



Digging Deep

March 15, 2016

Theme: “Dedication – a pathway to becoming a giant”

Topic: A dedicated life

Text: Deut. 28:1; Luke 1:5-8; Gen. 22:9-12

Introduction: Dedication is having a very strong support for someone or something or showing loyalty to somebody or something. It can be a willingness to give a lot of time, talent, energy or resources to somebody or something. Dedication takes sacrifice. Today we will be looking at what characterized a dedicated life and the benefits.

What is a dedicated life? It is a life totally sold out (sacrificed) to a cause. In the context of this bible study, it is a life that completely obeys and pleases God. It is a life full of faith in God and His word. It is a life that readily gives (time, energy, talent, resources etc.) willingly, sacrificially and cheerfully to God and His work.

1. **Zechariah** - Doing the work of a priest in the order of his course. He was a priest likewise every believer is called kings and priest (Rev.1:6)

- Righteous living, walking in obedience to God, blameless, pleasing to God, good character towards God and following instruction completely (Luke 1:5-8)
- He gave his time (days of ministration) (Luke 1:23)

What is in it for me? Why do I need to live a dedicated life? What is the benefit of being dedicated to God? Benefits:

- Receive answer to your prayers- Zechariah’s prayers was answered, Elizabeth conceived and gave birth to John at old age (Luke 1.13, 24, 57)
- God will take care of your own affairs and interests.

2. **Abraham** –promptly and completely obeyed God, believed in God and gave sacrificially as a dedication to God

- Complete obedience: God called him to get out from his kindred /family to an unknown place and he obeyed promptly (Gen. 12:1, 4-5)
- Sacrificial life of giving: He entertained angels with his resources (Gen. 18:2-8) and ready to give his only son as demanded by God (Gen. 22:2-3, 9-12)
- Life of intercession (prayer): He interceded on behalf of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 18:16-19, 33)
- Trust and strong faith in God: He believed God for who He is and it was imputed unto him for righteousness (Heb.11:13; Gen. 15:5-6; Rom. 4:20). He was called the Father of faith.

Benefits:

- Answer to prayers: (i). Sarah conceived and gave birth to Isaac (Gen. 22:15-18, 20). God speaks to him and he enjoyed the presence of God (Gen. 17:1, 18:1) (ii). Abimelech and

his household were healed of barrenness, they bore children after Abraham prayed for him (Gen. 20:17)

- God fights your battles: (i). God plagued Pharaoh because he took Sarai to wife (Gen. 12:17-20) (ii). Abimelech was barren and God restrained from sinning against Him because of Sarah - Abraham's wife (Gen. 20:2-3, 16-18)
- God blesses you and you will be a blessing to others. Abraham was blessed (Gen. 17: 5-8) and he became a blessing to others. He rescued Lot from the hands of the enemies (Gen. 14:14-16; 19-24; Gen. 22:15-18). He interceded on behalf of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 18:16-19, 33). Believers are seeds of Abraham and his blessing is ours.
- Life of overcomer: (Heb. 11:19)
- Promise of Eternal home: (Heb. 11:16)

3. **Hannah:** demonstrated some of the fruit of the spirit and devotion to God got her miracle.

- Patience, perseverance, Persistence and devotion (in worship and prayer) to God
- Sacrificial life: she gave birth her son to God as long as he lives (I Sam. 1:27-28)

Benefits:

- Answer to prayers. God answered the prayer of Hannah I Sam. 1:17-20)
- God will take care of your interest. Hannah bore 5 children after Samuel (I Sam. 2:21)

Conclusion:

Our dedication to God is a privilege because of God's unconditional love for us characterized by His grace and mercy (Eph.2:8-9). There is a level of sacrifice, obedience, giving, faith, righteous living (holiness) God is expecting from us at every phase of our lives. Let us ask God for grace to make that sacrifice, keep the faith and be obedience to God in all things.

Ponder: Is your life dedicated to God? Examine yourself!