



# Life Changing Words From God Week #7 Serve

**Jim Hoffman**

# So far . . . .

- Love
- Maranatha
- Persevere
- Pray
- Confess
- Listen
- Serve
- Worship
- Yield

**THE NEED IS THE CALL**

**THERE IS NO WAY TO SERVE GOD  
ON EARTH WITHOUT SERVING  
PEOPLE. ALL SERVICE TO GOD  
INVOLVES PEOPLE, BUT NOT ALL  
SERVICE TO PEOPLE INVOLVES  
GOD.**

# What does it mean to serve?

- **The (3) most frequently used New Testament words that come over to the English word ‘serve’. (Strong’s numbers)**
  - **NT:1398; douleuo NT:1398 (dool-yoo'-o) from NT:1401; to be a slave to (literal or figurative, involuntary or voluntary): KJV - be in bondage,**
  - **NT:1247 diakoneo (dee-ak-on-eh'-o); from NT:1249; to be an attendant, i.e. wait upon (mentally or as a host, friend, or [figuratively] teacher); techn. to act as a Christian deacon:**
  - **NT:3000 latreuo (lat-ryoo'-o); from latris (a hired menial); to minister (to God), i.e. render, religious homage:**

## Rom 7:6

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*.

NKJV

- It seems that to one extent or another all people tend to have a ‘works’ religion prior to meeting Christ.
- I think that we have to guard to some extent, after coming to Christ, against doing fewer good works because we are not saved by works.
- Would you agree that Christians should have more good works than the lost and do them with a better attitude than the lost?
- Once we served to be saved, now we serve the one who saved us. Once it was bondage, now we seek to be bound more closely.

## Rom 7:6

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.

NKJV

- Before we are saved, we serve and hope .... After coming to Christ we serve in hope.
- The letter says 'you must', the Spirit says 'you may'.
- Once we served in a rigid prescription, now we serve in creative and free expression.
- Once we wanted to be blessed, now we seek to be a blessing.

## Matt 6:24

24 "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

NLT

- **If this is impossible, why do so many try it anyway? Why do I sometimes try it?**
- **Notice that it does not say that ‘you cannot have God and money’ . It simply states that you cannot serve both.**
- **This is really about as a basic a life question as there is; what priorities drive my life?**
- **I am not sure this is as easy to test as one might think.**

## Matt 6:24

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### NLT

- **You cannot measure it by time spent because it's conceivable to argue that 'whatever we do in word or deed' can be service to the Lord whether it's preaching or picking apples.**
- **You cannot measure it by money given to His service, but perhaps it could be measured by the money that we keep.**
- **I believe one way to measure which master we are serving is with an internal examination of our priorities, what really motivates me?**
- **Some help; 100 years from now what will I be glad I did, or glad I spent, or be glad I said?**

## Matt 6:24

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### NLT

- **And we keep asking the same questions.**
  - **Why do the wicked prosper?**
  - **Why does it seem like the more ethical I am the less success I have?**
  - **Why is that those who cheat in business or in life never seem to get caught?**
  - **Why do I have to settle for this small house when I could easily afford a big one if I didn't tithe?**
  
- **And I believe the Lord keeps supplying the same answers; the last chapter of your life has not been written, but it has been promised.**
  - **You want a big house? How about a mansion?**
  - **You want success? How does an eternity of peace and contentment sound?**

Luke 4:8

8 Jesus replied, "The Scriptures say,  
You must worship the LORD your God  
and serve only him." NLT

- **This is not just a command, it is what adds meaning and worth to our lives. It also points us back to the point that serving God and money are mutually exclusive.**
- **When Jesus was going away He told His disciples that they would do greater works that He had. He also said ‘My Father works hitherto and I also work’.**
- **‘The Son of Man didn’t come to be served, but to serve’ and He is our model.**
- **When we serve God a sense of ‘this is good’ comes over us and a sense of moral integrity settles upon us. It is what He made us for.**

## Rom 12:1

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, (which is) your spiritual service. ASV

- **This not usually our first thought when we think of serving the Lord, but perhaps it should be.**
- **Maybe step #1 is serving the Lord is to simply surrender everything that we have to Him. Our time, our talents, and our selves.**
- **God was not pleased with all of the O.T. offerings where an innocent animal died, but He is pleased when we make an intentional choice to sacrifice our agenda for His.**

