

Serving with a Vision, according to Revelation,  
and in the Body for the Building Up of the House of God

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| <p>I. Our service to God must be with a vision and according to revelation :</p>   | <p>A. Before the Lord appeared to Paul and a light from heaven shined upon him, his zealous service to God was actually in opposition to God and according to Satan's instigation :</p>   | <p>1. It is possible for us to repeat Paul's mistakes, for our service to God can be used as an instrument of Satan to destroy God's move.</p>  |
|  |   | <p>2. Before Paul encountered the great light on the road to Damascus, he had tradition, knowledge of religion, and zeal but no vision or revelation.</p>   |
|  |   | <p>3. Paul asked the Lord two questions: the first—"Who are You, Lord?"—relates to knowing the Lord; the second—"What shall I do, Lord?"—relates to receiving the Lord's vision.</p>  |
|  |   | <p>4. In Acts 22:10 Paul began to have a vision that cut him off from his previous service and brought him into the New Testament service.<br/><u>Acts 22:8</u> And I answered, Who are You, Lord? And He said to me, I am Jesus the Nazarene, whom you persecute. <u>10</u> And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said to me, Rise up and go into Damascus, and there it will be told to you concerning all the things which have been appointed to you to do.</p> |
|  |   | <p>5. Paul's way of serving God came from a heavenly vision; when he saw this vision, the things of the Old Testament came to an end, and he began to take the New Testament way.</p>   |
|  | <p>B. Our service to God may be according to revelation, or it may be natural :</p>   | <p>1. Service according to revelation involves meeting God, being shined on by God, receiving revelation from God, and being burdened in spirit by God.</p>   |
|  |   | <p>2. Natural service is according to our own ideas, views, traditions, or regulations; it may also come from imitating others, and it is often initiated simply to meet the need of a certain situation.</p>   |
|  |   | <p>3. We should not have outward acts of service to the Lord without inward revelation; our inward revelation must govern our outward acts.</p>   |
|  | <p>C. Vision and revelation are the way and the life of service :</p>   | <p>1. We need a vision for the way of service and a revelation for the life of service; the way to serve God comes from the vision, and the life to serve God comes from revelation.</p>  |
|  |   | <p>2. It was necessary for Paul to change both his outward way and his inner life; his old way was unacceptable, and his old life had to be terminated.</p>   |
| <p>3. The way of Paul's preaching came from the heavenly vision, and the content of his preaching came from revelation; his way was heavenly, and his content was the living Christ Himself.</p> |   |   |
| <p>II. As believers in Christ, we are members of the Body of Christ, and we serve God in the Body :</p>  | <p>A. When we come to the matter of serving the Lord, we need to be clear that we need the Body; it is crucial for us to realize that we cannot serve without the Body or have spiritual life outside the Body.</p>   |   |
|  | <p>B. The entire Christian living is a living in the Body, and the entire Christian serving is a service carried out in the Body.</p>   |   |
|  | <p>C. In the New Testament the service is not touched clearly and definitely until Romans 12; it is here that the matter of service is revealed, and it is presented as a matter of the Body and in the Body. <u>Rom. 12:5</u> So we who are many are one Body in Christ, and individually members one of another. <u>6</u> And having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of</p> |   |

