

Psalm 122:1

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the LORD."

The Lord showed me the following the other morning when I was at a church.

*If you started looking at what you can do for the church,
instead of what the church can do for you,
you would start enjoying it more.*

I am on the worship team and serve for three services at the church I am a part of. The worship team also practices worship during the week, so I am there more than just Sundays. Between services I really enjoy talking with people and just being a part of my church families lives. Simply put, I enjoy going to church!

But it wasn't always like that for me. **I** used to be one of those who went to church, and as soon as the service was over, **I** was out of there. Lord, **I** did my duty, see you next Sunday. But when you have that sort of attitude, you really don't enjoy going to church. So if **I** just happen to sleep in on a Sunday, no big deal. And when the winter and colder days come upon us **I** would think, how easy it was to just want to stay under the nice warm covers on Sunday morning, especially since it was my day off from work.

Now did you realize in that entire paragraph, I made it all about **me**, and **my** comfort, and what **I wanted** to do. When you make something all about yourself as a Christian, that's when you start to compromise in your walk with the Lord. If you think about it, it is also a form of backsliding, because when it's about you, it's no longer about the Lord. But when you are actually do something in the church, you are no longer making it all about you, because in serving it's about others and not yourself, and isn't that what we are to do as Christians anyway?

† **Hebrews 10:24-25** *And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 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.*

So, back to my original statement, if you are not doing anything in the church, in fact let's say you are not a part of anything, anywhere, be it at work, around friends, at home with family etc.... You feel like a nobody, and there is no real purpose in your life. But we all know that once you get involved in something and are a part of it, you now feel like somebody, and your life actually makes a difference for the good in others lives. When you get involved at church, it's no longer a duty to go to church, but rather a joy, because you are no longer an observer, but a participant.

Now some of you may be thinking. I don't know what to do, or my church is huge, and I just get lost in it. I have two words for you, and those two words are "**Cope Out**", or how about this one, "**Lame Excuse**". I have been in small churches where the chairs and everything had to be set up every Sunday; and I have also been in mega churches where there are multiple services, and satellite campuses with the sanctuary holding a few thousand people, and in all cases I got involved in one thing or another.

So I would say to you, do you actually listen to the announcements each Sunday, because most of the time they talk about things going on that YOU can get involved in. Also, have you checked out your church's website? Pretty much all church websites have a ministry page showing all the different ministries and links on how to get involved. Or simply talk to people you sit next to at church and ask what they do. Did you know that you can even talk to the elders or the pastor and let them know that you want to get involved, and I am sure they would love to help you be involved, because the help is needed, plus they know firsthand what a joy it is serving.

I know when I did nothing in church, other than a pew warmer (one who only goes, listens, and leaves) I did not enjoy church that much. But once I got involved, even if it was setting up chairs, or ushering, or simply being a greeter, I then loved going to church and could not wait to go as much as I could, not just on Sunday.

The choice is yours; you can go to church and keep the pew warm, or you can go to church and warm the hearts of others by serving, and at the same time enjoy going to church. "*I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the LORD."*"

- † **Philippians 2:3-4** *Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.*
- † **Galatians 5:13 (NLT2)** *For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.*
- † **1 Peter 4:10 (NLT2)** *God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.*