

# HOW TO GROW IN YOUR SERVICE TO GOD?



Part of a man's nature and purpose is service. Service can be portrayed in different ways, in different aspects and towards different people. However, the ultimate true service is a service to God. Let's first establish what is meant by serving God. God created the world in such a way that He needs a vessel to carry out His works hence God needs a man to carry out His will. He participates on Earth through mankind. So serving God means that you are availing yourself to God to be used by Him for His glory.

We also need to understand an important concept of service and that is; we serve God through the service we give to man. So when serving God, you put yourself in a position to serve others for His glory. So as a servant of God, your mouth becomes His mouth, your hands become His hands, all that you are becomes a means of which He reaches the world. Every action we take for the profit of the Kingdom of God is what service is all about.

As a believer the way you live your life should be a service to God, every choice that you make should honor God, and should be a testimony of His glory.

In Deuteronomy 10:10, the Lord is speaking to the children of Israel who had gone astray. And He instructs them "to serve with all their heart and soul". God has called us to serve, but what gives value to our service is how our hearts are engaged as we serve. God knows why He wants us to serve wholeheartedly, and that's because a divided heart can't be fully effective in its course. Jesus puts it like this in Matthew 6:24 'you can't serve two masters, you'll love one and despise the other.' so when serving God, bring your whole heart first.

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Since the heart needs to be involved, serving God requires you to work from a place of love. It is a lie to believe that we can truly express love without God, for the perfect love was expressed by Him (John 3:16). He is love, 'God is love' says John (in 1 John 4:8). People think the teaching of love is basic and a natural trait that people have from within, but that is not entirely true.

The world believes that humanitarian efforts are the expression of true love, but this isn't the case because, despite man's humanitarian efforts, we have wars, crimes and injustice. The world we live in tries to depict that they have love in them by demonstrating the fruits of love, being joy, peace etc, but this demonstration is flawed and has limits because it is not founded in God.

To genuinely love, it requires you to know God, and when you know God, you're able to love. "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love" and that's 1 John 4:8 and in the 16th verse of the same chapter it says: And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. Our love is perfect when it comes from a relationship with God, and we are then able to truly express it to others. As said before, you serve God by serving the people He has placed around you, no matter who they are or what they do. And also our service to God goes beyond serving in the four corners of a church.

In science they say, you only see because of light. When there is no light, you cannot see. So the presence of light is somehow what activates our abilities to see, so the source of vision is light. God is the source of love and He is love himself. Light has different rays and so does love. It has longsuffering, patience, peace etc. You cannot have the genuine fruits of any of these rays if you do not have the source.

If you lack the source of love, you will show love but it will not be genuine. And when the love you thought was genuine is challenged, you will fail because you do not have the source of love within you. When you have Jesus, you will not tire from caring for people. Luke 10:25-37 Jesus speaks about the parable of the Good Samaritan and this Samaritan portrayed the characteristics of God.

So this shows that we should express our service out of love even to those that we are conditioned to hate. It is possible for you and me to genuinely do the same as long as we have the source.

Matthew 22:37-40 gives us two of the greatest commandments of which should define ones standing as a follower of Christ. It says Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments. Our love for God and our love for others will always push us to serve from the heart and be effective as we serve. Service founded on love is the best kind of service, and this is the service that is pleasant to God.

Your life as a believer is a sacred calling to serve in love, and it is not limited to the pulpit or a confined Christian community. Life lead by love is a true life of worship. The joyous news attached to serving is that you will always have someone great by your side to fulfil the real purpose of why you are present here on earth. Our guide is Jesus, so be aware that everything you do is a platform of which you can serve Him and give Him the glory.

