

Spiritual Disciplines - Part 4 Devoted to God in Serving

Our Service is Ultimately to God

- *But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” - Joshua 24:15b*
- *For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God - 1 Thessalonians 1:9*
- *how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. - Hebrews 9:14*

Our Service to God is in Response to Who He Is and What He’s Done

We do not serve Him because He needs our service.

- *nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. - Acts 17:25*

We serve out of gratitude.

- *Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you. - 1 Samuel 12:24*
- The heir of heaven serves his Lord simply out of gratitude; he has no salvation to gain, no heaven to lose; ... now, out of love to the God who chose him, and who gave so great a price for his redemption, he desires to lay out himself entirely to his Master’s service.... The child of God works not for life, but from life; he does not work to be saved, he works because he is saved. - Charles Spurgeon

We serve because we have been forgiven.

- And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.” And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.” - Isaiah 6:7-8

We serve with gladness.

- *For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness. - Psalm 84:10*
- *Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! - Psalm 100:2*

Our Service to God is Only by His Grace

He empowers us to serve.

- *For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.*
- Colossians 1:29
- “Ministering hearts are disciplined to labor, for they regularly move beyond their comfort zones, they put themselves in vulnerable spots, they make commitments which cost, they get tired for Christ’s sake, they pay the price, they encounter rough seas. But their sails billow full of God’s Spirit.” - R. Kent Hughes

He has gifted us to serve.

- *As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace - 1 Peter 4:10*

Our Service to God is Often Performed by Serving Others

Jesus set this example for us.

- *If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.* - John 13:14-15

We serve others out of freedom, not fear.

- *You were bought with a price; do not become bondservants of men.* - 1 Cor. 7:23
- *For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.* - Galatians 5:13

We serve others for their good and ours.

- *For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them.* - 1 Corinthians 9:19
- “More than any other single way the grace of humility is worked into our lives through the discipline of service.... Nothing disciplines the inordinate desires of the flesh like service, and nothing transforms the desires of the flesh like serving in hiddenness. The flesh whines against service but screams against hidden service. It strains and pulls for honor and recognition.” - Richard Foster

Ways to Serve Others - from *The Life You've Always Wanted*

- The Ministry of the Mundane
- The Ministry of Being Interrupted
- The Ministry of Bearing