

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

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

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

Rom 6:6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *Him*, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

Rom 7:6 But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not *in* the oldness of the letter.

1 Thes 1:9 For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, (cf. **Titus 3:1-8**)

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?

<u>Activity</u>	Do it.
<u>Ministry</u>	For others.
<u>Consistency</u>	Regularly.
<u>Maturity</u>	While Getting Better.
<u>Intensity</u>	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 ³¹ "When the Son of Man comes in His glory ... , then He will sit on the throne of His glory. ³² "All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats. ³³ "And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ³⁵ 'for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; ³⁶ 'I *was* naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' ³⁷ "Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed *You*, or thirsty and give *You* drink? ³⁸ 'When did we see You a stranger and take *You* in, or naked and clothe *You*? ³⁹ 'Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' ⁴⁰ "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.' ⁴¹ "Then He will also say to those on the left hand...

Col 3:23-24 ²³ And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

2. God Will Reward Us for Serving Our Enemies

Matt 5:44-48 ⁴⁴ "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, ⁴⁵ "that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶ "For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ "And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more *than others*? Do not even the tax collectors do so? ⁴⁸ "Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

3. God Will Reward Us Openly for Serving Quietly

Matt 6:3-4 ³ "But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ "that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.

4. God Will Reward Us in Proportion to Our Ability and Circumstance

Matt 10:41-42 ⁴¹ "He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. ⁴² "And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold *water* in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward."

5. God Will Reward Us When He Returns

Matt 16:24-27 ²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ²⁵ "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. ²⁶ "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? ²⁷ "For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

Rev 22:12 "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to give to every one according to his work.