

SILENT SERVANTS

Recently I had two discussions with individuals. One was an someone I knew from my submarine days and he wanted to know if I would mind being “quoted” in a book he was writing and at the same time he was complaining about the lack of recognition of the “Silent Service” mainly during the 70’s and 80’s.

Shortly after that I was speaking with an out of town member of this church. Someone we would affectionally call a “Dorito”. This individual was calling to volunteer to grade inmates tests or to help in any other way possible. They went on to say how they wish they could serve our church more. That if they were local, they could do things to help Joe and myself with our ministry and be more involved. They had a real desire to serve the Lord through Joe Griffin Media Ministries, Grace Doctrine Church, and Philippi Ministry.

So, what we’re going to study tonight is called the “Silent Servant” not the “Silent Service” but the “Silent Servant”. The two conversations I just told you about were within days of each and I thought what a great way to encourage those of you who think you’re can’t serve the Lord or this local church because you can’t attend regularly or maybe you just think God can’t use you. Hopefully, this will make sense and be an encouragement to you. So, let’s get started.

There's something you need to know. I am not a one man show. Neither is Joe. Without the support of those who pray for us and those who give grace gifts our ministries would not exist. There are also those out there who encourage us with your notes, emails, text message, etc. These are all important parts of our ministry and this local church.

1. First and foremost we need to remember we are to **"Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ". We need to make sure we are utilizing the Rebound technique (1 John 1:9) so we are filled with the Holy Spirit and then to **"grow in grace"**. Remember, what I told you in an earlier class: study, learn, grow.**

2. I need to remind you that your study of the Word of God is priority number one. Your relationship with Jesus Christ is the momentum and the motivation in your life that leads you to maximum glorification of God. If it's any other reason it won't sustain you.

3. I also need to remind you that God has an individual plan for each of our lives including you and me. He puts things in our pathway so doors may open for us. So, we might fulfill His plan for our lives. But there is one part of that plan that is true for all of us and that is presenting the Lord Jesus Christ to the world. It's called witnessing. Wherever and however we can do that to present the Lord Jesus Christ we must be ready and if that is not a priority then you will miss opportunity after opportunity, because your mind is somewhere else.

4. So witnessing is an important part of what every believer should be doing.

5. You may think no one even knows who I am or that I want to serve. Let me tell you this: God knows who you are and exactly what you're doing and that is enough.

6. Remember God knows what you're doing and who you are. He can look down and pick you out of all the billions of people on the earth and that's comforting and encouraging. This should be an encouragement to all believers to do their duty!

7. There are many examples of individuals in the Bible that we would consider lessor known. In some cases, we don't even know their names, but God did. He knew who they were, where they were, and He did use them.

8. As you know our Pastor has been teaching us about the "widow" and her "son" in 1 Kings 17-19. Names unknown to us but not to God!

9. God put this unnamed woman in the right spot at the right time to support Elijah.

1 Kings 17:10: "So he arose and went to Zarephath, and when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow gathering sticks; and he called out to her and said, "Please get me a little water in a jar, that I may drink."

1. We won't spend a lot of time on this unnamed widow since our Pastor is teaching this as part of our "Reckoning" study. But we do see that Elijah is a mature believer; the widow is a believer but without doctrine. God knew she was the right person at the right time and ready to be used by Him.

2. In 1 Kings 17:22-24 we see where God miraculously restored the boy's life. This miracle proved to the woman that Elijah was indeed a man of God and the word of the Lord that Elijah claimed to speak was indeed the truth.

3. This incident showed the widow and others that the power of the Lord as the true God contrasted greatly with the impotency of Baal.

Our next example is from Ecclesiastes 9:14-15.

Ecclesiastes 9:14-15: "There was a little city, and few men within it; and there came a great king against it, and besieged it, and built great bulwarks against it:

Verse 15: Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city; yet no man remembered that same poor man."

1. The unnamed man used Biblical wisdom to deliver a whole nation. He was just a man with the wisdom of Bible Doctrine in his soul.

2. It's the power of the word of God (Bible Doctrine) in the soul of one person that makes a difference.

3. The fact that he had to “be found” tells us he was probably unknown within the city.

4. This was just an unnamed ordinary guy with the word of God in his soul.

5. The man is not the issue (he is just the vehicle). It’s the word of God in his soul that allows God to use him.

6. It is the power of Bible Doctrine in the soul of one person that makes a difference. He had the resources of Bible Doctrine in his soul that no one else had.

