "Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ." (Colossians 3:24) What a great assurance this is, though we are not to serve expecting a reward from the Lord, we must thank God for His bountiful grace in preparing for us a "reward of the inheritance" to those who serve Him faithfully till the end. Let us also realize that service itself is one way of paying our Gospel-debt. However, God has given us greater incentive to motivate us to serve Him in the spirit

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General Superintendent's Address

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of meekness. Jesus says, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matt. 5:16) We serve to pay our Gospel-debt, we serve to receive blessings from the Lord, and we serve knowing that there is an eternal reward in heaven waiting for us one day.

Paul wrote to the Corinthians: "Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward." (1 Cor. 3:13-14).

As we begin this New Year, let us start right with the Lord and pray for His sustenance to finish well one day. As the Apostle John so instructed, "Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward." (2 John 8). Make 2011 a year of significance for the Lord Jesus Christ in all that we do. Whatsoever we do, let us do it heartily as unto the Lord Jesus Christ, knowing that He has prepared a reward of the inheritance for those who consistently live in accordance to His holy will. Amen.

*Elder (Dr) Sherman Ong
General Superintendent
Life Bible-Presbyterian Church Sunday School*

We are called to serve. Our duty is to "glorify God and to enjoy Him forever" (Westminster Shorter Catechism Ans 1). Serving the Lord is to be a habit, a natural action of ours, because we are to do everything as unto the Lord. We are to serve regardless of our age. The Lord only requires us to be available to serve in whatever way he calls us to. Be encouraged as you read the teen's testimony of below. For the young people, may this be an encouragement. For parents, may you take to step to serve and let your children serve to.

Serving God in areas like the children's ministry and Lively Teens Fellowship the past few years has really brought abundant and special blessings that I would otherwise have not experienced.

When I first started out about 3-4 years ago, I was scared, and I think I didn't really understand what it meant to serve God. Along the way God taught me that sacrifices were required in service, as well as the fact that our heart attitude was the most important.

At times I would feel tired and discouraged, be it when my service seemed unfruitful or when I was weary after long weeks of school and stress. However, through all these, God taught me what commitment meant, and also helped me to reflect on my little love as compared to His great love which caused Him to give up all. He also gave me the joy and privilege of seeing my labour of love bear fruit sometimes, even when my service was not perfect. This could come in forms like witnessing the younger teens I mentored grow in love and knowledge of God.

Truly God has given me so much more than I could ever give Him, even while serving Him.

Joanne Loo (18)

As teens, we have many duties to fulfill – we need to achieve good results, perform well in our CCA, involve ourselves in CIP etc. To top things off, we often feel like we need that quality time with ourselves, our friends and our family! We always seem to have 'not enough time'. How, then, can serving God ever come into the picture?

He honours those who honour Him. God multiplies my strength and time. All I need to do is to willingly offer them up to Him.

With salvation comes service; with service comes sacrifice. Serving God requires time, energy and effort – which can only come from sacrificing other things in our lives. I struggled much with this concept, wanting both God and my own desires. But I thank God for teaching me recently, albeit in painful ways, that service requires commitment. And only when I've fully surrendered my desires to God, can I truly commit myself to serving Him. God does not want half-hearted service; He wants the best from us.

Teens like us are known for our boundless energy. However, "even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall." There were many times that I felt so tired and weak while serving, and to be honest, there were even times when I wished I wasn't serving. It would free up a lot of time, and I can channel more energy into getting better grades or achieving more. I wouldn't have to be so disciplined, and life would be more relaxed. "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." God has been gracious to uplift my spirit many times, by reminding me that since He has called me to service, He would be the one to grant strength.

How true, and what a comfort! Indeed, He honours those who honour Him. God multiplies my strength and time. All I need to do is to willingly offer them up to Him. The joy and spiritual growth that I receive through service, far outweighs all that I ever sacrificed.

Tabitha Lee (17)