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“Walking in Joy to Serve The Lord”

Looking at the key words in the topic, one realizes the happiness that could be derived in the journey in life to fellowship with God through love and service to one's neighbor. There can never be a better way of expressing love than the joy of serving those around you. As stated in John 13:34, 'a new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another as I have loved you, that you also love one another,' As a teenager, how can this be done?

[Serving God Through Your Family](#)

As it is said, 'charity begins at home.' Serving God should begin with serving those immediately around you and that is those in our families. The house chores that we do at home such as cleaning, washing clothes, cooking and many others may often feel overwhelming but this is the beginning of the journey to serve the Lord. Of course, this may not be easy but the key is to know and understand your ability, limitations and then to pace yourself. The service to our families should not only be limited to doing house chores but giving our full attention and resources to needs of those we serve.

As we joyfully dedicate ourselves to our family with all our hearts, our acts will also be counted as service to God.

Give Tithes and Offerings

One of the ways young people can serve the Lord is by helping God's children through giving tithes and offerings. We should be ready to share with others the little we are blessed with particularly our brothers and sisters who are in need of our help. Hence the saying, "it is in giving that you receive." One should not consider age in giving.

As a young girl growing in faith, the issues of tithes has ever been misunderstood. It is the duty of every faithful to help build the kingdom of God on earth by giving back to God.

Therefore, it is not only when you are working but even students and everybody who is blessed by God in any way. Contributing financially or in kind to God's work is a great way to serve the Lord. The little token you give either in the form of tithes or normal offerings may go a long way in feeding, clothing the less privileged and even supporting humanitarian work locally or worldwide. All these services can only be possible through both financial and physical support of many volunteers, as we serve God by serving our fellow man.

Community Service

Community service is one of the ways to serve God. Helping people who are less abled and the less fortunate can be a self-gratifying act. The joy of serving people in hospitals, especially those who are in need of life saving acts can never be measured.

When you select causes to devote your time, talents and treasures to, be careful to choose good causes which will produce much joy and happiness for you and for those you serve. You can easily become involved in your community, it only takes a little effort to contact a local group charity, or other community programmes.

Donate Clothing and Other Goods

Walking in the joy to serve the Lord includes donating clothes and goods to those in need. Sufficiency in our communities is an illusion. Therefore, we need to reach out to those who need to be helped. Giving simply should not be what one does not want but what needs to be given because it is needed for a good purpose. Give items that are intended for donation should be good, clean, consumable and in working condition. Things like clothing, dishes, blankets, toys, books, furniture and many others can be given directly to those around who are in need of things mentioned above or to charity organizations such as, St. Vincent de Paul for onward distribution to

beneficiaries. Needless to say, giving of such items to help others is an easy way to serve God.

Be a Friend

Building relationships calls for selflessness. So as we take the time to serve and support those around us, we are making friendships. Through service, we will not only support others but also build a network of support for ourselves, and make others feel at home.

Kindness and the readiness to serve is the essence of greatness and the fundamental feature of nobility of men and women in our communities: hence the saying, 'whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant'. I believe that kindness and service can be the passport that opens doors and fashion friendship. It softens hearts and molds relationships that can last a lifetime. Let us make friends through our actions in the joy to serve the Lord.

Serve God by Serving Children

As a teenage growing in a troubled world, I know what it is to be loved. Many children and teenagers need love and we can provide it. There are many ways that love can be provided for the young ones. This can be through the involvement in school or library work or children-centered church group activities like Missionary Childhood, Altar Servers, Church

Choir and many others. I sit and wonder what Jesus Christ would have done for us children if he were to be here physically with us. He loves children and so too should we love and serve them. Jesus said, 'suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for such is the kingdom of God (Luke 18:16). If only we want to build the kingdom of God on earth, we must endeavor to love and serve children.

[Serving God as a Youth](#)

Christians enjoy the inestimable privilege of journeying with God. As we journey through life, we do so in fellowship with God our creator and the sustainer of all that is walking in the joy to serve the Lord. When you have joy in your heart from being a faithful servant of God, this will give you stability in your life which produces peace and hope. Taking at delight in serving God as youths, the word of God says, 'So remember your creator while you are still young' (Ecclesiastes 12:1).

As a youth, walking in the joy of serving the Lord means to start with serving in our families. Daily we work, clean, love, support, listen to, teach, and endlessly give of ourselves to the members of our family. The key to all these acts is to know and understand your own self.

Serving the Poor is Serving God

Jesus Christ said, 'Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, you do unto me.' The joy of serving should be the priority of young people in life. The ultimate goal of noble service is not to serve those you expect to serve you worldly material benefit but for the joy of putting a smile on the faces of those who are yearning for it. Since we are told that the image of God can only be seen in the person next to you. Therefore helping the poor could be great service to God.

As someone once testified, 'I met Him (Jesus) one day on my rounds in the community service. He showed me where he lives and how He suffers. I did not know at the time that it was Him...' To serve the poor is help them with clothes and things, and for the needy ones we show love.

Share Your Talents

Each of us has been given talents from the Lord that we should use to serve God and others. We should take a reflection of our lives to find out what talent we have that we can use in the service of God and humanity. I will like to take an example of myself. I am a person who goes to church and fellowship, but have not discovered my talent. When I began constant study of the word of God and spending more time in His presence, I began to discover that I have a talent to sing. Singing is not an easy thing but by the

grace of God we are more than a conqueror. Now I can stand and boldly teach the young ones in the Junior Choir at St. Cecilia's Church in Busumbala. The grace of patience in the service of the Lord is the greatest gift in walking in the joy to serve the Lord. In my teaching songs to the young ones, I realized that there are fast learners and slow learners. It is not easy to teach slow learners to sing song, but that is the joy to serve the Lord.

Fulfill Your Callings

We are all called to serve God by serving in church callings. Answering church callings is sometimes difficult due to societal norms and values. Temptations could be hindrances as well. Most of vocational calls are not easy, but we must be ready to roll up our sleeves and go and work, no matter whatever and wherever that work may be. Vocational calls are not fashion but selfless service. This probably explains the saying that, 'Many are called but few are chosen.' When we seek to serve others, we are motivated not by selfishness but by charity and emptied self. Serving others and God should not be done for worldly recognition and show of. It should be done in humility and the joy of serving those around you. Those who dedicate their life in serving others are prepared to sacrifice everything in life. Priesthood, religious sisters, volunteers and many others are a case in

point to demonstrate what a selfless service means. The Lord, Jesus lived such a selfless life on earth to serve the lowly, the meek, the sick, etc. in order to spread the Good News. As said, 'actions speak louder than words'. So we must back the proclamation of God's kingdom by what we do. We are not asked to do more than what we can do but things like visiting the sick, the elderly and places we can render our genuine service such as cleaning, fetching water for the elderly, caring for the sick and so on.

In conclusion, 'Whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant' (Matthew 20:26). When I hear the word 'servant', this is the image that always comes to mind; a maid who is there to serve, to meet whatever demands are placed upon her. She might look good outside but could be really hurting inside. Other times I think of the real servant of all, Mother Theresa's selfless service in the slums of Calcutta for long, she literally gave everything to those around her. The acts and deeds of Mother Theresa had captured my admiration and make me feel inadequate in the things that I do.