7. This man is never mentioned again in scripture nor is his name ever found in scripture, but God knew who he was and used him. Why? Because God knew he was prepared and ready.

PRINCIPLE: God uses prepared people. Our job is to get prepared!!! Study, learn and grow!

1. Next, we see in John 4:5-30 how one amazing woman brought a city to Christ.

2. Here is another “silent servant” and we’ll never know her name until we get to heaven.

3. When this unnamed Samaritan woman realizes she is speaking with the Messiah she, **“leaves her waterpot and went back to town to tell what she had learned”** (John 4:28).

4. Because of this unnamed woman many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the **“word of the woman who testified”**.

5. With the Samaritan woman we see another flawed individual that God used. The woman had had five husbands who had either died or divorced her. When Jesus says, **“the one you now have is not your husband”**, He knows she’s now living with a man, but they are not married. (John 4:16-18)

John 4:41: He (Jesus) stayed there two more days and many believed because of His word. And they said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard it for ourselves and know that this one is indeed the Savior of the world.”

NOTE: What was it about what this flawed woman or what she said that got the other Samaritans in town to come to the well? It was the look in her eyes and the urgency in her voice!! She proclaimed Jesus as the Messiah.

Next let’s take a look at Priscilla.

Acts 18:1: “In Corinth, Paul met a Jew whose name was Aquila and his wife Priscilla (they were already believers) who had

fled Rome under persecution from Claudius, who had commanded all Jews to leave Rome.”

1. Eventually, Paul sailed from Corinth to Ephesus along with Aquila and Priscilla and from there to Caesarea and eventually Antioch.

2. It appears Paul left Aquila and Priscilla in Ephesus because it was here, they ran into Apollos, a convert of John the Baptist, who was learned in Old Testament prophecy but unacquainted with the finished work of Christ on the cross. His message of Baptism was based on John’s repentance and prepare for the coming Messiah message.

3. Priscilla is only named three times in scripture (Acts 18:2,18,26). Yet God used her along with her husband to teach Apollos **“in the way of God more accurately”.**

4. The Bible does not specify which doctrines they taught him, but the contexts of Acts 18-19 and 1 Corinthians seem to indicate that Aquila and Priscilla instructed him on the distinctions between Israel and the church and about the Doctrines of Jesus Christ.

5. An amazing aspect of Priscilla’s life was that, though she had to manage her household and make tents, she found time to be a thorough student of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

6. Priscilla was noted for her hospitality, and she invited Apollos to stay in her home, confirmed by the phrase “Priscilla and Aquila took Apollos **“invited him into their home””.**

7. God designed a divine appointment for Paul and Aquila and Priscilla for a specific reason.

8. He (Paul) enlightened them on the mystery doctrine of the church, and they were faithful friends.

9. Aquila and Priscilla were believers who were positive to Paul’s teaching. They learned and then they were ready to be used by God to teach Apollos.

10. Apollos was then able to be used by God and he played an important role in the early churches in Corinth and Ephesus.

There are many other “silent servants” in the Bible which we could study like those unnamed “silent servants” who supported Christ and the Apostles, the unnamed three of David’s Mighty Men who got water for David from the well (2 Samuel 23), helpers of Job (Job 42:11), the nameless woman who poured perfume on Jesus’s head (Mark 14:3-9), the woman who wet Jesus’s feet with her tears (Luke 7:37-39), and I could go on and on how those nameless “silent servants” served and fulfilled God’s plan for their lives.

God can use you wherever you are located. What's your assignment? Have you ever requested an assignment from God? Isaiah 6:8: **"Here am I, send me."**

You ask, "What can I do"?

1. First GET PREPARED!! Study, learn and grow. Stay filled with the Holy Spirit and continue your spiritual advance.
2. We know each believer has the privilege of intercessory prayer. You can pray for our Pastor Joe, Grace Doctrine Church, Joe Griffin Media Ministries, and Philippi Ministry and me. You can pray for our country, plus we have an extensive Prayer List at Grace Doctrine Church. Your prayer for others becomes a ministry.
3. Intercessory prayer is praying for others. This aspect of prayer is a ministry of Christian service in which you provide a barrage of support for those in need. Ephesians 6:18-19
4. In order to intercede for others, create a list to remind yourself of all those in need of prayer.
5. The Church Age mandate for a consistent daily prayer life is found 1 Thessalonians 5:17, **"Pray continually"** it is a mandate for both habitual and spontaneous prayer.

