



**STRONGER AND FITTER FOR THE
MASTER'S USE AND FOR HIS GLORY
~ GOD'S CRITERIA AND ASSESSMENT**

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Key Bible Text

2 Timothy 2:19-21(NKJV)

19 Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”

20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honour and some for dishonour.

21 Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honour, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

Stronger and fitter ~ What is the target audience?

Return to in person church service

This message is for Christians and for those that God will bring into His Kingdom i.e. those that will accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

Target audience:

- 1. For those who love The Lord.**
- 2. For those who want to be stronger and fitter for the Master's use.**
- 3. For those who want to fulfil their ministry and calling in God.**

Objectives of the message ~ stronger and fitter ~

Return to in person church service

- 1. To encourage the children of God that being stronger and fitter for the Master's use is vital if we are to move to the next level in our ministry and callings.**
- 2. To remind us that God has a criteria and assessment for being stronger and fitter for His use.**
- 3. To encourage us that God is interested in our development and progress.**
- 4. To remind us that God has a plan for our lives.**

Introduction ~ The mindset God's people

Return to in person church service

My discussions with our church members shows that people are eager and can not wait to return to in person church service (especially return to a new look refurbished building). Great news. Return to in person church service should result in great expectations, positive thinking and outcomes, uplifting our spiritual callings and spiritual lives.

The Joy of going to the house of the Lord

Psalm 122:1-3 NKJV

- 1. I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord."**
- 2. Our feet have been standing Within your gates, O Jerusalem!**
- 3. Jerusalem is built as a city that is compact together.**

Introduction ~ Being stronger together ~ synergy

Return to in person church service

Being stronger together (brings synergy)

Hebrews 10:25 NKJV

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

Leviticus 26:8 NIV

Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand, and your enemies will fall by the sword before you.

Being stronger together ~ As iron sharpens iron ~

Return to in person church service

Being stronger together (As iron sharpens iron)

Proverbs 27:17 NIV

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

We all need one another, 'you help me I help you'.

God's criteria and assessment ~ 1

2 Timothy 2:19-21(NKJV)

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20. But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honour and some for dishonour.

21. Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honour, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

God's criteria and assessment ~ 2

The Lord knows those who are His (2 Timothy 2:19)

Prepared you for every good work.

GOD IS THE ASSESSOR AND THE JUDGE

Physical strength, power, great resources.

Being stronger: Not based on your:-

Health condition (Paul- The Thorn in the Flesh)

But based on your:-

Willingness, humility, readiness to lean (teachable spirit)

Team work, availability and put on the whole armour of God (Ephesians 6:11).

God's criteria and assessment ~ 3

Put on the whole armour of God (Ephesians 6:11).

Ephesians 6:10-18 NKJV

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

God's criteria and assessment ~ 3

Put on the whole armour of God (Ephesians 6:11).

Ephesians 6:10-18 NKJV

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.

God's criteria and assessment ~ 4

Being fitter: would be based on your:-

Character (says it all) :-

- 1. Integrity**
- 2. Ambassador of Christ (can you be called to represent Christ?)**
- 3. Love for God and others**
- 4. Positive mind, the mind of Christ**
- 5. Positive expectation and thinking**
- 6. Endurance in time of difficulties**
- 7. Accommodating others**
- 8. Friendly and loyal**
- 9. Respect for others**
- 10. Warrior of Christ**

Can you be trusted in all of the above?

Return to in person church service (an overview)

- 1. What would it look like?(with a new look and a new facility)**
- 2. What should it look like and why? (a sanctuary of God) God's presence and His glory and His people with the right spirit**
- 3. How is it going to happen?(God and His people)**
- 4. Positive thinking?**
- 5. Now walk the talk (action, being practical)**
- 6. Together with my full involvement**
- 7. Success is sweeter together (we shall all celebrate together)**
- 8. My calling to be fulfilled**
- 9. Stronger and fitter means not business as usual**
- 10. Stronger and fitter morally, intellectually, best behaviour, best relationship, sacrificial service etc.**
- 11. Supporting the Church financially**

How is it going to happen? - God and His people ~ 1

How is it going to happen? (By God and His people)

God's people

1 Chronicles 12:38 NKJV

38 All these men of war, who could keep ranks, came to Hebron with a loyal heart, to make David king over all Israel; and all the rest of Israel were of one mind to make David king.

Psalm 133

- 1. Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!**
- 2. It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments.**
- 3. It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing — Life forevermore.**

How is it going to happen? - God and His people ~ 2

How is it going to happen? (By God and His people)

God and His people: It takes two to tango.

2 Chronicles 7 NKJV

Solomon Dedicates the Temple

1. When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. ² And the priests could not enter the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD's house. ³ When all the children of Israel saw how the fire came down, and the glory of the LORD on the temple, they bowed their faces to the ground on the pavement, and worshiped and praised the LORD, *saying: "For He is good, For His mercy endures forever."* ⁴ Then the king and all the people offered sacrifices before the LORD. ⁵ King Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty-two thousand bulls and one hundred and twenty thousand sheep. So the king and all the people dedicated the house of God

Return to in person – Not business as usual

Not business as usual for God will do a new thing

Isaiah 43:19 NKJV

Behold, I will do a new thing,

Now it shall spring forth;

Shall you not know it?

I will even make a road in the wilderness

And rivers in the desert.

1 Kings 8:11 NKJV

So that the priests could not continue ministering because of the cloud; for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.

Conclusion and action points

- 1. God's criteria and to pass the assessment**
- 2. Overcome every obstacles that might result in failure in meeting God's criteria and assessment, such as :-
Pride, I know it all, unnecessary excuses, spirit of me and me, unwillingness to surrender to God and lean at His feet, negative spirit, lack of believing in God's provision, sickness and enemies' attacks.**
- 3. God's help is available through His Spirit:
'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,'
Says the LORD of hosts'. (Zechariah 4:6)**