



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

"TIME OFF"

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Taking time off from the demands of life is important to keep stress levels in check. When we take a break, we are taking care of ourselves to feel refreshed and restored. However, the problem arises when we decide to take a break from our service in church or community, and to quit on the edge of our intended miracle.

1. What are our reasons for quitting?

1.1 Fear. We are afraid of so many things: our time, work, health, and resources. We look at the situation or danger, causing us not to go on with our journey that God set before us. We should remember that the perfect love of God vanquishes all fears (1 John 4:8).

1.2 Weariness. We become weary when our service is not recognized or when nothing happens with our prayers (Ecclesiastes 3:11). We should instead claim God's promise in Galatians 6:9.

1.3 Impatience. We become impatient because we feel nothing is happening in our endeavors. We should trust maintain our faith in the Lord (Psalm 27:14; Ecc. 7:8). We are also instructed to stand firm (Philippians 1:27).

1.4 Lack of perseverance. Perseverance indicates endurance in whatever trials we may face without losing our faith in God. We should know that God has a purpose, and He will equip us in what we need to do (James 1:2-3).

1.5 Lack of faith. Without faith, it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:16), so we have to maintain our faith in God in all circumstances. Moreover, we should always rejoice in the Lord (Philippians 4:4-9).

1.6 Lack of commitment. Some people do not want to serve in church; they would rather stay in their comfort zone. Whatever pledge we made or agreed to do, we should ask God to take over our life (Psalm 37:5-6).

1.7 Lack of determination. Determined people in the Bible are Caleb and Joshua (Jos.14:6-8), Nehemiah (Neh. 4:6) and Timothy (1 Tm. 6:12-16).

Without determination we cannot successfully fulfill our mission to win souls for Christ.

1.8 Loss of love for God. We have lost our love for God when we focus our eyes on mere mortals and get caught up with the things of this world (Revelations 2:15-17).

1.9 "Now" mentality. We have the right to have what is expected now. However, the life of a Christian is a journey. Jesus is telling us to keep on going because the end is just around the corner.

1.10 Unresolved issues or ill-feelings. We tend to quit our work, service, or relationship because of ill-feelings. We should be kind and forgiving with one another. (Ephesians 4:31-32).

1.11 Discouragement. Elijah himself was discouraged when Jezebel wanted him killed (1 Kings 19:1-2). Sometimes we get drained because of serving in so many ministries and our hard work is not recognized.

1.12 We hate what we are doing. Young people these days do not like what is happening in their career so they go job shopping. We need to have passion for what we are doing to avoid quitting.

1.13 No generous compensation. Volunteers working in church quit because of lack of benefits and promotion. God's mercy and our love for Him should motivate us to serve (Romans 12:1).

Conclusion

The Spirit of God shows itself in the church through people sharing their talents in various ministries. As Christians, we should serve God as a compelling response to His mercy and offer our body as holy and pleasing to God – a spiritual act of worship (Romans 12:1-2).

Reflection:

1. At times, what are your areas of weariness?
2. What would motivate you to continue your service?

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