

Topic: **Serve the Master**
Text: **2 Timothy 1:6; 1 Corinthians 15:58 (NIV)**
Theme: **“Serve the Master with High S’es”**

INTRODUCTION

- The only way to “repay” Jesus for dying at the cross for us is to serve Him, not as a slave serving the Master, but as His redeemed ones serving the Saviour.
- Serving the Lord may come in different degrees and motives, but the Bible spells out the right attitudes to do it.
- In this sermon, you will find that every one has a gift (and some may have more than a slice of cake!).
- Many times, the youth get confused to find the right ministry gift, and are trapped into a hit-and-miss hunt. With wrong coaching, they may get lost in a maze, and burn out later.
- But, once they discover the right gift(s), they need to find avenues to develop and perfect it. Just remember, we are serving the Master who deserves the best.

I. **STIR UP/(FAN INTO FLAME) THE GIFT**

2 Timothy 1:6 “...fan into flame (stir up) the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.”

- **STIR UP.** It means, START UP the engine, as in the car. It also means to arouse (hidden talents), to bring back gifts that haven’t been practised for a long time.
- **FAN INTO FLAME.** The gift is referred to as a fire, which, if not frequently stirred up and more fuel added, will go out.
- Every Christian is given a gift(s) **“which is in you through the laying on of my hands”**. It maybe a natural talent, or acquired from people who inspired you. It maybe a hidden talent that is yet to be tapped and exposed.

A. **Discover the right gift/s (talent/s).**

- If you have a passion for something like below, then it is likely your gift. Pray for it to find out if it is.

Possible Gifts/Talents (that maybe applicable to you):

Ministerial	Pastor/Elder, Teacher, Writer, Youth Leader
Musician	Song Leader, Back-up Singer, Instrumentalists (drums, guitars, piano/keyboard)
Technical	Computer/Web Designer, Newsletter Designer, Projector Operator, Sound System Operator
Help	Encourager/Sharer, Inviting people, Counsellor, Intercessor
Arts	Dancer (Interpretative dancing), Drawing, Drama/Script writer or director
Maintenance	Cleaner, Chair arranger, Church Decorator e.g. curtains, wall decor, plants
Sports	Basketball, chess, swimming

B. Develop your gift/s.

1. Gift can be neglected (1 Tim 4:14). Gifts that are not properly used will become powerless and useless.
2. If you want to be a pastor, go to Bible College; if you want to sing, see a voice tutor; if you want to dance, enrol at a dance school. Your natural talent plus training equates EXCELLENCE.
3. If you are multi-talented person, list your Top 3 talents. Excel on your Number 1 talent first, and then develop your other talents #2, #3.
4. When gifts are developed, they may be transformed into ministries later on.

II. STEADFASTNESS (BE UNMOVEABLE)

1 Corinthians 15:58b "... Let nothing move you..."

- Steadfastness means being consistent, committed, firm, single-minded, determined.

A. Be grounded in prayers for your gift/s.

1. Big trees are hardly uprooted (unmoveable) because their roots are so grounded. (Psalm 1:3)
2. As you exercise your gift/s, you need to pray for whatever ministry you are in.

B. Be firm and determined about your gift.

1. If you are 100% sure about your gift, then pursue to develop and practise it at all cost.
2. You may be a multi-gifted person, but give full attention first to your Number 1 gift. Perform your first gift before performing your other gifts.
3. Do not be a “Jack-of-all-trade-master-of-none” person.

III. SUBMIT (FULLY TO THE WORK)

1 Corinthians 15:58c “... Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord ”

A. Aim for perfection by giving your best.

1. Give your best to the Master, not your second best.
2. Develop your gift by learning first its basic, and work your way up so you will not miss out any little things.
3. You maybe a slow starter, but your tenacity and determination for perfection will eventually far exceed what is expected of you.

B. Be creative.

1. To whatever gift you are performing for the Lord, ALWAYS BE CREATIVE, as God is creative. (Look how He created the Universe, Garden of Eden, etc.)
2. Innovation is the key next to invention. Think of ways to perform something ordinary into something distinctive.