



LIFELINE BIBLE CHURCH

BIBLE STUDY: BORN TO SERVE

STUDY ONE: THE CHRISTIAN IDENTITY

Who is a Christian?

1. A Forgiven Sinner.

- a. Sins acquired through the Adamic Nature – Ps. 51:5
- b. Sins committed – Jn. 8:1-11; Rom. 3:23
- c. God forgives all sins – 1 Jn 1:8, 9; Ps. 32:1, 2.
- d. Jesus made forgiveness of sins possible – Heb. 9:13, 14, 22, 27, 29; Rom. 3:23-25; Jn. 1:12.

2. A Christian Is Born, Not Made.

- a. He experiences two births – natural & Spiritual.
Hence, the terms: Born – Again – Jn. 3:1-7.
- b. Both births are definite with dates – Lk. 19:9; Lk. 23:43; 2 Cor. 6: 2.
- c. When were you born – again?
- d. Both births are acts of God Not of Man – Eph. 2:8&9; Isa. 64:6.
- e. He is then expected to grow from babyhood – 1 Pet. 2:2.

3. A Re-generated Person

- a. He is a new creature – 2 Cor. 5:17
- b. He has been adopted as son by God – Rom. 8:15; Gal. 4:4-5.
- c. To be regenerated is to be Re-Gen-erated i.e. to have a new generating (Discuss).
- d. What were you regenerated from?

4. A Follower Of Christ – Matt. 4:18 -20; 8:21-22; 9:9

- a. He has received or accepted Christ as Lord – Jn. 1:12
- b. He identifies with Christ's life style – Matt. 16:24; Eph. 5:1
- c. He is a doer of Christ's word – Jam. 1:23,25
- d. He obeys Christ – Jn. 15:1-14; Rom. 6:16.

5. A Servant Of Christ

- a. He humbles himself – Jas. 4:10
- b. He is obligated to serve – Jn. 9:4; 1 Cor. 9:16
- c. He is submissive to His will – Mark. 3:31-35; Job 13:15; Matt. 26:42
- d. He is accountable to Christ – Rom. 14:12



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STUDY TWO: ESSENTIALS OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE - I

Introduction

A. What is Service?

- ✓ Attending to something or someone.
- ✓ Work done or duties performed.
- ✓ Things done to meet specific needs in an environment.
- ✓ Things done to ensure that a system/organisation functions properly and effectively.

B. What is Christian Service?

- ✓ A Christian attending to something or someone.
- ✓ Work done by a Christian for God.
- ✓ Work done by a Christian to meet specific needs in the church in particular and society in general.
- ✓ Things done to ensure that the church functions properly and effectively as God's agent in the society.

C. What Work Requires:

Every work has its requirements. The worker therefore must know the requirements of the work before he starts. Some of these requirements are listed as follows:

1. **A Clear Understanding Of The Work And Available Resources:**
Num.13: 1-3, 16-25; Josh.2: 1; Neh.2: 11-17; Prov.18: 16; Lk.14: 28-32.
2. **Relevant Talents & Gifts:** Prov. 18: 16; Matt.25: 14-15; 1Cor.12: 4-11; 1Cor.2: 12.
3. **Required Trainings & Skills:** Prov.4:7-9; Ecl.10: 10; 2Tim.1: 6; 2: 15; Heb.5: 14.
4. **Good Focus or Vision:** Prov. 29: 18; Matt. 6: 22-23; Phil. 3: 13-14; Heb. 12: 1-3.

5. **Desire And Interest:** Ps.27: 4; 42: 1-2; Prov.10: 24; 17: 22; Matt.6: 21; Mk.11: 24.
6. **Motive And Intention:** 1Sam.16: 7; 2Chron.16: 9; Ps.26: 2; Jn.10: 10; Heb.4: 12-13; Jam. 4: 3. Discuss the wrong motive behind the actions of the following people – King Saul (1Sam.15: 24-31); Jeroboam (1Kg.12: 25-33); Judas (Jn.12: 1-8); Ananias & Saphira (Acts 5: 1-11); Simon the sorcerer (Acts 8: 14-25); Diotrephes (3Jn. 9-11).
7. **Devotion To Work:** Gen.2: 24; Ps.137: 5-6; Ruth 1: 16-17; Jn.4: 34; Acts 6: 4; 21:13; 1Cor.9: 16.



