



Life Principles Notes™

Living the Extraordinary Life

Part 6: A Life of Service

Summary:

Did you know that on the day when you first trusted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, you became a servant of the Most High God?

That's quite a thought. As Ephesians 6:7-8 teaches us, you and I have a mission in life to "render service as to the Lord."

In every action, large or small, we are servants who are expected to be fruitful. Before we became

believers, we were motivated by selfish desires. Now, as servants of the Most High God, we have died to all of that and given ourselves totally to God. Whatever He needs from us, wherever He sends us, we must be ready and willing to offer ourselves, just as He offered Himself on the cross at Calvary.

Jesus gave us a command wrapped in a promise: "If anyone serves Me, he must follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him" (John 12:26). As we honor our Lord, He honors our service.

Scriptural Principles:

1 We must recognize Jesus as Lord and Master, and ourselves as His servants.

This is our first and most basic guideline. We read in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 that we are not our own; we have been bought with a price. This makes us bondservants of Christ. We are His property, devoted to His use in utter humility. In fact, Jesus tells us that in order to be first, we must become last—that is, slaves. (Matthew 20:27) How could any human being be unwilling to serve, when Jesus Christ Himself came "to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many"? (Matthew 20:28) On Jesus' final evening with His disciples, as He knowingly faced crucifixion, He got down on His hands and knees and washed their feet. We who are saved should follow His example by giving our life in service.

2 We must recognize that serving is not something we do for God, but something God does through us.

When you trusted Jesus Christ for your salvation, the Holy Spirit came into your life. Why? He came to equip you for the service of God. Our abilities come from Him, and they are for Him, not for ourselves. "For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13). Likewise, 1 Thessalonians 5:24 tells us that He who calls us to service is faithful, and He is the one who works His will. Sometimes we forget that our strength comes from God. He assumes that responsibility and provides us with encouragement, confidence, contentment and comfort. He also warns us not to take any credit because it is His work and His provision; it is our honor to serve Him.

3 We must recognize that no matter whom we serve humanly, it is the Lord God whom we are truly serving.

Notice that we are called to serve one another, and yet to remember that in doing so, we are always serving God. Colossians 3:22-24 instructs us to do our work wholeheartedly, no matter what that work may be, as if it were for God—because of course it is. What happens when you and I begin to see our work as for the Lord? It transforms our focus. We see God

behind those we serve, and we work more joyfully and willingly. There is also a godly effect upon the quality of our work and upon our motivation. We are willing to do more and do it better in order to please God. If everyone began to serve as unto the Lord, our world would be a changed place!

4 We must serve out of our spiritual gifts, not our human talents. Our own human abilities are irrelevant to the work God has called us to accomplish in this life. The Spirit of God provides our gifts and then enables and guides us in our service. Therefore we need never worry about whether we are capable of any task. We may feel inadequate in our own talents and capabilities, and rightly so. Apart from God, we can do nothing that has eternal value; yet, we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. He provides the goal, the ability to achieve it, and the wisdom to reach it with excellence. What do we provide? We provide the complete availability and willing attitude of a bondservant of Christ, who is totally dependent upon spiritual gifts, not upon human talents.

5 We must realize we cannot serve God and ourselves at the same time. It is not that we may not, but that we cannot. It is impossible for self-service and godly service to coexist. Luke 16:13 tells us that no servant can serve two masters, for one will win and the other will lose; we will commit ourselves to one and overlook the other. Jesus is speaking particularly of money, but the same principle holds true for our service. As long as we are bent upon self-absorbed living, we will never be wholehearted servants of God. The more we are caught up in the acclaim and applause of others, the more useless to God we will become. The only success that matters in this life is the kind that is measured in obedience to God.

6 How to know if you are serving the Lord. It is possible to be deluded about our own servanthood. Some people seem to be motivated Christians, when in truth, they are driven by more selfish motives. How, then, can you know if you are sincerely serving the Lord? First, you will know it when your primary concerns are the needs of others, the glory of God, and the work of the Kingdom. You will know it when you are willing to make the necessary adjustments in your personal life to become a more effective servant. You will know it when you are motivated by loving concern for other people, and by the prospect of pleasing God. You will know it when you are operating in a spirit of humility. Does that mean weakness? No, because humility requires the strength to yield to the awesome will of God.

7 How to know if you are serving yourself. On the other hand, there are several warning signs that point to self-service rather than godly service. When you are more concerned about other people's opinions than about what God thinks, you have clearly chosen your ego over God's will. When you are continually seeking compliments, that's another indication that you are a poor bondservant of Christ. When your ways are deceptive, and when you are always wanting something in return for your service, you are working on your own behalf rather than serving the Most High God. In Luke 6:38, Jesus promises us that when we give, we shall receive. When we treat others, not as we want to be treated, but as if they were Christ, we will know we have become full bondservants. Then His blessings overflow upon our lives.

Conclusion:

Jesus speaks of the seed that falls into the ground and dies. That would be a sad story if we failed to understand the nature of seeds. They must die before they can fulfill their destiny—the wonderful life that springs from their “old selves.”

My friend, your human nature will inspire you to avoid any kind of death. But you will never experience the fullest blessings of God, or any blessings at all, until you are willing to die to self

and live for Christ. It is the servant who has joy. It is the slave who receives the inheritance of the God's only Son. Those who are willing to die are the only ones who will truly live.

Therefore, die to all your self-serving impulses. The life to which God has called you is indeed wonderful. Won't you commit yourself to the extraordinary life of a servant of the Most High God? 🙏

Contact us:
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