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Never Too Old To Serve The Lord

As I now approach my 82nd birthday, the body is weakening, and the mind is not as sharp. I expect I am like so many others who wonder, "am I too old now to do a work for God?" The answer is no, for while we have life and clarity of mind, we can still pray to God and rejoice He is the prayer hearing and answering God.

Moses was eighty years of age when he had his encounter with God. Jacob was quite an elderly man, possibly around 60 years of age. Abraham was close to 100 when Issac was born. Zacharias and Elizabeth were elderly when John the Baptist was born. What an encouragement this is now to many of us who are elderly. Can God still use us? Is life too far gone for us old age pensioners to do a work for God? In no way! Moses may have thought he had destroyed God's purposes for his life by the act of killing the Egyptian. Jacob may have thought he was no use to God, or that God would never use him with his twisted conniving nature. Zachariah and Elizabeth may have naturally accepted the fact they would never have a child and Abraham and Sarah were the same. Three matters are clear:

- i) We are never too old for God to use.
- ii) Despite our past failures, sins, or misunderstandings of the will of God for our lives, the fact we are alive is God's assurance our work for Him has not gone beyond the point of no return.
- iii) We are never too old to have an encounter with God. Every individual saved by God's great salvation enters a family and a school. The school is the training of the individual for the work God had designed for them, but the family is the learning of conformity to the Father and the Lord.

It may be an individual can think who am I to think about serving God? What could I do that would be a blessing to others? This was the reaction of Moses when God called him to do his greatest work.

- a) When we think of Moses, we consider him as a great man, and that he was. However, to the Israelites and the Egyptians he was a nomad who wandered across the desert and declared to the children of Israel that God was going to release them and demanded of Pharaoh to let them go. The natural reaction of the Prince of Egypt was contempt (Ex 5:2). The Egyptians had some 2000 gods and goddesses, so who was Moses' God to make demands of Pharaoh who was seen as a god to the Egyptians? To the average individual he was just a shepherd despised by the Egyptians. An individual may see themselves as nothings but God did not save them to sit and do nothing. His desire is for them to work with Him for the glory of Christ.

In our spiritual education, every work undertaken for the glory of God and honouring of the Lord begins with an encounter with the living God, primarily at the moment of salvation. From that point the individual has the responsibility to work with the Holy Spirit in developing God and Christ likeness. In gratitude they may desire to do a work for God. They begin a very solemn responsibility whether the work is a Sunday School teacher, the janitor of the building or the person responsible for setting up the electronics etc. It carries responsibility before God.

One of the most serious acts of service is that of being a spiritual leader for at least two reasons:

- a) Because others are accepting what is said as truth.
- b) The individual will be held accountable by the Lord for how they fulfilled the responsibilities associated with the work (Lk. 19:12-26; Jam. 3:1).

Working with God to bring saints to spiritual maturity is not to be taken lightly. The flock must be cared for and fed spiritually as the spiritual leaders spiritually exhort the people of God. The purpose is spiritual maturity by the truths found in the Word of God and exalting the person of Christ and His work.

- a) This must never be an accepted responsibility because someone asked an individual to be a leader. It is a responsibility for the individual to be assured from God, that it is the Holy Spirit who is promoting the exercise and not the "because there is no one else to do it". I have been appalled in my sixty six years among the people of God when an individual has been appointed and telling the church so in so is now a member of the oversight, even though they are void of spiritual maturity. At times the gathered saints are told someone's buddy or relative, who does not have the qualifications, is told is a spiritual leader and the

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saints are expected to follow unquestioningly. Most times it ends in the ruination of the local church. The work of God comes with serious responsibilities and humility. When the Lord called Moses he did not see himself as the leader of the people of God and put up several objections to doing the work. I suggest he was unaware of the fact that for 80 years God had been preparing him.

In giving the command to “let my people go” (Ex. 5:1; 7:16; 8:1; 9:1), in so doing there is the unspoken acknowledgment that Moses’ God is superior to Pharaoh and the gods of Egypt and posed a major question, “How can a satanically darkened mind and stubborn prideful heart be broken to the point where it yields to God?” God also had Moses inform Pharaoh some of the consequences if he would not let them go (Ex. 8:21; 10:4) and almost pleaded with Pharaoh to let them go (Ex 10:1).

There’s a work for Jesus, ready at your hand,
'Tis a task the Master just for you has planned.
Haste to do His bidding, yield Him service true;
There’s a work for Jesus none but you can do.

Refrain:

*Work for Jesus, day by day,
Serve Him ever, falter never; Christ obey.
Yield Him service loyal, true,
There’s a work for Jesus none but you can do.*

There’s a work for Jesus, humble though it be,
'Tis the very service He would ask of thee.
Go where fields are whitened, and the lab’ers few;
There’s a work for Jesus none but you can do.

There’s a work for Jesus, precious souls to bring,
Tell them of His mercies, tell them of your King.
Faint not, nor grow weary, He will strength renew;
There’s a work for Jesus none but you can do.

. . . Rowan Jennings