# Service Rewards

- **1 Cor 3:10** According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But *let each one take heed how he builds on it.* **11** For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. **12** Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, **13** each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. **14** If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. **15** If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. NKJV

# Service Rewards

- **Jesus Christ is the foundation; until you come to Christ your works will earn you nothing except perhaps less judgment.**
- **There will come a day (immediately after the Rapture) that the believer's works will be judged. This is the 'bema seat' or the 'judgment seat of Christ.'**
- **Only believers are at this judgment and this is not at all about getting into heaven or being excluded; it takes place in heaven.**

# Service Rewards

- **We are invited to build upon our foundation and are given opportunity to earn rewards for our works that pass the test.**
- **Some of our works will burn up and be gone and others will remain and be even further polished by a fire to which Jesus attends.**
- **So what is the test? We are not told, but I think we can conclude that the works of service for which we are rewarded will be the ones that were rooted in our love for God and love for others.**

# Service Rewards

- **So far as I can tell it matters not what gifts we used to serve, it only matters that we served the King with right motives.**
- **For instance, those with preaching gifts will not be rewarded for having the gift, but for what they did with the gift. The same is true for all people and all gifts.**
- **In short, what did you do with what you had?**

# The parable of the talents.

## Matthew 25:10-28

- **Three servants, three different levels of resources.**
- **The one with 5 made 10 and received a good commendation; ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things.’ NKJV**
- **The one with 2 made 4 and received the same commendation; ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things.’ NKJV**

# The parable of the talents.

## Matthew 25:10-28

- **The third servant received one talent and sat on it. He knew he had it, where it came from, but he choose not to use it.**
- **His master has a stinging rebuke for him .... In short his master tells him that he was lazy and wicked.**
- **What do we learn? I think we learn at least this; how we use what we have been given matters a great deal to God.**
- **Take an inventory of what God has given you. If you can't find anything, look harder.**

# What has God given to you?

- **We are each born with a set of natural talents and abilities.**
  - **If we permit it, these natural talents can become Spirit-filled talents and abilities that can be used for ministry.**
- **We are each born again with certain gifts of the Spirit. (I Cor 12)**
  - **Having a spiritual gift does not make one spiritual; it makes one gifted.**
  - **Allowing the Spirit of God to use us while we exercise the gift(s) He has given to us makes one spiritual.**

# Serving with an agenda.

- **I have noticed something about myself that maybe you can identify with as well.**
- **Not all of my service has been free of an agenda. In a sense many of the things that I have done that others would view as good works and perhaps ministry I have done with an agenda.**
- **For instance; I will wash your car, but you have to reciprocate by listening to my testimony, or I will buy a bag of groceries for you, but you are then obligated to come to my church.**

# Serving with an agenda.

- **As we watch Jesus He did not seem to operate on the quid pro quo system.**
- **It was never “I will do this for you and then you do this for me”.**
- **He simply provided food, healed diseases, or cast out demons just because He loved them.**
- **What would our world think of us if we set aside our agenda and just served in love?**

## Rom 14:18

18 For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men. NKJV

- **‘in these things’; what things?**
- **One of the lessons of Romans 14 is that we need to cease majoring on the minors.**
- **Some believe that we should not eat meat that was offered to idols; others thought they were getting a too good of a deal to pass up.**
- **Another thinks that believers should do certain things on certain days and others had different ideas.**

Rom 14:18

18 For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men. NKJV

- **How about today?**
- **Some believe it's ok to play cards, dance, etc, while others think of those things as sin.**
- **Some believe that women should not speak in church; others see it differently.**
- **We spend far too much time posturing over minor points of Christian living while millions go unreached**

## Rom 14:18

18 For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men. NKJV

- **So what are the things that are acceptable service in God's eyes?**
- **Without compromising the truth, be as inclusive as possible and give as much freedom as possible when dealing with other Christians.**
- **Why? Because if Christ has accepted them who are we to reject them? (Rom 14:4)**
- **Preserving unity in the body is a very high form of service. (John 17:21-23)**

# Serving the Lord

**When we serve we show our desire to be like our Lord Jesus.**

**The fact that we serve proves to us that we are serious about our faith.**

**Making serving the Lord a priority speaks of where our hearts really are.**

**Serving the Lord is always a successful endeavor even when those we are trying to serve reject us, our service, and our Savior.**

Serving the Lord

**The need is the call.**

**People are Jesus.**

# Questions

