

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES FOR LIFE SERVICE

John 10:10b (ERV)

“ I came to give life—life that is full and good.”

THE PROBLEM TO OVERCOME

- The chief problem in all of us is selfishness.
- One of the keys to overcoming selfishness is the practice of service.

Luke 22:24-26 (NLT)

24 Then they began to argue among themselves about who would be the greatest among them.

25 Jesus told them, “In this world the kings and great men lord it over their people, yet they are called ‘friends of the people.’ 26 But among you it will be different. Those who are the greatest among you should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant.

John 13:3-17 (NIV)

3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” 7 Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.”

8 “No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.”

9 “Then, Lord,” Simon Peter replied, “not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!” 10 Jesus answered, “Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.” 11 For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. 13 “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.

15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.

17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

- The blessed life is the serving life!

SELF-RIGHTEOUS SERVICE VS. TRUE SERVICE

- **Self-righteous** service comes through human effort.
 - **True** service comes from a relationship with the Holy Spirit within us.
- **Self-righteous** service is impressed with bigness.
 - **True** service doesn't discriminate between small and big.
 - What some consider insignificant is many times the most important.
- **Self-righteous** service requires external rewards.
 - **True** service is content with hiddenness.
- **Self-righteous** service is very concerned with results.
 - **True** service is concerned with faithfulness.
- **Self-righteous** service picks and chooses whom, when, and where to serve.
 - **True** service indiscriminately sees a need and serves.
- **Self-righteous** fractures community.
 - **True** service builds community.

SERVICE AND HUMILITY

- More than any other way, humility is cultivated through the spiritual practice of service.

FROM SERVING TO SERVANTHOOD

- There is a difference between choosing to serve and choosing to be a servant.

Matthew 10:25 (NLT)

Students are to be like their teacher, and slaves are to be like their master.

John 13:13-17 (NIV)

13 “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.

15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Mark 10:43-45 (NIV)

“Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

- Practicing the discipline of true service helps us develop a servant’s heart.
- Service must become a way of living.

Galatians 6:2 (NIV)

Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

- Serve people by loving people.