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STUDY THREE: ESSENTIALS OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE - II

D. What The Christian Worker Requires:

Every Christian worker needs certain equipment for optimal performance in service. These requirements include the following:

- 1. Established & Continual Relationship With God** – Jn.15: 5; Rom.12: 1-2; 2Cor. 8: 5.
- 2. Being Filled & Full With The Holy Spirit** – Acts. 6: 3; Gal. 5: 22; Eph.5: 18.
- 3. Sound Knowledge of the Word** – Josh.1: 8; Ps.119: 11; 2Tim.2: 15; Col.3: 16; Jam.1: 22-24.
- 4. Watchfulness & Prayerfulness** – Lk.18: 1; Lk.21: 26; 1 Thess.5: 17.
- 5. Obedience, Yieldedness & Submissiveness** – Rom.12: 1; Eph.5: 21; Heb.13: 17-18; Jas.4: 7.
- 6. Diligence, Hard-work & Industry** – Prov.6: 6-11; 14: 23; 22: 29; Matt.9: 37-38; Rom.12: 11; Heb.6: 10.
- 7. Faithfulness & Loyalty** – Matt.24: 45, 46; Lk. 16:10; 1 Cor. 4:2; Heb. 3:5, 6.
- 8. Availability & Punctuality** – 1Sam.15: 18-35; Matt.25: 1-13; Mk.10: 46-52; 14: 3-11; Jn. 5: 1-13.
- 9. Teachability** - Prov.3: 1-2; 4: 1-9, 20-22; Matt.10: 24-25; 13: 36; 24: 3; Lk.11: 1.
- 10. Liberality, Volunteering & Selflessness** – Prov.24: 11; Eccl.11: 1-6; Isa.6: 8; Lk.6: 38; Gal.6: 9-10;
Examples of liberal & selfless givers/volunteers in scripture are:
Joseph (Gen.40: 6-8); **Shunammite Woman** - (2Kings 4:8-17);
Jacob - (Gen.29: 9-14); **Moses** - (Ex.3: 15-22); **Rebecca** - (Gen.24:

16-22); **Obed-Edom** - (2Sam.6: 10-11); **Good Samaritan** - (Lk.10: 30-37); **The Corinthian Brethren** - (2Cor.8: 3-5); **The Galatian Brethren** - (Gal.4: 15); **The Lord Jesus Christ** - (Rev.5: 1-10).

11. Joy in Service - Ps.100: 2; Col. 3: 23-24.

12. Willingness to Work - Isa.1: 19; Jn.10: 14-18; 1Pet.5: 2.

13. Organisation & Planning - Ex.18: 14-26; Prov.30: 24-28; Prov.31: 10-31; Lk. 9: 14-15; 14: 28-32.

14. Honesty & Accountability – Rom.12: 17; 14: 12; 1Cor.4: 1; 2Cor.5: 10; 8: 20-21; Phil.4: 8; Heb.13: 18.



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BIBLE STUDY: BORN TO SERVE

STUDY FOUR:- WHY WORK?

A. WHAT IS CHRISTIAN WORK OR SERVICE?

- i. Christian service is the work done for God.
- ii. It is the task carried out by a Christian as he serves God.
- iii. It is also the physical, mental or spiritual activities we perform to accomplish tasks for God.

