

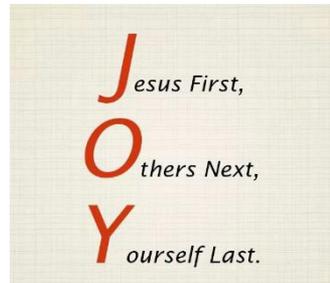
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Biblical Models in the Service of God in Perilous Times

There are excellent examples in the Bible in faithful service to God that are worthy of our consideration. Remembering God in His Word and prayer and serving God in worship during bad times like in the midst of a global pandemic is a litmus test of our devotion and faithfulness to the Lord. Faithfulness to God includes personal and sabbath worship, corporate prayer, witness and effectual service in the body of Christ, the Church (1 Tim 3:11, 2 Tim 2:2).

Serving God with Joy

God is to be served with joyful faithfulness and loyalty to Him and obedience to His inspired Word (Josh 24:14; Matt 24:45; Heb 3:1,2,5,6): for we cannot serve two masters at the same time (Luke 16:13). It is required of stewards that they should be found faithful (1 Cor 4:2). Whether it be reading or communicating God's Word by



personal study or teaching the Word to the family or church, whether as a Sunday School teacher, worship leader or in the music ministry, we are to serve Him faithfully (Josh 11:15; Acts 20:27). This applies to any ministry: music, giving, virtual outreach and evangelism, corporate prayers, ushering, conducting safety measures, cleaning the church after service, PA ministry, church camp or fellowship meetings. Gene Getz (p. 105-112) speaks of accountable, systematic and proportionate service and our giving regularly to God in our tithes and offerings as a mark of faithful stewardship, just

as the prophet Malachi told the nation of Israel not to rob God of the tithes due unto Him (2Cor 9:7,8; Mal 3:10).

The children of God saved by His grace are to serve God faithfully by employing our time, gifts and our God-given substance for the sake of His kingdom and for His glory, standing in the truth (2 Tim 4:7), earnestly contending for the faith once delivered to the saints (Jud 3). The elect of God has a duty to render our lives, our bodies as a living sacrifice, and our heart and soul in the service of the most high to God in His church or the saving of souls in missions, both joyfully and faithfully (Rom 12:1,2; 3 Jn 5). We serve God faithfully when we use the time, talents, and substance for His kingdom and the saving of souls in missions (Mt 28:18-20; Luke 16:11), recognising that **all we own are gifts from God who richly gives us all things to enjoy and we are to return thanks to him as well (1 Chron 29:14; Deut 8:18), as we go through a health crisis.**

God Honours Fidelity

The Lord God who is coming again will be the Ruler and Judge of all one day, and He will appraise and reward every man for



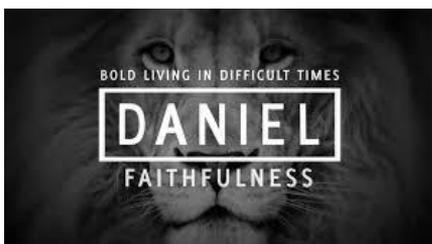
**Serve God
FAITHFULLY**

his exemplary faithfulness (1 Cor 4:2; 1 Sam 26:23). The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him in every opportunity of worship or service (Matt 20:1-16). The Lord knows our hearts and our faithfulness to His Word and His church or our indifference towards it (Rev 2:13,19). We are to honour him with our time, talents, tithes, and offerings which is our privilege and sacred duty. A faithful Christian loves his/her God and honours God in all he/she does (Prov 28:20). **On His return, the Lord Jesus will reward His faithful servants or stewards (Matt 24:46) with eternal commendation and crowns as appraised (Lk 19:12-27) and for their labour of love at the judgment seat of Christ (Matt 25:14-30, 2 Cor 5:10).** Paul speaks of a crown of righteousness that awaits the servants of Christ who have kept the faith and have been faithful to God in service (2 Tim 4:7,8). We should be watchful and faithful in all things committed to us (2 Cor 5:10), lest we lose our reward (2 Jn 8).

