

2/5/2023

THIS IS CHURCH: “HOW TO BE USED BY GOD”

*“...Give yourselves completely to God...to be tools in the hands of God, to be used for His good purposes.”
Romans 6:13 (LB)*

I. Get your HEART ready.

“If you keep yourself pure, you will be a special utensil for honorable use. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work.” 2 Timothy 2:21 (NLT)

*“But if we **confess our sins** to Him, He is faithful and just to **forgive us** our sins and to **cleanse us** from all wickedness.”
1 John 1:9 (NLT)*

*“...Let us **throw off everything that hinders** and the sin that so easily entangles.” Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)*

✦ How do I get my heart ready?

1. Ask God to show me SIN IN MY LIFE.
2. CONFESS, REPENT, start clean.

II. Get your CALENDAR ready.

*“The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear God’s word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by **the worries of this life** and the lure of wealth, so no fruit is produced.” Matthew 13:22 (NLT)*

✦ How do I get my calendar ready?

1. Start each day by “CLOCKING IN WITH GOD” and GIVING the day to Him.

III. Get your FINANCES ready.

✦ How do I get my finances ready?

1. TITHE 10% of your income back to God.

“The purpose of tithing is to teach you to always put God first place in your life.” Deuteronomy 14:23 (LB)

2. Get out of DEBT.

“...the borrower is servant to the lender.” Proverbs 22:7 (NLT)

“Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.” Romans 13:8 (NIV)

✦ 10-10-80 (10% tithe, 10% savings, 80% living expenses)

✦ 10-10-10-70 (10% tithe, 10% savings, 10% debt reduction,
70% living expenses)

3. Be **GENEROUS** to people in need.

*“Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be **rich in good works and generous to those in need**, always being ready to share with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.”*
1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NLT)

IV. Get your **FAITH** ready.

“Spend your time and energy in the exercise of keeping spiritually fit.” 1 Timothy 4:7b (LB)

✦ **How do I get my faith ready?**

“60 Day Challenge” (Now till Palm Sunday)

1. Read Bible and pray every day
2. Small Group and Ministry Team
3. Worship every week
4. Generous Lifestyle
5. Share your faith

V. **TRY SOMETHING** now.

*“But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must **do what it says**. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.”*
James 1:22 (NLT)

✦ **How do I try something?**

1. Take a **NEXT STEP TODAY**.

Does this sound hard?

I have to decide if I’m going to be a FAN or a FOLLOWER of Jesus.

*[Jesus]“If any of you wants to be My follower,
you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow Me.
If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it.
But if you give up your life for My sake, you will save it.”*
Matthew 16:24-25 (NLT)

Keep the Conversation going...

1. Is your heart ready to be used by God? Why or Why not? If not, what's hindering your heart?
2. Describe how you "clock in" with God each day? (Matthew 6:33)
3. Read Ephesians 2:10 and Colossians 3:23. What is something you can try that will help you to be used by God?