B. WHY DO WE NEED TO WORK?

The rationale behind Christian work or service could be varied or divers depending on our level of understanding. Such reasons include the following:

1. **The Godhead Works, giving us an example** – Gen.1: 26.
Father – Ps.121: 4. **Son** - Jn.5: 17; Jn.9: 4. **Holy Spirit** – Gen.1: 2; Jn.14: 17; 16: 8-14.
2. **God Commanded It** – Gen.1: 28; Deut.5: 13; Lk.19: 13; 2Thess.3: 10; 1Tim. 5: 8.
3. **It's A Service To God** – Matt.21: 28-32.
4. **To Demonstrate Our Love, Commitment & Loyalty To God** – Matt.21: 28-32; Heb.6: 10; **King Saul** – 1Sam.15: 3, 10-24; **Moses** – Num. 20: 7-13; **Jonah** – Jon.1: 1-3; **Ruth** – 1: 16-19a; **Paul** – Acts 21: 10-14; **Jesus** – Lk. 14: 32-42.
5. **To Preserve Life** – Gen.1: 28; 2: 15; Jn.15: 5.
6. **There's Work To Be Done** – Gen.2: 15; Matt.9: 37-38; 20: 1-6.
7. **There Is The Time To Work** – Eccl.3: 1-8; 12: 1-3; Jn.9: 4.
8. **It's A privilege To Work** – Jn.15: 16; 1Cor.3: 9; Eph.2: 10.

9. **To Use & Enhance Our Gifts/Talents** – Eccl.10: 10; Matt.25: 14-16; 2Tim. 1: 6.
10. **Continuous Work Brings Skills, Success, Progress, & Excellence** - Prov.18: 16; 22: 29; 31: 29.
11. **To Realise Our Dreams, Desires & God’s Promises** – Prov.10: 24; 13: 12, 19; 21: 25; Heb.6: 11-12.
12. **For Discovery** – Ps.42: 7; 119: 99-100; Prov.4: 5-7; Jer.29: 13; Matt.7: 7; 13: 45-46.
13. **It Is Wise To Work** – Prov.6: 6; Provs.12: 11.
14. **To Assert Ourselves, Earn A Living & Not Be A Liability** – Prov.12: 24; 28: 19; 1Tim. 5: 14–16.
15. **To Avoid Shame & Reproach** – Prov.10: 5; 2Tim.2: 15.
16. **To Avoid Idleness & Stay Healthy** – Prov.6: 9-11; Eccl.10: 18.
17. **To Meet Needs** – 1Tim.5: 8; Lk.6: 38; 2Cor.9: 7.
18. **To Contribute to the Effective Running Of A System/Society** – Acts 6: 3-4; 1Cor.12: 14–26.
19. **To Enhance Cooperation & Fellowship** – Eccl.4: 9; 1Cor.12: 25,27.
20. **To Motivate Others** – Jn.5: 17; Matt.4: 19; 1Cor.11: 1; 1Tim.4: 12; 1Pet.2: 21.
21. **To Demonstrate Our Faith** – Jam.2: 14-18.
22. **For Posterity** – Prov.13: 22; 2Tim.1: 5; 2Tim.2: 2.
23. **To Enjoy Rest** – Eccl.5: 12.
24. **We will Give Account** – Rom.14: 10; Eccl.11: 9; 2Cor.5: 10; Heb.9: 27; 13: 17.
25. **For Recognition & Reward** – Matt.25: 23; Matt.10: 10; Jn.4: 36; 1Cor.9: 7-11; Heb.12: 1-3.



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STUDY FIVE: CO-LABOURERS WITH GOD

A. What is Labour?

- i. To Toil
- ii. To Work Hard
- iii. Exertion of Physical, mental or spiritual energy to accomplish a task for God.

A **Labourer** therefore is anyone who does any of the three things above.

B. God Labours

- i. **He worked continuously for six days to create the heaven and the earth** – Gen. 2:1-3.
- ii. **God resumed back to work after He rested on the seventh day** – Gen. 3:9-24.
- iii. **He has since been working** – Ps. 34:19; 68:19; 103:3; Isa. 45:1, 2; Jn. 5:17; 15:1, 2; Matt. 5:45.
- iv. **Without sleep or slumber** – Ps. 91:3, 4; 104:27; 121:3.
- v. **The sermons and passion of Christ are examples of God's Labour** – Matt.5: 1-46; 15: 32; Lk. 22:39 – 46; 23:1 – 46.

