**Healthy Church Series**

**Topic: Creations, Children, Sons, Servants and Friends of God (Part 4)**

**Text: *Heb 5:12-14,* Heb 6:1-12*, Gal 4:4-8, 2 Tim 3:16***

**Introduction:**

This week, we will continue the discussion on the different levels of our relationship with God. We have already considered being his creations, his children and his adult sons and daughters. Today, we will spend time to focus on who the servants of God are. As we had already learned, only God can declare whether we are His friend or not. However, the qualification to become his servant largely depends on us. Obviously, the more we live for Him the better a servant we become. While all of God’s creation serve Him consciously or unconsciously, only matured sons and daughters can be true servants of God. Also, when we are God’s sons and daughters, the focus is more on knowing the Lord whereas when we are God’s servants, the focus is on working for God. Still, God wants us to know Him as much as work for him.

**Who is a servant of God?**

The word *servant of God* was mentioned 8 times in the bible (four times each in the old and new testaments). A servant of God is one that acts within the bounds of God's will. No other person embodies God’s servanthood as David in the scripture. In fact, God called him “man after his own heart” because he would not fail to do God’s will, Act 13:22. God rejected Saul (a man that prophesied) as a King because he would not do what God commanded him. In 1 Sam 13:7-14, Saul offered sacrifices in place of Samuel due to fear of Philistine invasion. In 1 Sam 15:22-26, Saul offered sacrifices of things God commanded him to destroy. We notice that Saul has perfect excuses to do those things that he did and they are not entirely wrong. This is a classical danger of working for God in the flesh. It’s almost as if Saul is possessed with Nimrod spirit. From this story, we can deduce that the key ingredients of being a good servant are doing the will of God and obeying the words and commandments of God.

**Attributes of God’s servant:**

* They know the will of God – *Rom 12:1-3*

For a servant to do the will of his master, he has to know the will of his master. One of the key strategy of the devil is to confuse God’s people so that they are not able to understand God’s will. He also tries to darken our understanding of the scriptures. The church need to pray hard to overcome this.

* They are able to do the will God – Matthew 7:21

Although counter intuitive, we have seeing from the Final Quest and the story of Saul and David that it much more important do God’s will than to do the “supposed” right thing. The kingdom of God belongs to the spiritual and not to the practical. David is spiritual while Saul is practical.

* They are built by the word of God and the challenges of their services – *1 Tim 3:16, Mat 4:4*

The servants of God are disciplined and built by the word of God. The more eat and in the word, the better we know God’s will, the easier it is to live above sin. In fact, the more we can endure the pain that comes from our service unto God, the more our faith and resolution in him increase, Rom 8:35-39.

* They always try to please their master *–* Matt 6:24-25

Pleasing God is the number one priority of his servants. That is what occupies their thoughts day and night. They are always looking for ways to do more to please their master. In fact, it’s is easy to know a person’s master by whom he tries to please.

**Conclusion:**

From our discussion, we realize that we need even more grace to be a good servant than we would need at any other level of our relationship with God. No matter how highly ranked is our spirituality, we need to be careful, hence we fall off the grace quickly. Also, to truly serve him, we cannot be far away in our relationship with him, otherwise, we will be serving him only in the flesh (serving amiss) and this would only produce strive and vainglory. I pray God will help us to stand strong till the end in Jesus name.