

My question today is, are we worthy to serve our God? Bottom line is: NO.

I struggle every time I am asked to do something at the church. If you've been around Mexia long enough you have probably seen something that I have done that would cause you to think He shouldn't be anywhere near that pulpit. What is Brad thinking? Well, don't blame Brad. He hasn't been here long enough to see all my lows, but you my Church family, you have. So, how did I get up here today? Well, I want to tell you we Serve a powerful God, Amen. I want to thank God and Brad for the opportunity to Serve. How did I get up here. I came to realize I wanted to get in line with what God wanted for me. I was not in sync with God's will. We are child like and selfish. We want what we want. Have you ever heard the saying, "I'd rather ask for forgiveness, than ask for permission?" I realized I was not doing a very good job of running this show my self. So, I asked how do I get in sync with God's will. I read the words of Jesus. Luke 8, Jesus talks about his true family. It is when a man puts his will in line with God's will, by the help of the Holy Spirit, that is where relationship starts with Jesus. This is the Key: Ask for help from the Holy Spirit.

Where do I start: Prayer!!

How do I pray: Lord's Prayer- Jesus taught his disciples to pray. It's every thing you need to get started. Praise God; ask for his kingdom to come, for his will be done, enough food for the day, for forgiveness, strength to forgive others, strength to not give into temptation. I started with this prayer, and wisdom to know where to begin. So I got up for Church one day, which in those days it was a chore, there was that pesky Jerry Hathaway. He'd been asking for over a year for me to go on one of those Walk to Emmaus things. I didn't want to go, I sure didn't want to go Alone. So I got Walt to go. We get there and there is John Posey, Mike Bolton. Do you think God was equipping some guys for this Church or what? One of my favorite sayings is "God doesn't call the equipped, He equips the called" Repeat I knew I wasn't, but I wanted to be.

There are talks given on these weekends and I said WoW, how do these guys do that. Less than two years later, I was giving one of those talks. God willing, this September I will give another one. He will equip you when he calls you. I HAD a powerful experience I would like to share with you. What blessings you will experience when you say YES to serve.

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Brad asked me to serve Communion at the Bowie House last week. Estalee came out and I invited the rest of the ladies there to join us. I served them and then led them in Prayer. Then Estalee asked if I would sing with her. Ya'll know how much she loves to sing. Well I can't remember the words to anything, but for about a month before that I had been obsessed with learning the words to HOW GREAT THOU ART, there I was I knew the words to a song that she knew so well. There wasn't a dry eye in the house. HE WILL EQUIP YOU WHEN HE CALLS Serving God is our Duty. We are an extra credit society. When we serve God we feel like we've done something extra. No, we are doing our duty. Jesus warned against this. We should feel like it is a privilege to serve. Luke 17:10 Jesus taught us to say: "We are unworthy servants who have simply done our duty".

I have found that the more I serve God, the less I fall and when I do fall, I don't fall as far or as hard. So when we fail or sin, do we stop serving?

This is the next thing I want to warn you against. **The fear of being labeled a Hypocrite.** You might think, Well people will just say I'm a hypocrite because they know what I've done in the past. Look folks, we all fall short. We are not worthy. Except thru Gods Grace.

What is Grace? It is receiving a gift that we cannot earn. What is the Gift? Jesus. Jesus bought forgiveness with his blood. Use his gift to serve him.

During WWII in Europe, a statue of Jesus was in the middle of a bombing raid. The statue's hands were blown off. A plaque was placed beside it that said: You must be the hands of Jesus now.

I challenge you to be the hands of Jesus, serve when you are asked.

None of us are worthy... All of us can serve.

Will you bow your heads in prayer.

Father please send the Holy Spirit to teach us to pray for wisdom to know what our Gifts are for thy service. Amen