C. Man As A Co-labourer With God – 1 Cor. 3:9

- i. **God placed man in the garden to tend it** – Gen. 2:15
- ii. **Tending the garden is an enormous task** – Jn. 15:1, 2.
- iii. **Every assignment God gives is enormous** – Matt.9: 37

Examples of co-labourers with God are:

O.T. Examples: Noah – Gen. 6:13-22, Moses – Ex. 3:1-12, Joshua – Josh. 1:1-9, David – 1 Sam. 17:31-54 , Esther – Est. 4:1-17; 5:1-3, Nehemiah & Ezra – Neh. 1:1-11; Ez. 10:1-6, Jeremiah – Jer. 1:4-10 , Hosea – Hos. 1:2, Jonah – Jon. 3:1-10, Elijah – 1 Kings 18:14 - 40, Jochebed – Ex.6:20; Num. 26:59.

N.T. Examples: Mary the Mother of Jesus - Lk. 1:26-38, John the Baptist – Lk.1:11 – 17, 67- 80, Apostle Paul – Acts 9:11-16, John the Beloved – Gal. 2:9; Rev. 1:1,2,9, Simon Peter – Gal. 2:9; Jn. 21:15-18; 2 Pet.1:1, Stephen – Acts 6:5,6,8; Acts 7:58-60.

Contemporary Examples: Mary Slessor, John praying Hyde, Florence Nightingale, David Living Stone, Bishop Ajayi Crowther.

D. We Are Expected To Labour For God – Amos 6:1; Matt. 9:37, 38; 20:1-16; 1 Cor. 3:9; Gal. 4:19.

E. God Rewards His Labourers – Matt. 5:11,12; Lk. 10:7; 1 Cor. 3:8; Gal. 6:9; 1 Tim. 5:18; Heb. 6:10; Rev. 14:13; 21:3-7.



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STUDY SIX: TIMES AND SEASONS OF LIFE - I

A. What is Time?

1. A measurable period during which an action or condition exists or continues.
2. A moment, occasion or period used, available or suitable for something.

B. What is Season?

1. Part of the year or lifetime distinguished by its particular type of weather or peculiarities.
2. Period when something is easily available or certain activities take place.

C. Facts About Times And Seasons

1. **God made times and seasons** – Gen.1: 14.
2. **Measurement of times and seasons:** Gen.8: 22; Rev.1: 11; 21: 6.
 - i. Years, Months, Weeks, Days, Hours, Minutes, Seconds, Microseconds and Nanoseconds.
 - ii. Seedtime (Planting seasons), Harvest-time, Summer & Winter, Day & Night, Beginning & End.
 - iii. Every Bird and Animal Species also has its breeding seasons.
 - iv. There are also certain moments of divine visitation in a believer's life too
3. **Man dwells in the realm of time but God dwells in eternity** – Gen. 6: 3; Ps.90: 4,10; Pro.8: 23; 2Pet.3: 8; Isa.57: 15; Jer.10: 10.

D. Stages of Life –

i. Early Morning – Ages 0 – 6years.

Peculiar Traits: Childhood, Start of Life, Very Fresh, Innocent, Naïve, Tender, Trusting, Dependent, Humble, Teachable and Malleable.

ii. Mid-Morning – Ages 7 – 12yrs.

Peculiar Traits: Active, Develops Personality, Self-Assertive, Self-Discovery, Full of Struggles, Curious and Adventurous.

iii. Noon – Ages 13 – 19yrs.

Peculiar Traits: Volatile, Vibrant, Confused, Secretive, Assertive, Adventurous, and Gullible.

iv. Afternoon – Ages 20 – 50years.

Peculiar Traits: Proud, Struggle, Productive, Agile, Mobile, Defensive, Responsible, Self-Confident, Self-Actualized, Territorial, Competitive and Ambitious.

v. Evening – Ages 51 – 75yrs.

