

Basic Disciplines for Believers

Discipline #6: Selfless Serving

God's purpose and plan in saving me involves my selfless serving of others for the growth of His body & the advancement of His kingdom.

Why Serve? 6 Reasons to Serve:

1. The Example of Jesus (God) (Matt 20:28; John 13:1-17)
Matt 20:28 "just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."
2. The Commendation of Early Believers (1 Cor 16:15-16)
3. The Command to Serve One Another (Gal 5:13)
4. The Goal of Leaders (Eph 4:12)
5. The Purpose of Spiritual Gifts (1 Pet 4:10)
6. The Promise of God's Recognition and Reward (Heb 6:10-12; 1 Cor 15:58)

Down Is Up: God's View of Greatness

Matt 20:20-28 ²⁸ "just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." (cp Mark 10:35-45)

Matt 23:1-12 ¹¹ "But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. ¹² "And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

Mark 9:33-35 ³⁵ And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all."

John 13:1-17

What Is Service? A Baker's Dozen List

1. Preaching the Gospel
2. Teaching the Word
3. Assisting the proclaimers
4. Helping the helpers
5. Preparing /serving food
6. Washing the saints feet
(Perform needed tedious tasks)
7. Bringing up /caring for children
8. Caring for the sick
9. Showing hospitality
10. Supporting the weak
11. Comforting the faint-hearted
12. Warn the unruly
13. Giving to the needs of the saints

Follow the ... Server: Helping Those Who Help

1 Cor 16:15-16 I urge you, brethren-- you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and *that* they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints--¹⁶ that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with *us*. (cf. 1 Thes 5:12-13; 2 Tim 1:16-18; Rom 16:1; Eph 6:21; Col 1:7; 1 Tim 4:6)

The DECISION: " **devoted**"
The DECIDER: " **themselves**" (the household of Stephanus)
The DIRECTION: " **to the ministry of the saints**"
The DIRECTIVE: " **submit yourselves** to such, and to everyone who works and labors with [us]."

Liberty: Free to Serve

Galatians 5:13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not [use] liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. (c.f. Rom 6:6; 7:6; 1 Thes 1:9)

Freedom ≠ Free To Do What I Want":

1. Liberty = Freedom to Serve (13)
 - Our Calling → Freedom from the law and from lust
 - Our Cause → Not serving self but serving saints
2. Law = Love Your Neighbor as Yourself (14)
3. Lust = Following Your Impulses & Feelings (15)

Spirit Vs. Flesh:

4. Two Choices = Spirit-living Defeats Lust-living (16)
5. Two Forces (17) – The Spirit Against the Flesh
6. Two Worlds – Under the Law / Free from the Law (18)
7. Two Results:
 - Lustful Living → Works of Flesh (19-21)
 - Spirit Walking → Fruit of Spirit (22-23)
8. Two Camps – With Christ & Without Christ (24)
9. Two Parts – Life & Walk – Birth & Behavior (25)
10. Two Possibilities – By the Flesh or By the Spirit

Gifted to Serve

Definition of a Spiritual Gift:

An **enhanced ability**, given by the Holy Spirit by His divine choice to each and every believer, enabling one to perform a responsibility more perfectly for the benefit of other believers and for the ultimate purpose of building up the body of Christ.

Chapters (two 12s, two 4s):

	G's	P's	A's
Rom 12	Gifts	Presents	Abilities
1 Cor 12	Group	Purpose	All needed
1 Peter 4	Gumption	Push	Aggressiveness
Eph 4	Guys	People	Appointees

How Do I Know What Gift(s) I Have Been Given?

Identity What are the gifts?
Subjectivity What do I think I do exceptionally well?
Objectivity What do others think I do exceptionally well?
Productivity What results are gained when I do it?

What Do I Do With My Spiritual Gift?

Activity Do it.
Ministry For others.
Consistency Regularly.
Maturity While Getting Better.
Intensity With All The Ability God Has Given Me.

Rewarded for Serving

1. God Will Reward Serving as Being to Him Directly (Matt 25:31-46; Col 3:23-24)
2. God Will Reward Us for Serving Our Enemies (Matt 5:44-48)
3. God Will Reward Us Openly for Serving Quietly (Matt 6:3-4)
4. God Will Reward Us in Proportion to Our Ability and Circumstance (Matt 10:41-42)
5. God Will Reward Us When He Returns (Matt 16:24-27; Rev 22:12)