6. The prayer of Elijah on Mount Carmel demonstrates the power of intercessory prayer for the nation. 1 Kings 18:42-46; James 5:16-18

7. The power of prevailing prayer was exercised in the early church on behalf of Peter, who was in prison and about to be executed. Acts 12:5:

“So, Peter was being kept in prison, but fervent prayer was made for him to God by the church.”

8. The result of this prayer was Peter’s dramatic deliverance. He was chained between two Roman soldiers. But with every Roman guard asleep, Peter simply walked out of the prison.

9. There is prayer for the sick. James 5:15: **“And the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up...”**

10. There is prayer for those in authority over us. As citizens of a client nation to God, this is a very important function for believers.

1 Timothy 2:1-2: **“First of all, therefore, I request that petitions, prayers, intercessions, thanksgivings be made on behalf of all mankind; on behalf of kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead an undisturbed and tranquil life...”**

11. Believers are encouraged to pray for other believers and for authorities. Romans 15:30; 1 Timothy 2:1; and Hebrews 13:18-22

12. Paul was perhaps the greatest example of a prayer warrior in the New Testament. He repeatedly prayed for others, especially the individual churches with whom he was working. The dynamics of Paul's intercessory prayers are seen in Ephesians 1:15-23 and 3:14-21.

13. In Ephesians 3:14-21, while Paul was in prison, he prays for the believers in the church at Ephesus.

Ephesians 3:14-21: "For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,

Vs.15: from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name,

Vs.20: Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, ...

14. We as believers have the privilege of intercessory prayer and we can see one of the greatest acts of intercession for an entire nation was made by Moses, Exodus 32:9-16 and Numbers 14:11-12.

15. Jesus Christ on the cross prayed in Luke 23:34 the greatest intercessory prayers of all time, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing".

16. Jesus Christ also prayed for Simon Peter one of His disciples. It was a prayer of intercession. Luke 22:32: **“But I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail...”**

17. As I mentioned earlier, we have an extensive Prayer List here at Grace Doctrine Church. You can pray for those in positions of authority in the church. Pray for those who work in the church. Pray for those who are ill. Pray for missionaries. Pray for loved ones and friends (Acts 21:5). Pray for our military, the police, and the fire department.

NOTE: I am not a one-man band. Neither is Joe. We cannot do what we do without the prayers of the many prayer warriors out there praying for us! Please continue to pray for us!! If you do you are a “silent servant”.

We have many “silent servants” who give grace gifts to our ministries. We NEVER, EVER ask for money. NEVER!! If God is in it, He will provide the finances. However, without those “silent servants” who are motivated to give graciously to our ministry we would be shut down. We could not continue doing what we do. It’s true for Grace Doctrine Church, Joe Griffin Media Ministries, and it’s true for Philippi Ministry.

1. Giving is an expression of worship to commemorate the grace policy of God. Giving is not commanded. Giving is a form of worship.

NOTE: Worship in all its phases must come from free will motivation.

2. The ultimate example of giving is demonstrated by the love of God which gave His Son to die in our place without concern for what we would do with the gift once provided. Jesus Christ willingly took on the imputation and judgement of our sins without ever being distracted about whether we would ever appropriate this grace gift through faith.

3. The greatest grace gift of all was the Lord Jesus Christ given by the grace of God to the human race.

John 3:16: “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

4. Giving in the Church Age is the legitimate function of the believer’s royal priesthood in worship.

5. The motivation to give must be grace and the act of giving must be voluntary.

2 Corinthians 8:4: “They kept on begging us, imploring the grace favor of participating in the support of the ministry of the saints.”

NOTE: In the above verse the Macedonian Churches recognized the impact the ministries of the gospel was having

on churches and were adamant about participating in the cause of helping others who were in need. (2 Corinthians 8:2-5)

6. We see in 2 Corinthians 8:5 that spiritual growth creates an inventory of Bible Doctrine in your soul that guides your grace giving.

