

## LIFE CHANGING STORIES FROM THE BIBLE

### HOW TO BE USED OF GOD

Once we become a true heart believer, a true Christian, we will have a desire to be used of God, to do good in this world, to be his witness, to win others to the Lord. However, in our enthusiasm we may find ourselves running ahead of God. Probably every keen Christian makes this mistake at least at times in their lives. We are busy for God but not accomplishing much. We soon run ourselves dry and give up discouraged. The secret is to learn to work together with God. In some cases we may have to slow down to do that.

We need to follow the example of the first disciples, Mark 16:19,20. "After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it."

"The Lord worked with them," that's the secret, getting into time with the Lord. Being used of God is not God taking over while we are limp in his hands like a pencil being used by a hand to write words or draw a picture. A pencil is just a piece of wood with lead in it. We are intelligent human beings, created by God, able to make choices and do things. So that means we can work independently without God and try to achieve things for him or we can work together with him and achieve his plans and purposes.

This is how Jesus worked, listen to what he says, "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can only do what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does." John 5:19, 20.

Jesus worked together with God in perfect harmony. "Whatever the Father does the Son also does." They worked in unison and we have to learn to do the same. "He can only do what he sees the Father doing" He could clearly see what the Father was doing and in his human body he did the same. If we are in touch with God he can show us what he is doing and we can also begin to do the same.

I read of a young keen Christian man who devoted his life to serve the Lord. He said that he became a windmill of activity, every day was packed tight with doing things, like, preaching, talking, counselling, taking a bible class, getting involved in Gospel outreaches etc. But no one was converted. He said that he got to a place of complete spiritual exhaustion. He could see no point of going on. One night he got down on his knees in his room and cried out to God saying that he had tried but he was a hopeless failure.

Then God began to show him as he read the Bible that he had been running ahead of God, that he had not been letting Jesus work through him, he had been working but not together with the Lord.

From then on he began to see things happen, people started coming to the Lord, God was using him, he was cooperating with the Lord. He seemed to be meeting people ready to come to the Lord wherever he went. Just like the early disciples, the Lord worked with him and confirmed the word by the signs that accompanied it. What were the signs? Why, Christians are being blessed and souls coming to Christ.

So, how in a practical way, can we learn how to work together with God? Begin by telling God you are willing to give yourself to his service. Begin each day in prayer; ask him to open up opportunities for you to work together with him that day. Go forward to do your normal daily duties, alert to any opportunity he may open up. If nothing extra happens then it is just your normal day's duties he wants you to do that day as a witness for him.

What kind of opportunities can he send? Someone can ask you a question like they asked Peter on the day of Pentecost after hearing the Gospel, "What shall we do?" The answer brought about 3000 people to the Lord. Acts 2:37. Or the Jailer asking Paul after an earthquake, "What must I do to be saved? The answer resulted in the jailer and his family coming to Christ. Acts 16:30 like the lady that was dying asking me, "Can you help me?" My answer led her to Christ. Sometimes God brings about situations where you can ask a question. Like Philip asking the Ethiopian, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The Ethiopian replied, "How can I unless someone explains it to me." This resulted in Philip leading him to Christ. Acts 8:30,31. Many times I have asked the question of different people of all ages, "Have you ever asked Jesus into your heart?" This has resulted in a number receiving Christ.

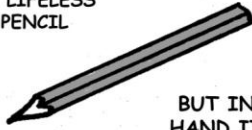
People can be blessed by your conversation; something you say may encourage a Christian or even save a soul. Like Lydia listening to Paul. Acts 16:14. Many years ago an 8 year old boy listened to my conversation and decided to accept Christ. He grew up to be a useful servant of God. An opportunity to be kind. On a school trip my wife shared a cake with another mother this was the first step in this lady coming to Christ.

There are many ways you can find yourself working together with God. Paul said in Philippians 1:12. "What has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel." Paul wrote this when he was in prison. Even in those circumstances he was working together with the Lord.

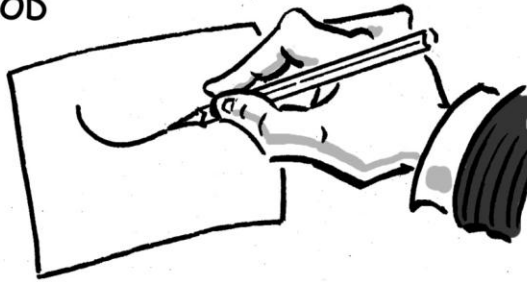
This is a big subject, much more could be said but we can only really learn by experience, even trial and error. Only Jesus never made a mistake. The only true way to serve God is to work together with him.

## HOW TO BE USED OF GOD

A LIFELESS  
PENCIL



BUT IN THE  
HAND IT CAN  
WRITE OR DRAW



BUT THIS IS NOT HOW GOD USES US.  
WE ARE CREATED BY GOD AS INTELLIGENT BEINGS  
AND ARE TO WORK TOGETHER WITH GOD  
TO ACCOMPLISH HIS WORK IN THE WORLD.

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## HOW THE EARLY DISCIPLES WORKED

CHRIST SEATED  
AT THE RIGHT  
HAND OF GOD



AFTER THE LORD JESUS  
HAD SPOKEN TO THEM,  
HE WAS TAKEN UP INTO  
HEAVEN AND HE SAT AT  
THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD.

THEN THE DISCIPLES  
WENT OUT AND PREACHED  
EVERYWHERE, AND THE  
LORD WORKED WITH  
THEM AND CONFIRMED  
HIS WORD BY THE SIGNS  
THAT ACCOMPANIED IT.

MARK 16:19,20.

EACH NEW GENERATION  
OF BELIEVERS IS TO DO  
THE SAME.

THEY WORKED TOGETHER WITH GOD.  
WE ARE TO SERVE GOD THE SAME WAY