



Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life

Unit 7 – Serving

To serve the Lord with gladness is every Christian’s commission. In God’s Kingdom, no one is spiritually unemployed or retired. Everyone is gifted to serve, with the goal of being more like Jesus.

Ephesians 4:11-16; Luke 22:24-27

1. Every Christian Is Expected to Serve

Hebrews 9:14; Mark 12:28–31

- Motivated by Obedience - Deuteronomy 13:4
- Motivated by Gratitude - 1 Samuel 12:24
- Motivated by Gladness - Psalm 100:2
- Motivated by Forgiveness, not guilt - Isaiah 6:6–8
- Motivated by Humility - Philippians 2:3
- Motivated by Love - Galatians 5:13

2. Every Christian Is Gifted to Serve

1 Corinthians 12:4, 11; 1 Peter 4:10

3. Every Act of Service Is Not Easy

Ephesians 4:12; Colossians 1:29; Joshua 24:15

Review the six motives for serving. Be honest with yourself and God, rate yourself in the following ways. Ask Him to help you grow in these areas.

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| • Your desire to obey Him. | 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 |
| • Your gratitude for what He has done for you. | 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 |
| • Your willingness to serve Him gladly. | 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 |
| • Your joy at being forgiven. | 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 |
| • Your desire to learn humility. | 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 |
| • Your love for Him and desire to love others. | 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 |

Homework – Reflections

1. What, in your mind, is a servant? Describe the feelings you have about being a servant of Christ and His Kingdom. Be honest!
2. Would you agree that most servers receive little appreciation for their efforts? If so, why is this? If not, what type of recognition do they receive?
3. If Jesus were to come back to earth today, what types of ministry service would you wish you had done?
4. Why, according to Hebrews 9:14, does the blood of Christ cleanse our conscience when we become Christians?
5. What does it mean to “serve the Lord with gladness” (Psalm 100:2)?
6. What does Psalm 84:10 show us about David’s view of service?
7. Why should we serve the Lord? (Deuteronomy 13:4)
8. The text states, “It is no burden to serve God when we consider what great things He has done for us.” What great things has God done for you? Be specific.

9. Read Isaiah 6:6–8. What was Isaiah’s response to God? Why?

10. C. H. Spurgeon said in a sermon in 1867, “The child of God works not for life but from life; he does not work to be saved, he works because he is saved.” Describe in your own words what he is saying.

11. What can we learn about humble service from each of these passages?
 - a. Mark 12:28–31

 - b. John 13:12–16

 - c. Philippians 2:3

12. Why is it so easy for us to serve people for the wrong reasons? If you feel free to do so, share a time when you served for the wrong reasons.

13. What, according to Galatians 5:13, is at the heart of disciplined service?

14. What do each of the following passages reveal about spiritual gifts:
 - a. 1 Corinthians 12:4–11, 27–31

 - b. Ephesians 4:7–13

 - c. 1 Peter 4:10–11

15. What do you consider your gift to be? (Read Romans 12:4–8.) Why?

16. How does Colossians 1:29 apply to the work God may be calling you to do?

17. Do you agree that “service costing nothing accomplishes nothing”? Explain your answer.
18. What does Jesus call the satisfying work of serving God? (See John 4:34.)
19. What promise does God make concerning our service to Him?
- a. 1 Corinthians 15:58
 - b. Hebrews 6:10
20. Does that mean we’ll always see the fruit of our labors? Why, or why not?
21. What can you do to make service for God a greater priority in your daily life?
22. What is the difference between serving someone as an act of love and righteousness and serving someone in order to train yourself away from covetousness, arrogance, envy, possessiveness, or resentment?
23. It’s said that “worship empowers serving; serving expresses worship.” What is the relationship between service, on the one hand, and regular personal and corporate worship? Why are both so intertwined?