

## SERVICE

DESIRE	to reflect the helping, caring and sharing love of God in the world
DEFINITION	Service is a way of offering resources, time, treasure, influence and expertise for the care, protection, justice, and nurture of others. Acts of service give hands to the second greatest commandment: "Love your neighbor as yourself."
SCRIPTURE	<p>"This is the kind of fast day I'm after:  to break the chains of injustice,  get rid of exploitation in the workplace,  free the oppressed,  cancel debts.</p> <p>What I'm interested in seeing you do is:  sharing your food with the hungry,  inviting the homeless poor into your homes,  putting clothes on the shivering ill-clad,  being available to your own families." (Isaiah 58:6-7  <i>The Message</i>)</p> <p>"Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My father will honor the one who serves me." (John 12:26)</p> <p>"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' " (Matthew 22:37-39)</p>
PRACTICE INCLUDES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• walking the talk; being what you profess</li> <li>• doing service projects: Habitat for Humanity, mission trips, volunteerism, foster care, prison ministry</li> <li>• mentoring, gifts of mercy and helps</li> <li>• using your influence to better the lives of others</li> <li>• using your gifts to build the kingdom of God</li> </ul>
GOD-GIVEN FRUIT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• giving yourself to others in the service of Jesus</li> <li>• seeing your neighbors as real and important; loving them as you love yourself</li> <li>• recognizing the difference between a Messiah complex and knowing how to love others well and sacrificially</li> <li>• walking your talk</li> <li>• rooting out injustice</li> <li>• seriously caring for widows, orphans and the oppressed</li> <li>• receiving interruptions as opportunities to do good</li> <li>• volunteering time, talents and treasure for the good of others</li> <li>• being free to leave your comfort zone and risk yourself in service</li> </ul>

## **SERVICE**

Spend some time meditating on the story of the good Samaritan found in Luke 10:25-37. Become quiet and ask the Lord to speak to you. Give your imagination to God. Read the story slowly and aloud, savoring the words.

- What stood out to you?
- Read the passage a second time, imagining you are the Levite. What are your concerns? Why are you in a hurry?
- Then put yourself in the place of the priest. What are your concerns? Why do you pass by?
- Imagine you are the Samaritan. Why do you stop to help? How do you feel about incurring all the expenses for another's care?
- Who of these three characters do you tend to be like?
- Who in your life receives your care: family? friends? Who else?

Ask those who know you to give you their take on what your spiritual gifts are. Plan a way of using your gifts to benefit others in the next week and month.

Get to know some missionaries or a faith-based organization. Find out what they need. Ask them how you could serve. Do something that helps them help others.

## **BEING SERVED**

1) Psalm 23:5 (ESV): You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

What does this verse look like in your life?

Write out the verse in your own words

2) Matthew 4:11 (ESV): 11 Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him. After fasting in the desert for 40 days and being tempted by the devil, angels came and were ministering to Jesus.

Share a time when you were ministered to.

3) Have you ever participated in a foot washing? Are you more comfortable washing other people's feet or having your feet washed?

Why is it important to experience both serving and being served?

## **RESOURCE**

[Serving and being Served](#)

## Matthew 11:29 (NIV)

29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

### Romans 8 Promises for Disciples of Jesus

Put your name in each one and proclaiming it out loud:

- There is no condemnation for \_\_\_\_\_, who is in Christ Jesus (v 1)
- The Spirit has set \_\_\_\_\_ free from sin and death (v 2)
- The Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead lives in \_\_\_\_\_ and is energizing \_\_\_\_\_ (v 11)
- \_\_\_\_\_ is led by God and thus is a child of God (v 14)
- \_\_\_\_\_ can call God “Abba” or Daddy! (v 15)
- Through Christ \_\_\_\_\_ is an heir of God, inheriting divine blessings (v 17)
- \_\_\_\_\_’s body will be redeemed, set free and made whole (v 23)
- The Spirit helps \_\_\_\_\_’s weaknesses with intercessions from deep inside (v 26)
- All things work together for the good of \_\_\_\_\_ who loves God and is called according to his purpose (v 28)
- God takes initiative to know, guide, call, justify, and glorify \_\_\_\_\_, helping \_\_\_\_\_ to become more and more like Jesus (vv 29-30)
- If God is for \_\_\_\_\_ then who can be against \_\_\_\_\_? (v 31)
- In all things \_\_\_\_\_ is more than a conqueror through Christ’s love (v 37)
- Nothing — absolutely nothing! — can separate \_\_\_\_\_ from the love God that is in Christ (vs. 38-39).

From: Book - Your Best Life In Jesus’ Easy Yoke - Rhythms of Grace to De-Stress and Live Empowered Bill Gaultiere, Ph.D

### RESOURCE

[Soul Shepherding](#)  
[Book: Your best life ...](#)