

## What is God Looking For?

(Taken from Ps. Djohan Handojo's sermon)

Do God need us and we also need Him? If we feel that we do not need God, it shows that we are being proud. St. Agustinus said that He is nothing without God. It means that he depends on God in his life. And God also cannot do anything without us.

God is looking for someone He can trust to do His big and even small works. He is looking for a person who can change someone, a family or even a nation. If God wants to use us, there are certain standards that we have to fulfill. He is looking for someone who bear fruits and the fruits is the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22). As righteous believers who have been paid by the blood of Christ, we are the people God is looking for.

### Characters God is looking for:

A company does not only looking for a genius employee who can bring in profits to the company. But it's also looking for someone who has character. Someone who is good, honest, faithful and can be trusted. That is also how God is looking for someone / church who has characters in serving Him. God bless people who have characters. Not just good characters but who has the character of Christ.

Daniel is an example of someone who has characters (Daniel 1:4-5). Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego are captives in Babel. They are educated and good workers. They are special people. But there's one very special thing about them. They are competent people (verse 4), do good works and their work are extraordinary.

Work is a form of worship. That's why we have to work with all our heart as though we did that for God. **Firstly**, Daniel and his friends did everything according to the law of the kingdom of God. What is that? It is to please God in everything we do.

**Secondly**, do it with enthusiasm and a cheerful heart.

**Thirdly**, does it according to the law of the kingdom of God that is to put others before self and ask for Holy Spirit's guidance. If we're guided by the Spirit, we will work with a cheerful heart, patience, honesty, responsibility and brings about peace.

**Fourthly**, to work according to the law of the kingdom of God is to respect authority.

When working, we need to depend on God not on our own strength and understanding (Proverbs 3:5-6). We also need to consistently upgrade our skill so that we can be useful in our work (Proverbs 9:2). Read Proverbs 19:2 ; 10:4 ; 10:16. Be an honest and true in our work.

Daniel and his friends are blessed not only because they are the only one who is competent and committed, but they do have characters. God do not look for just a clever person, he is looking for someone who has characters.

Even when they live in with the people in Babel, they were not influenced. They know the secret not to commit themselves. They do not want to eat the king's food (Daniel 1:8). Commitment is someone's decision in something they believe in and persevere in it. God is looking for people, especially Hid children, who is committed to do specific things e.g. to keep their virginity.

It requires 3D to do so:

1. **Dying to yourself** (to deny ourselves), to submit ourselves especially from the worldly things
2. **Devoted to God** every day. To maintain the praying , worship and devotion times, though there are many temptations, God will give the strength to keep our commitment
3. **Develop** ourselves to God's direction

We have to have a strong will and stay committed to lead a holy life and we will enjoy the heavenly blessings like Daniel did (Daniel 1:5).

### Questions

1. What do you understand by character?
2. Why is character more important than competence and commitment?
3. Do you ever experience the test of character like what happened to Daniel and his friends?

### Conclusions

In this life we can't depend on just our ability and strength alone. We need God. Like Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, they are the chosen people because they have characters and the quality to rule in Persia. They understand that God is above everything. It can be shown from their courage not to eat the king's food, their courage not to pray to the idols although they will have to be thrown into the fire, and to pray to God though he will be thrown into the lion's den. They were not influenced by the surroundings. But they change the situations in Babel and made the people to realize that the God he prays is a true and living God.

How about us? Can we be blessing and peace wherever we go? If we have the Christ character, we will be blessings. Amen!