Peculiar Traits: Consolidation, Fulfilled, Secured, Relaxed, Sedentary, Pampering.

vi. Night – Ages 75yrs & above.

Peculiar Traits: Experienced, Old, Grounded, Forgetful, Strong-Willed, Fearless, Pampering, Childlike, Story Telling, Nostalgic, Valedictory & Often, Vindictive.

4. All the six stages of life can also be grouped into three stages. They are:

i. Childhood (Formative & Foundational Stage) – 1Cor.13:

11. Examples are: Joseph, Moses, Samuel, David, Josiah, Timothy.

ii. Adulthood (Peak Of Life) – 1Cor.14: 20. Examples are:

Joseph, Moses, David & Jesus – Jn.9: 4; Eccl.12: 1.

iii. Old Age (Retirement Stage) – Josh.13: 1; Ps. 37: 25; 71: 18.

Examples are: Joshua, Zechariah & Thief on the cross.



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STUDY SEVEN: TIMES & SEASONS OF LIFE – II

1. Our Time on Earth Is Limited – Ps. 90: 12; Heb.9: 27.
2. There Are Times And Seasons For Every Thing – Eccl. 3:1-8.
3. There Comes A Time When Certain Things In Life Become Late – Jn.9: 4.

Note: The peak of life is between 20 & 60years when man is at his best – Eccl.12: 1-7. It is the most productive phase of life when men either succeed or fail.

A. Practical Suggestions To Make The Best of Life:

1. Know God Intimately Ps.111: 10; 127: 1-2; Jer.29: 13.
2. Avoid Sin – Ezek.33: 13; Eph.5: 3-5.
3. Be Prayerful – Ps.121: 1; Lk.18: 1; 1Thess.18: 17.
4. Start Early – Ps.63: 1; Isa.26: 9.
5. Have A Vision – Prov.29: 18.
6. Work Hard – Prov.13: 4; Jn.5: 17; 12: 24.
7. Know Your Resources & Use Them Properly – 1Cor.12: 4-11; 2: 12.
8. Be Focused – Ps.16: 8; Heb.12: 2.
9. Don't Procrastinate – Mk.14: 3-9; 16: 1-7.
10. Do The Right Things At The Right Time – 1Sam.11: 1; 2Kg.5: 25-27; Eccle.3: 1.
11. Never Waste Time. It is Precious – Exod.21:18-19; 1Sam.21: 8; Jn.9: 4.
12. Be Serious With Your Decisions & Choices – Prov.3:5-7; 14:12; 16:25.
13. Be Sensitive To Opportunities & Divine Visitation – Ps.32: 8-9; Eccle.9: 11.
14. Recover Fast From Every Success or Failure – E.g. Elijah, Peter, & Judas.
15. Have Good Priority – Rom.13: 11-14.
16. Avoid Irrelevancies – 1Cor.6: 12; 10: 23.
17. Be Strong, Bold and Courageous – Josh.1: 6-9.
18. Balance Work, Rest & Recreation – Eccle.5; 12; 1Tim.4: 8.
19. Mind Your Company – 1Cor.15: 33.
20. Learn From The Past & Other's Mistakes – Gen.28: 10-22; 32: 24-30; 1Sam.17: 33-36; Acts 5: 33-40.

B. Whereas The Devil Wants Us To Waste Our Lifetime, God Wants Us To Make The Best Use of It and Enjoy It To The Fullest – Jer.29: 11; Jn.10: 10.

C. However, this can not be so if we don't understand the times and seasons of life and make the best use of them - 1Chron.12: 32; Ps.32: 9.



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STUDY EIGHT: SERVICE TOOLS

A. What Are Tools?

Tools are implements, instruments or equipment used for carrying out particular tasks.