Pattern of Biblical Faithfulness

There are many God-fearing men in the OT and NT who dared to worship and serve God in difficult times too and here are some examples: Nehemiah, Moses, and Abraham were found faithful in heart to the Lord (Neh 9:8, Gal 3:9). Moses was faithful to the tasks God committed to him in leading God's people out of Egypt (Num

12:7; Heb 3:2,5). For example, Joseph was faithful to God and his Egyptian master even when false accusations were hurled at him, but God vindicated him in the end (Gen 39:7,22,23) even though he suffered for a season in prison. King David was faithful to God and to Saul despite all the injustices he suffered at Saul's hands and Absalom (1 Sam 22:14).



Daniel and his friends were faithful and uncompromising in their stand for the Lord, even in the midst of danger, and they were blessed by God (Dan 6:4,10). Shadrach, Meschach, Abednego, and the exiled Hebrews were

examples of faithfulness to God as they obeyed His commandments rather than man and were promoted by the will of God (Dan 3:28; Ex 20:5). Ruth's answer to Naomi was an example of faithfulness (Ruth 1:16,17). Paul was faithful in declaring the whole truth to the people as he declared the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:20,27). Silas was a faithful brother in his service to both Peter in trying times (1 Pet 5:12) and the Apostle Paul (Acts 15:40; 1 Thes 1:1) in missions. **There are many good examples of the Apostle Paul's companions who were faithful to God and Paul and served alongside Paul (see Rom 16) in the extension of the kingdom of God.**

Onesimus was an ordinary Christian who was faithful in his relationship to his God and to other Christians like Paul (Col 4:9). Tychicus was truthful and faithful in serving Paul and others for Christ's sake (Eph 6:21). Timothy was

faithful to God and to Paul as a young pastor in Ephesus (1 Cor 4:17; Phil 2:19-24). Antipas was faithful in his witness to the Lord Jesus even though it meant death (Rev 2:13). The testimony of these witnesses challenges us to greater devotion in service and greater faithfulness (Heb 11, 12:1,2). We are to follow and emulate Moses, David, Joshua, Caleb, and many others. We do well to imitate the faith and faithfulness of godly leaders who have been worthy examples to us in the historic past (Heb 13:7).

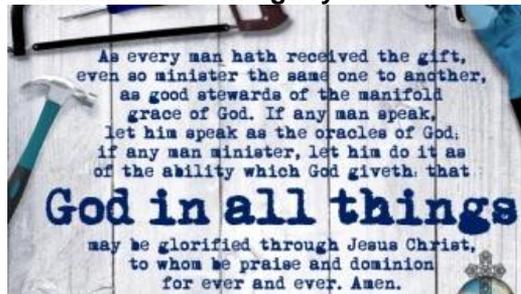
Col 4:7 All my state shall Tychicus declare unto you, [who is] a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellowservant in the Lord:

Col 4:8 Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that he might know your estate, and comfort your hearts;

Col 4:9 With Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is [one] of you. They shall make known unto you all things which [are done] here.

Conclusion

During this health crisis this is a seasonal time for reflection and examination of our lives. Believers live in a fallen and dangerous world of phobias and indifference to the Word of Christ. Faithfulness to God means surrendering ourselves to Christ first; our heart and soul, our entire being and our time, talents and treasures for his glory to support His work of the gospel in missions and His church in the extension of His kingdom, even in the midst of a pandemic. It also means to worship the Lord, to pray for one another, witness and share Christ, and defend the Word of God, contending for the faith. **Faithfulness to the glory of God is the will of God for us. In this exacting and turbulent world of pestilences, many may neglect their spiritual privileges and duties to God, and we need to be careful and mindful that we do not do so intentionally or inadvertently (1 Pet 4:10,11).**



There is joy, blessing and comfort, however, in the midst of these uncertain and troubled times which can come as a result of ministry to others for the Lord (Matt 5:11,12). **Our lives will be tested and tried to see if we are accountable to God (Dan 3:16-19; Rev 2:13) but God's sovereign faithfulness will preserve us and be sufficient in all trials and tribulations and will always provide a way of escape** (1 Cor 10:13). Let us strive by the enabling of the Holy Spirit, to be faithful to God, to build up His church, and to encourage and exhort one another in the midst of a pestilence. Even in potential danger and a global health calamity, let us dare to obey and trust God in personal and corporate worship and move forward cautiously with all the safety measures in place, to remember to honour, and serve Christ in His church as His fervent, fruitful, and faithful stewards till our Lord returns soon.

