

Luke 6:6 On another Sabbath, he entered the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was withered.

Luke 6:7 And the scribes and the Pharisees watched him, to see whether he would heal on the Sabbath, so that they might find a reason to accuse him.

Luke 6:8 But he knew their thoughts, and he said to the man with the withered hand, “Come and stand here.” And he rose and stood there.

Luke 6:9 And Jesus said to them, “I ask you, is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to destroy it?”

Luke 6:10 And after looking around at them all he said to him, “Stretch out your hand.” And he did so, and his hand was restored.

Luke 6:11 But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

Luke 6:6 And after looking around at them all he said to him, “**Stretch out your hand.**” And he did so, and his hand was restored.

To stretch out our hand is to contact and touch the Lord. In the church life, we need to take the Lord as the reason and center of our service.

Our prayers and praising, our gospel preaching and our testimonies may be withered, that is, without the Lord’s presence and anointing.

It may not necessarily mean that we stop exercising. Rather, if we stretch out our hand to the Lord in every service, we may touch the fresh and living Christ who can make our service fresh and living.

Luke 6:6 On another Sabbath, he entered **the synagogue** and was teaching, and a man was there **whose right hand was withered.**

Withered hand means that there is no life in his operation even though he might attend the LD meeting, serve the meals, offer the financial offerings, preach the gospel at the metro station, etc.

Do we have Christ as our content and reality in our church life including services? If there is no Christ as our content and reality, our hand is withered (no life and no power).

Sometimes we may care for the meetings, the services, the number of attendance ... and not the Christ and each saint.

Luke 6:7 And the scribes and the Pharisees watched him, to see whether he would heal on the Sabbath, so that they might find a reason to accuse him.

A religious saint (are we?) very often cares mainly for what should be done and what should not be done? what is right and what is wrong? Most likely he does not know or care whether there is Christ or not in some services and practices or consider the need of Christ of the people.

When we read the Bible individually or corporately, do we subjectively know a little bit of Christ or just words of the Bible (knowledge)?

In the church life do we understand or even sometimes criticize the leading of the church concerning some operations?

Luke 6:8 But he knew their thoughts, and said to the man who had the withered hand, **Get up, and stand in the midst.** And having risen up he stood there .

Where do we stretch out our hand to the Lord? In the church life, in the midst of the brothers and sisters. Even though the example of those who surrounded the man with the withered hand is negative (the scribes and Pharisees), we may still apply it to the church life.

The restoration of our withered service and living, to know Christ and to have Christ, can become a testimony to the saints around us. Everything we experience of Christ can be for the profit and growth of the church.

And Jesus said to them, ” I ask you, is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to destroy it? “ **Luke 6: 9**

- We serve the people not the Sabbath. In the Lord’s day, we might set too many rules, we focus only on the attendance but don’t care the saints who can and can’t attend the meeting.
- We might focus on the preaching but never check whether the saints understand the preach based on the levels of their life.
- The only purpose of the Lord’s meeting is to save life and gain life not destroy it.

Moreover, we must be flexible and creative for helping saints to gain life and grow in Christ.



Luke 6:10 And after looking around at them all he said to him, “Stretch out your hand.” And he did so, and his hand was restored.

Lord is all merciful, gracious and powerful, and bless those who have heard and submitted to Him.

Do we daily or weekly hear the Lord’s speaking and often submit to His speaking?

Luke 6:11 But they were filled with fury and discussed with one another what they might do to Jesus.

Are we sometimes not interested in nor happy with the teachings and fellowship of the servants of the Lord?