

ATTENTION-

I do not enjoy typing. In assembling my dissertation in seminary, I typed every word, footnote, bibliography, etc. You know how I did it? I slowed down my typing speed to a regular rhythm rather than sporadic jerks at the keyboard. I just plodded patiently along until I finished the project. Being a servant of the Kingdom is like that. . . one little step at a time.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH- (Utilizing the New International Version)

How is the Lord described in Isaiah 49:5?

What is the Servant's status with the Lord in Isaiah 49:?

What has God done for the Servant in Isaiah 49:5?

What is too small in Isaiah 49:6?

What is added to the Servant's job description in Isaiah 49:6?

Why will kings and princes honor the Servant in Isaiah 49:7?

LESSON-

The Lord chooses, strengthens, and enlarges the ministry of His servants.

ILLUSTRATION-

In 1972, NASA launched the exploratory space probe Pioneer 10. According to Leon Jaroff in *Time*, the satellite's primary mission was to reach Jupiter, photograph the planet and its moons, and beam data to earth about Jupiter's magnetic field, radiation belts, and atmosphere. Scientists regarded this as a bold plan, for at that time no earth satellite had ever gone beyond Mars, and they feared the asteroid belt would destroy the satellite before it could reach its target. But Pioneer 10 accomplished its mission and much, much more. Swinging past the giant planet in November 1973, Jupiter's immense gravity hurled Pioneer 10 at a higher rate of speed toward the edge of the solar system. At one billion miles from the sun, Pioneer 10 passed Saturn. At some two billion miles, it hurtled past Uranus; Neptune at nearly three billion miles; Pluto at almost four billion miles. By 1997, twenty-five years after its launch, Pioneer 10 was more than six billion miles from the sun.

And despite that immense distance, Pioneer 10 continued to beam back radio signals to scientists on Earth. "Perhaps most remarkable," writes Jaroff, "those signals emanate from an 8-watt transmitter, which radiates about as much power as a bedroom night light, and takes more than nine hours to reach Earth." The Little Satellite That Could was not qualified to do what it did. Engineers designed Pioneer 10 with a useful life of just three years. But it kept going and going. By simple longevity, its tiny 8-watt transmitter radio accomplished more than anyone thought possible.

So it is when we offer ourselves to serve the Lord. God can work even through someone with 8-watt abilities. God cannot work, however, through someone who quits.

PRAYER-

Lord, may you strengthen me for expanded service in Your Kingdom. Amen