7. Giving is a demonstration of grace orientation based on motivation from the word of God in your soul and thus emphasizes the mental attitude rather than the gift.

8. Giving is the presentation of money which may be used in sustaining the ministry of doctrinal communication. Giving is designed to support communication gifts.

9. Motivation is the major issue in giving, not the amount given.

2 Corinthians 9:7: “Each one must give just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves the well-motivated giver.”

10. You give based on the metabolized doctrine in your soul, not on the basis of your emotions.

11. God in His matchless grace provides both the spiritual motivation and monetary capital for grace giving.

2 Corinthians 9:8: “And God is able to make all grace abound to you, that in always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have abundance for every good deed.”

12. God through His grace provides both the monetary capital for grace giving and makes it part of your Christian service.

2 Corinthians 9:10: “Now He who supplies seed for the sower and bread for food, will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.”

2 CORINTHIANS 9:12: “For this service which you perform is not only supplying the needs of God’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanksgivings to God.”

13. Grace giving is a function of the soul that results from spiritual growth. It never emphasizes the gift or the.

14. Giving is a privilege associated with grace.

NOTE: NEVER, EVER go into debt, run up your credit cards, borrow money, etc. to give. NEVER!

We also have those individuals associated with this church and our ministries who are very encouraging. They drop a note or email, they give that well timed phone call or text message which encourages both Joe and me. It’s never solicited or expected but always appreciated.

1. I must say if you are in the local area you can encourage our Pastor by being here face-to-face.

Hebrews 10:25: “Not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”

2. So if you are in the local geographical area it’s encouraging to see your smiling face.

3. If you’re not in the local geographical area you have the wonderful opportunity to listen via “electronic contrivance”. You are still part of this congregation and the ministries associated with this local church. Just the fact that we have so many that listen online is an encouragement to our pastor and the members of the congregation.

4. Encouragement is the general ministry of all believers to each other in which we encourage or comfort each other.

5. We should encourage other believers. Colossians 4:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:18; 5:11; and Hebrews 3:13; 10:25

6. Paul introduces biblical encouragement in 2 Corinthians 1:3-5. He presents here the reason for on the job training: So, we can encourage others by the way God has encouraged and comforted us in our personal hardship, tests, and suffering.

7. We learn to encourage others through our own personal hardship, tests, and suffering. 2 Corinthians 1:3-5

8. We can encourage with the Word of God. Romans 15:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:18; Hebrews 12:5; 1 Peter 5:12

Romans 15:4: “For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”

9. We can encourage each other by stressing the great encouragement that comes through our relationship with Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:5: “For just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundant, so also our comfort through Christ.”

10. We can encourage each other by reminding others that God encourages us! Acts 9:31; Romans 15:6; 2 Corinthians 1:3; 7:6; 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17: “Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace.

Vs.17: Comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.”

Let’s sum this all up.

1. No matter where you are located and no matter who knows you or doesn't know you. It does not matter, and you need to always remember: God knows us and knows what we're doing, and He uses those who are prepared. Our job first and foremost is to get prepared.

NOTE: Colonel Thieme, Jr. made this comment: "You don't want to be a high-profile believer".

2. Just fly under the radar and keep the spiritual advance going and never, ever quit. Remember the study of the Word of God is priority number one. We need to stand shoulder to shoulder and shield to shield and continue the advance and become "front rankers".

3. We need to represent His intent – Luke 19:10 (Romans 3:25-26; John 17:4; 1 Timothy 1:15) – "Christ came into the world to save sinners".

4. Next we are to re-present Him to a lost world.

5. "Take up your cross and follow me" – You need to learn to serve the Lord by applying doctrine in whatever capacity His plan calls for.

6. Always be in prayer for Joe Griffin, Grace Doctrine Church, Joe Griffin Media Ministries, Philippi Ministry, and me. Please.

7. We don't discuss grace giving but thank you to those who graciously support the ministries associated with this church.

8. No matter where you are located you are an encouragement to Joe and me.

9. Personally, I would like to thank those who support Philippi Ministry.

I hope this class has been an encouragement to you and at the same let you know even though I may not know who you are God knows.

**Tomorrow night we'll attack "WARRIOR or WORRIER".
Forever forward!**