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| II. As believers in Christ, we are members of the Body of Christ, and we serve God in the Body :   | faith; <u>7</u> Or service, let us be faithful in that service; ··· <u>10</u> Love one another warmly in brotherly love; take the lead in showing honor one to another. <u>11</u> Do not be slothful in zeal, but be burning in spirit, serving the Lord. |  |  |   |
|  | D. With respect to serving in the church, the emphasis is on the setting for service, but with respect to serving in the Body, the emphasis is on the coordination in service.  |  |  |   |
|  | E. According to the New Testament, the believers are members one of another and are coordinated in one Body :   | 1. To know the Body of Christ is to realize that we are only members and that we cannot do anything without others.  |  |   |
|  |   | 2. A Christian is not a complete entity; he is merely a member of the Body, a part.  |  |   |
| 3. When we serve the Lord, we should serve in the position of a member, in coordination with others  |   |  |  |   |
| F. If we have seen the Body, we will no longer be divisive, we will not be individualistic or independent, and we will be willing to be blended, without any complaining, murmuring, or criticism but with love, forgiveness, sympathy, forbearance, and long-suffering; it is with such a Body life that there is a real impact in our service. |   |  |  |   |
| III. Our service is for the building up of the house of God :  | A. God wants saved and edified believers to be coordinated and built together as His dwelling place :   | 1. Leading people to be saved and leading believers to grow in life are merely procedures; God’ s ultimate goal is the building up of His house.                             |  |   |
|  |   | 2. God’ s built-up house reveals and expresses God, gives Him the glory He deserves, and accomplishes His will so that He can have rest                                      |  |   |
|  |   | 3. God wants the gospel to be preached fervently, and He also wants the believers to pursue spirituality so that His house, the church, the Body of Christ, may be built up. |  |   |
|  | B. We need to care for the building up of God’ s house :  | 1. When the Lord Jesus was on earth, the center of His work was to build a house for God; hence, He was devoured by the zeal of God’ s house                                 |  |   |
|  |   | 2. The apostles labored for the building up of the house of God.   |  |   |
|  |   | 3. Most believers take care of their personal needs and consider themselves to be the center and the starting point :  | a. Concerning both the material realm and the spiritual realm, human beings are selfish and always want to gain something for themselves instead of considering what God desires |   |
|  |   |  | If we want to be Christians who match God’ s desire and meet His need in this age, we cannot be trapped in ourselves; we must come out of ourselves to care for God’ s need :    | (1) God desires that we come out of ourselves and be delivered from our selfishness in order to care for the building up of His house |
| (2) Instead of focusing on ourselves, we must care for the house of God.   |   |  |  |   |
| 4. We must not focus on anything other than the work of God to build His house   |   |  |  |   |
| 5. We serve God with a vision, according to revelation, and in the Body for the building up of the church as the house of God  |   |  |  |   |

### Experience : Business life model

- ① **Our service to God can be divided into service that is according to revelation or service that is natural. Service according to revelation involves meeting God, being shined upon by God, receiving revelation from God, and being burdened in spirit by God. This kind of service is not initiated by us but by God; it is not out of ourselves but out of God. We must meet God and contact God in order to have service that comes from God as the source. Natural service is different. Natural service is according to our own ideas, views traditions, or regulations. It is also comes from copying or initiating others, and it is often initiated to simply meet the need of a certain situation. Such service comes out of ourselves or out of others but not out of God. This kind of service does not require us to meet God or contact God; it is service that we can do apart from God. The only service that is of value is service that is done according to revelation.**

An excellent business Person does not persist on sticking to the past experiences and ideas, but has the flexibility to respond to various changes with an open mind. The modern era is the era of change, the business environment changes rapidly in many ways. Therefore, it is impossible to respond to current needs if you rely only on past experiences.

You have various experiences in business life, they are all for the building of the church. In addition, the various types of services for building the church are ways to perfect you, which will enable you to have testimony and become an excellent performer in your business life. In the church services, an excellent service is to put down your own ideas and experiences, open to the Lord, enjoy the Lord, and serve together with the Lord. Such practice will make you flexible and help you to become a better person in business.

- ② **As God’ s serving ones, we often see only the first two matters. We know the importance of preaching the gospel and of pursuing spirituality, but we do not know the importance of building up the house of God. This may be likened to collecting materials and preparing them without building a house. We often appreciate persons who preach the gospel and pursue spirituality, thinking that this is quite precious, but we do not see the ultimate goal. We do not see that God’ s desire is to have a house. This is His purpose. God wants saved and edified believers to be coordinated and built together as His dwelling place.**

You need to see what Paul saw, you need to see that building the body of Christ is the eternal goal of God’ s economy. The building of the body of Christ is the goal of God’ s work, the preaching of gospel, the living of a consecrated life, the offering of

yourself to the Lord, all of these are to be for this goal. Every activity of your Christian life and church life, no matter how excellent they can be, if they are not tied in well with the building of the body of Christ, all will be worthless in the eyes of God. In addition, all your activities should be directed, adjusted, strengthened, lifted up by the vision of building of the body of Christ.

Such a practice will be a great help to your business life. There are different types of business affairs in your work, but there is only one goal. At the time of executing your work, the direction cannot be set if you are without a goal. In addition, each business affair has its own direction, when none can be organized, there is no mutual synergy can be expected. Excellent Business Person will have his eyes on the goal clearly, and involve others to perform together in various operations; collectively they are people who can reach their goals efficiently. People that can serve with the goal of building in church life will always be excellent in business as well.