Jack Sin

(Consulted and edited from David Gucik's commentaries, Gene Getz's Real Prosperity, Moody Press, 1990, Loius Berkhof's Systematic Theology, Banner of Truth Trust, 2012 and <https://www.studylight.org/commentary/ephesians/6-5.html>)



Thank God for the Lord's Day Worship on 9 Aug 2020 and commemoration of the Lord's Supper in remembrance of Christ till He comes!



A Sharing from Reading God's Word

Three lessons that I learnt from
Joshua 1:

- (1) God's promise that He will be with His people and will keep His promises. Using Joshua also reminds me that God's plan is His and He can use anyone He desires or calls to fulfill His will. He chooses us, not us choosing God
- (2) We have to do our part as believers. Prosperity and success should be built on obedience to His Word and commandments always, and not measured by our own success KPIs or achievements (although all these are from God's gifts given to us). God's promises will come to pass when we are obedient.
- (3) Be strong and courageous - the journey is not necessarily a bed of roses. There will be trials as we follow Jesus but all the more we need to hold on to Him and not depart from Him at the hint of danger/trouble.

**Life Lessons
From
The Book of
Joshua**



Dr Koh Poh Wee



Praise God for these young men!
Pray for Pastor and the outreach
to Joelson, Bronson, Ian, Chester
& Wesley.



A mutually edifying
fellowship at the
Pastors/Preachers
Fraternal Zoom
Meeting on Friday 7
Aug 2020, with
churches
represented from 6
countries.

Memory Verse

John 9:31 Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! Kindly comply with the safety measures available on the notice boards. For our visitors, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Rev Jack Sin speaks today on “The Eternal Profit of a Soul” (Mark 8:27-38), continuing the Jul to Sep 2020 theme of “Examining the Ministry & Teachings of Christ”.
3. Rev Jack Sin speaks next Sunday on “Blind Man Sees Again” (John 9:1-32).
4. Sunday School classes continues in church after the worship service
5. Chinese Fellowship meets on Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom.
6. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom.
7. The Church Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM) will be held on Sat 29 Aug 2020 at 2pm via Zoom. Details and reports will be sent to all church members.
8. Those who would like to help with the cleaning or safe management procedures of the church, please see Dn Yue Kay.
9. Those who have a testimony to share may submit to Pastor for the weekly.
10. Pastor is still available for counselling via WhatsApp, Email or Mobile.
11. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
 - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mailed to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
 - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
 - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**

Examining the Ministry and Teachings of Christ

LORD'S DAY PROGRAMME FROM JULY-SEP 2020

JULY

5

The 3 Fold Focus of Christ's Ministry (Matthew 9:35-38)

12

The First Miracle at a Wedding (John 2:1-13)

19

The Beatitudes Explained (Matthew 5:1-12)

26

The Divine Cure of the Paralytic (Mark 2:1-12)

AUGUST

2

The Healing of the Impotent Man (John 5:1-15)

9

The Demonstration of Faith (Luke 7:1-11)

16

The Eternal Profit of a Soul (Mark 8:27-38)

23

Blind Man Sees Again (John 9:1-32)

30

Feeding 5000 Hungry Men (John 6:1-15)

SEPTEMBER

6

Overcoming Temptation by Christ (Matthew 4:1-13)

13

Christ as the Bread of Life (John 6:48-69)

20

Abiding in the True Vine (John 15:1-16)

GOSPEL SUNDAY

The Light of the World (John 8:12-36)

REACH US!

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