

5 Key Positions In Following Christ

2 Timothy 4:7-8

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

- This is a testimony from apostle Paul, disciple and follower of Christ
- Not all will finish the race, not all will have fought a good fight and kept the faith.
- How do we sustain to reach or finish the race?

Matthew 10:22

You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.

- Someone who finish the race is the one who stands firm to the end.

John 6:66

From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

- Why? Because not all stands firm
- Why? Because of the pressure of the end time

There are 5 key positions in following Christ in order to stand firm to the end

1 – Our position as sons of God

John 1:12

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

- To become children of God means we will become heirs of His Kingdom
- What God owns, including His mighty power will be inheritable by His beloved
- Believe in His Name
- Has the DNA of the Father

- Proof of us becoming sons of God:
 - **Matthew 5:9** - Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
- Attitude of Peacemaker:
 - Bring positive impact to surrounding
 - Do not provoke or promote strife
 - Do not throw in false accusation
 - Do not seek to find men's acceptance or defense or vindication

Numbers 12:1-3

Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite. "Has the Lord spoken only through Moses?" they asked. "Hasn't he also spoken through us?" And the Lord heard this. Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.

- If we want to become sons of God then we need to bring peace
- God hears every words we say or feel or thought
- What is our greatest challenge in peacemaker?
 - Our longing to hold on to our rights

Genesis 13:7-9

And quarreling arose between Abram's herders and Lot's. The Canaanites and Perizzites were also living in the land at that time. So Abram said to Lot, "Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herders and mine, for we are close relatives. Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left."

- Abram as uncle humble himself before Lot, his nephew
- Abraham becoming the only one named as father of believers
- Sons of God is peacemakers regardless where they are
- Release our rights and God will become our defender

Acts 2:47

Praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

- What is Jesus called? Prince of Peace

2 – Our position as God’s co-workers

1 Corinthians 3:9

For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.

- We are God’s co-workers, the One who owns heaven and earth
- Everyone of us has the potential to become His co-workers

1 Kings 17:7-9

Sometime later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. 8 Then the word of the Lord came to him: 9 “Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food.”

- God can use even a widow to serve Him through His prophet.
- What is the result experienced by His co-worker:
 - **Verse 16** - For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the Lord spoken by Elijah.
- The widow and her child survive the famine
- When we position ourselves as His co-workers, God will be responsible to provide for our needs.
- How we become His co-workers:
 - God trust us (we become trustworthy) and at the same time we trust God
 - God entrust His Great Commission to us as His co-workers
 - **Matthew 28:19-20** - Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
 - Have we then trusted God with our life?
 - **Mark 4:37-38** - A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”

3 – Our position as God’s army or warrior

1 Samuel 17:26

David asked the men standing near him, “What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?”

Rome 16:20

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

How we become Army of God:

- Strong mentality in the Lord, unshakeable, not easy to give up, not easy to be offended
- Keep trusting God, keep serving God and keep thanking God

Matthew 15:22-28

A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly.” Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, “Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.” The woman came and knelt before him. “Lord, help me!” she said. He replied, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.” “Yes it is, Lord,” she said. “Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.” Then Jesus said to her, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed at that moment.

Have we the kind of mentality as the Canaanite woman?

4 – Our position as servant of God

Luke 1:38

“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.”
Then the angel left her.

Mary is a common woman, simple life, but the bible recorded Mary as servant of God, fully obedience to God that she was entrusted to deliver Son of God.

Servant of God:

- Not easy to get anger/bitter, full obedience, sincere humbleness, full control of self.

Heart of a servant of God is not always equal to position of God’s servant:

- Servant of God may not necessarily possess the heart of a servant.
- But someone who has a servant’s hear will always reflect servant of God

3 Characters of a humble person:

- Always ask God first
 - **Luke 6:12-16** - One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles: Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot, 16 Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.
- Always positively responding and accepting constructive critic and input from others:
 - David accepted the rebuke from prophet Nathan
 - Saul dodged and came with excuse when confronted by prophet Samuel
- Never take the glory of God to His own
 - **Mark 1:7** - And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.

- John the Baptist, despite knowing he will be baptizing Jesus, he bows down before Him with such humility and humbleness.

5 – Our position as His bride

Matthew 25:1

“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

This is our highest position because we are standing by His side, Jesus, our bridegroom forever.

How to become His bride:

- Has spiritual maturity in Christ
- There are 2 indications when someone is growing up into maturity in Christ:
 - They love hard spiritual food that rebuke and shape their character. God is looking for those who have permanent food
 - Though life that they go through that embolden them in Christ
- We cannot be His bride without going through challenges that will make us mature in Him.