- ③ **Most believers take care of their personal needs and consider themselves to be the center and the starting point. They happily receive messages concerning God’ s comforting, visitation, deliverance, peace, and prosperity. They also respond to messages concerning how to overcome, be spiritual, be sanctified, be well pleasing of God, or grow in life. However, not many respond to or are interested in a message concerning God’ s need for a house or for men to be built up as His resting place. This is because human beings always care for their personal needs. Concerning both the material realm and the spiritual realm, human beings are selfish and always want to gain something for themselves instead of considering what God desires. ... God desires that we come out of ourselves and our selfishness in order to care for the building up of His house. Those spiritually experienced know that God will care for us if we are willing to take care of others for His building.**

You need to understand that God’ s salvation is not for your interests. God did not let Christ crucified on the cross and saved you from eternal hell only because you are pitiful. God’ s salvation has a clear goal; the goal is much higher and wonderful than just being saved from the eternal hell. You should not abide in your personal interests, happiness, and prosperity. God desires the body of Christ to be built with His economy as the goal, so that He can be expressed in a large way. You have your share in this wonderful building of God. Employees who do not know the goals of the company are the third-rate employees, they are not valuable to the boss. Similarly, it will not be of any use in the eyes of God, if the individualistic Christian is to only pursue his own.

詩歌、658番

1 われらのほう仕は、ただ召会のため；  
そは主のみこころ、使徒たちの実行。  
(復) われらのほう仕は、ただ召会のため；  
これは主の御むね、われらおこなう。  
2 召会は主のうつわ、とわのご計かく；  
すべてのほう仕は、けんぞうのため。  
3 たまものあるひと、からだのなかで、  
しょう会をけん造し、ほう満もたらず。  
4 たまもの、機のうちも、れいのちからも、  
すべてのつとめは、しょうかいのため。  
5 ふく音もおしえも、やしない、かん理も、  
すべてのほう仕は、みからだのため。  
6 しょう会がつとめの、ためではなしに、  
つとめは、しょうかい、しょくだいのため。  
7 これがしょうかいの、いちをたもって、  
わが動機をさぐり、もくてきただす。  
8 自ぶんのわざより、主よ、すくいませ；  
われらのろう苦は、しょうかいのため。

一  
我们事奉须为召会，神的美意如此定；  
这是工作惟一途径，使徒都曾如此行。  
(復) 我们事奉须为召会，不该为着别事情；  
这是神的完全旨意，我们必须如此行。  
二  
召会要作神的器皿，是神永远的计划；  
神要我们所有事奉，都为建造祂的家。  
三  
元首所赐恩赐的人，全都为着祂身体；  
他们都该建造召会，使主丰满得建起。  
四  
所有恩赐、一切功用、圣灵所显的能力，  
以及所有不同职事，都该只为主身体。  
五  
传扬福音、拯救罪人、教导、牧养并治理，  
以及各样别的工作，也该只为主身体。  
六  
职事乃是为着召会，召会不是为职事；  
所有灯台都是召会，任何职事都不是。  
七  
这能保守召会合一，拯救我们脱宗派；  
这将试验我的动机，予我目的以更改。  
八  
求主救我脱离工作，脱离宗派的工作；  
使我只为召会劳苦，只为召会而活着。

914. Service - For the Church (Jap 658)

1  
For the Church should be our service,' 'Tis the perfect will of God;  
'Tis the only way of working Which the Lord's apostles trod.  
(C)  
For the Church should be our service, Not our aims to satisfy;  
This the perfect will of God is, And with it we must comply.  
2  
For 'tis God's eternal purpose That the Church His vessel be;  
He intends that all our service Build His Church continually.  
3  
All the gifted persons given To the Body by the Head  
Are to aid the Church's building, That to fulness she be led.  
4  
All the gifts and all the functions, All the spirit's power shown,  
All the ministries are given For the Church and that alone.  
5  
All the preaching of the Gospel, All the teaching ministry,  
Every other kind of service For the Church alone should be.  
6  
Ministry is for the Churches, Not the Church for ministry;  
All the lampstands are the Churches, Not a form of ministry.  
7  
This will keep the Church's oneness, Saving us from every sect;  
This will ever test our motives, And our aim will thus correct.  
8  
Lord, deliver us from our work, From the work of any sect;  
For Thy Church alone we'd labor And its building up effect.