B. God Equips Us To Work For Him – Matt.25: 14-18; Rom.12: 6; 1Cor.12: 11; Eph.4: 7, 11-18; Jas.1: 17.

C. What Are The Tools Of God In The Life Of A Believer?

Tools are God's provision for the discharge of Christian Service. These comprise of our Gifts, Talents, Money, Grace, Gender, Position, Privileges and Rights, Goodwill, Opportunities, etc. They could be natural or spiritual. Some are primary, others secondary and even, tertiary.

D. God Expects the Believer To Use Virtually Everything He Gives In Service For Him – Matt.25: 14-30; Rom.14: 12; Eph.4: 15-16.

E. Primary Tools - These Are The Fundamental Tools of Life.

1. **Life** – Rom.14: 12
2. **Health** – 3Jn. 2; e.g. Mephibosheth, The Four Lepers.
3. **Gender** – Gen.3: 15; 1Sam.1: 9-11; Isa.7: 14; 9: 6; Matt.1: 22-23.
4. **Knowledge** – Bezaleel & Oholiab - Exod.31: 3; 35: 31; Paul-Phil.3: 5.
5. **Time** – Gen.1: 14; Eccl.3: 1-8.
6. **Natural Endowment** – Samson, King Saul; David, Absalom, Esther.
7. **Environment** – E.g. Canaan, Goshen, Sodom & Gomorrah.
8. **Ancestry/Race** – Noah & His Children; Jacob & Esau, Jacob & His Children – Gen.49: 1-28,.
9. **Age** – Ps.37: 25; Prov.20: 11; 1Cor.13: 11.
10. **Temperament.**

F. Secondary Tools – Peculiar Tools But Not Necessary Common To All.

- 1. Parts of the body** - 1Cor.12: 12
- 2. Talent** – Matt.25: 14
- 3. Training skill** – Daniel - Dan.1: 17, Paul - Phil.3: 4-7.
- 4. Positions** – Pilate, Caesar, Pharaoh, Cyrus, Priesthood, Kings, Political Leaders.
- 5. Wealth** – David, Abraham, Jacob, Solomon, Joseph of Arimathea.
- 6. Longevity** – Zechariah, Methuselah, Simeon, Hannah Phanuel.
- 7. Physical Gifts** – Sex, Race, Stature, Beauty, Intelligence, etc
- 8. Spiritual Gifts** – Rom.12: 6-13; 1Cor.12: 4-11; Eph.4: 11.
- 9. Body Physique** – Samson, Absalom, Saul, Goliath, Daniel & The Three Hebrew Sons.
- 10. Eloquence** – Paul, Apollos, Herod, Stephen, Jesus.

G. Tertiary Tools – Very Special and Peculiar Tools

- 1. Good Will** – Prov.22: 1 - **Abraham** – Gen.18: 23-33; **Moses** – Exo.32: 7-14; **Samuel** – 1Sam.3: 19; **Elijah** – Jas.5: 17; **Hezekiah** – Isa.38: 1-5; **Peter** – Acts 5: 1-11.
- 2. Privileges** – Isaac & Jacob, Joseph's Brothers, Mephibosheth, Solomon, Nehemiah, Vashti, Mordecai, Esther, The Jews, Disciples of Jesus, Mary the mother of Jesus.
- 3. Opportunities & Chances** – Eccle.9: 11. E.g. **Abraham & The Three Angels** – Gen. 18: 1-10; **Jacob & The Angel** – Gen.37: 24-32;; **The Four Lepers** – 2Kg.7: 3-16; **Jael** – Judges 4: 18–23; **Esther** – 2: 8–18; **The Impotent Man** – Jn.5: 2-9.

H. Conclusion:

1. We are all gifted and equipped for service by God.
2. Success in life and Christian service depends on our ability to identify and utilise these tools maximally.
3. Don't bother therefore about what you don't have. Instead, recognise your gifts and use them as tools for service for God.
4. Judgement and rewards shall be based on the effective use of our service tools.
5. Avoid Unuse, Misuse, Disuse and Abuse of our service tools e.g. Samson, Elijah, Judas Iscariot, Jezebel, Ahab & Naboth.
- 6.