

Authorized to Serve
September 17, 2017
2 Kings 22:23:9

1) Realize our authority. (2 Kings 22:1-2)

Josiah realized he was not his own authority, it was God and He followed Him.

God is Creator, sustainer and He has given us the privilege and divine authority to carry out His plan.

*And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All **authority** has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

Matthew 28:18-20

*But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be **witnesses** to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*

Acts 1:8

So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."²² And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

John 20:21-

22

Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God."² Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.

Romans 13:1-2

God is the Alpha and Omega. He is in charge. We either jump on board and serve Him (one way by serving others) or we don't.

2) Realize we are chosen by the Lord to do His work. (2 Kings 22:3-7 and 23:1-9)

Josiah realized that he was to carry out God's plan.

There is work to be done.

Age doesn't matter, Josiah was 8:

Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

1 Timothy 4:12

Now also when I am old and gray headed, o God, do not forsake me, until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come.

Psalm 71:18

We are simply a **conduit** (channel) carrying out God's plan.

We are to proclaim the truth of God's Word, the bad and the good news, serving both the lost and saved.

We have been given:

This **time**

This **place**

These **people**

I can either serve God and others or I can whine, pout, complain, make excuses etc. Granted, it comes much easier and "natural" to do the latter.

I am to serve God until my last breath.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing. **2 Timothy**

4:7-8

3) Realize God's Word matters. (2 Kings 22:8-13)

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12

We are to proclaim the Truth.

Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.

Psalm 119:11

God's Word is not just a "handbook", but literally God's Word to bring us to Himself.

4) Realize God lets us be used by Him.

Josiah, at the age of 8 was being used by God, what's my excuse?

This should humbly us beyond belief, the fact that God wants to use us as a part of His overall plan.

5) Realize we are either obedient or disobedient when it comes to serving the Lord. (2 Kings 22:16-17)

Benefits and blessings vs. the opposite.

Big deal, I have been given the authority of God to do His work! Am I in the game or sitting on the bench cheering others on?

Prayer Focus:

I would realize I am God's conduit (channel) to share the Gospel.

I would realize one of the ways I do; this is serving others.

I would get in the game, not just watch others from the sidelines.