

# Advice for New Believers

Follow the Good Shepherd

1. Listen very carefully to the Master (1Sam. 3:9)
2. Do whatever He asks. (Jn2:5)
3. Do whatever it costs. (Lk. 10:35; Phil. 4:19)
4. Do it with all your heart. (Josh 22:5)
5. Do it for the Glory of God. (1Cor. 10:31)
6. Do the best you can. (Ecc. 9:10)
7. Do what you can. (Mk. 14:8)
8. Do it joyfully. (Ps. 100:2)
9. Be Faithful. (Mt. 6:24; Eph. 6:5)
10. Trust God for the Increase. (Mt.20:13; Jn. 12:26)

**1. Listen very carefully to the Master** (1Sam. 3:9). Good servants listen very carefully to the instructions of their Master. We cannot fulfill a task or mission if we get the directions wrong. Going “right” when God says “left” is a sure way to get lost or wander in the wilderness. Christian servants get their directions and instructions from God’s Word. In any given city, situation, or Assembly there are those who appreciate the importance of hearing God’s instructions (Acts 17:11; 1Thes. 2:13). We can’t do God’s will if we don’t know what it is. Read God’s word every day.

**2. Do whatever He asks** (Jn2:5). The advice Mary gave the servants at the wedding feast at Cana is still the best advice. “Whatever!” That word is filled with miracles. That word is filled with power and grace. Blessing is hidden in that word, “whatever.” Many are willing to do certain things, or some things; real faith and Christian Service is willing to do “whatever.” The servants at Cana were about to participate in the miracle of turning water into



wine which was part of God’s “whatever.” Peter’s walking upon the water was part of God’s “whatever.” Building an Ark or “forsaking” one’s fishnets, going to Galilee or going to the gallows are all the same to the Christian Servant.

**3. Do whatever it costs** (Lk. 10:35; Phil. 4:19). Service like sacrifice always costs something. David understood this when he told Araunah, “...I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing” (2Sam. 24:24). The mystery about giving to God is that it is impossible to “out-give” Him. To the faithless eye we appear to lose (when we give something up) for the time being, but in the long run and total scheme of things, the Christian Servant remembers that he is serving the LORD of the Harvest. Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Servant of Servants did the Father’s will at the greatest cost.



**4. Do it with all your heart** (Josh 22:5). “*But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the LORD charged you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart, and with all your soul.*” Serving God “half-hearted” won’t work. God looks on the heart (1Sam. 16:7). When the heart is fully engaged, the hardest task is easy (Gen. 29:20).

**5. Do it for the Glory of God.** (1Cor. 10:31). God’s Servants are never “self-serving.” There is glory enough in the smile of heaven; beware the praise of man. God’s glory is a sacred and precious thing (Acts 12:23). The religious leaders in Jesus’ day “*loved the praise of men*” (Jn. 12:43). “*Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth’s sake.*” (Ps. 115:1). The Lord Jesus speaks of our good works bringing glory to God, not to us (Mk. 5:16).

**6. Do the Best you can.** (Ecc. 9:10). Here is a simple “litmus test” for Christian Service. “Was that your best?” God gave and gives His best, we should do no less. On another given day, I might have done better (for a multitude of reasons), but “today this was my best.” You might have “hit a home run” on that other day and struck out today, on both days, “did you do your best?” That is all God wants to know. God does not want our “leftovers” (Mal. 1:8). Give and do your best.

**7. Do what you can.** (Mk. 14:8). Only God can do everything and be everywhere at the same time. Don’t try to do God’s job. Let God do what only God can do. Do what you can do. “*As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men*” (Gal. 6:10). The Book of Proverbs gives good counsel when it says “*withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it*” (Prov. 3:27-28). The Lord Jesus defended the woman who anointed Him as “doing what she could.” Have we done what we “could?”



**8. Do it joyfully.** (Ps. 100:2) *“Serve the LORD with gladness.”* The Queen of Sheba was impressed with Solomon’s “happy” servants (2Chron. 9:7). Christians serve a “greater than Solomon.” There is JOY in serving Jesus. When the canary stops singing, the coal miners would do well to leave the shaft. When the Christian Servant’s heart stops singing something is wrong. There came a time when David needed to repent and pray *“restore unto me the joy of thy salvation”* (Ps. 51:12). Sing!

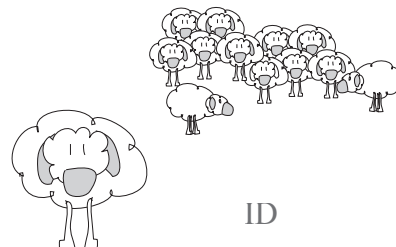
**9. Be Faithful.** (Mt. 6:24; Eph. 6:5). We serve God twenty-four hours a day. Every Christian is in “full time Christian Service.” Not matter where we may earn our daily bread or what we do, we ultimately serve God every minute of every day. We cannot serve two masters. We cannot serve the world and do evil, sit at Satan’s table one minute and the Lord’s the next. Christ must come first.

**10. Trust God for the increase.** (Mt.20:13; Lk. 15:17; Jn. 12:26). Don’t be a hired servant, be an inspired servant. In the story of the men working in the vineyard one group of men agreed to work (entered into a contract) for a certain amount. The second group agreed to work, but no salary or payment was discussed. One group is a picture of those working under the law, and the other a picture of those working by grace through faith. They trusted without a contract or promised sum. When we try to “hold” God to some contract, we show a lack of faith. When we serve, trusting the One we serve to do what He deems best, we will never be disappointed.



Once we have been born again, we become sons of God, as well as servants of God. We are also the sheep of his pasture.

We are saved to Serve. It is that simple. There is no side line in the Christian life. In the church of Jesus Christ, every man is a minister. One day, may we all hear, *“Well done, thou good and faithful servant.”* (Mat. 25:23)

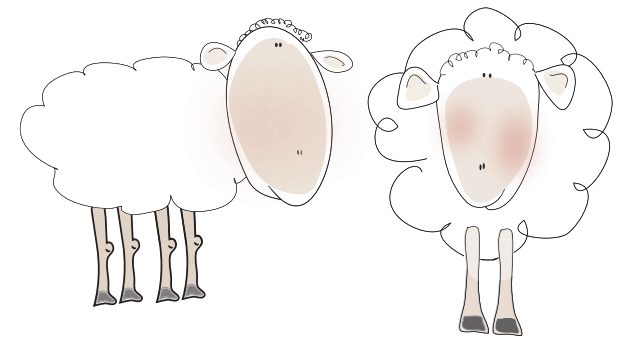


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## Staying Sheep Shape

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