

Dying to Serve

Countryside Bible Church

Dying to Serve

Our Pattern

Mark 10:45

⁴⁵ “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

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The Privilege of Service

Rom 7:5-6

5 For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death.

6 But now we have been released from the Law, having died to that by which we were bound, so that **we serve in newness of the Spirit** and not in oldness of the letter.

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The Privilege of Service

Hebrews 9:14

¹⁴ how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

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Freedom from Sin is Freedom to Serve

Gal 5:13

13 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but **through love serve one another.**

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Freedom from Sin is Freedom to Serve

1 Thess 1:8-10

8 For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything.

9 For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how **you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God,**

10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

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Serving with Anticipation

Luke 12:35–38

³⁵ “Be dressed in readiness, and keep your lamps lit.

³⁶ “Be like men who are waiting for their master when he returns from the wedding feast, so that they may immediately open the door to him when he comes and knocks.

³⁷ “**Blessed are those slaves whom the master will find on the alert** when he comes; truly I say to you, that he will gird himself to serve, and have them recline at the table, and will come up and wait on them.

³⁸ “Whether he comes in the second watch, or even in the third, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

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Living in Denial

⁴⁵ **“But if that slave says in his heart, ‘My master will be a long time in coming,’** and begins to beat the slaves, both men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk;

⁴⁶ the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces, and assign him a place with the unbelievers.

⁴⁷ **“And that slave who knew his master’s will and did not get ready or act in accord with his will, will receive many lashes,**

⁴⁸ but the one who did not know it, and committed deeds worthy of a flogging, will receive but few. From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.

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General Principles Concerning Spiritual Gifts

If you are a Christian you have a spiritual gift(s)

1 Peter 4:10a

¹⁰ As each one has received a special gift...

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General Principles Concerning Spiritual Gifts

Spiritual Gifts are Given by the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:11

¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

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General Principles Concerning Spiritual Gifts

The Spirit Determines the Extent of One's Gift

Romans 12:6a

⁶ Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly...

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General Principles Concerning Spiritual Gifts

God Places Us Where He Wants Us

1 Corinthians 12

¹⁸ But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired.

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General Principles Concerning Spiritual Gifts

We Are Many Members Yet One Body

1 Corinthians 12

¹² For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.

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General Principles Concerning Spiritual Gifts

Every Member of the Body is Essential

1 Corinthians 12

¹⁵ If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body.

¹⁶ And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body.

¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?

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General Principles Concerning Spiritual Gifts

Every Member of the Body is Essential

1 Corinthians 12

²¹ And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; or again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.”

²² On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary;

²³ and those members of the body which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our less presentable members become much more presentable...

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General Principles Concerning Spiritual Gifts

Every Member Must Have the Same Care for One Another

1 Corinthians 12

²⁶ And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

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General Principles Concerning Spiritual Gifts

There are Varieties of Gifts

1 Corinthians 12

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.

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General Principles Concerning Spiritual Gifts

There are Speaking Gifts

1 Peter 4:11a

¹¹ Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God...

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General Principles Concerning Spiritual Gifts

There are Serving Gifts

1 Peter 4:11b

¹¹ ...whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies...

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General Conclusions Concerning Spiritual Gifts

In view of the fact that God has given you your gift

In view of the fact that He gives you the utterances of God

In view of the fact that you are serving by the strength God supplies

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General Conclusions Concerning Spiritual Gifts

There is absolutely no room for pride

It is a requirement for all believers to faithfully serve

We can have confidence in using our gifts because of God's provision of His utterances and strength

We can ultimately bring God glory

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General Principles Concerning Spiritual Gifts

The Manifestation of the Spirit is for the Common Good

1 Corinthians 12

⁷ But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

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General Principles Concerning Spiritual Gifts

We are commanded to serve one another

1 Peter 4:10

¹⁰ As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

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General Principles Concerning Spiritual Gifts

We Ought to Serve in Everything we Do

Col 3:23-24

23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men,

24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

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General Principles Concerning Spiritual Gifts

Our Service Must be Motivated by Love

1 Corinthians 13:1–3

¹ If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

² If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

³ And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

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General Principles Concerning Spiritual Gifts

Our Service Must be Motivated by Love

Romans 12

⁹ Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.

¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor;

¹¹ not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord...

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General Principles Concerning Spiritual Gifts

Warning!

Romans 12

³ For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

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General Principles Concerning Spiritual Gifts

Warning!

Romans 12

¹⁶ Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.

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General Principles Concerning Spiritual Gifts

All Gifts are Intended to Glorify God

1 Peter 4:11c

¹¹ ...so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

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General Principles Concerning Spiritual Gifts

We Serve God Now and Forever

Rev 22:1-4

1 Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb,

2 in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

3 There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him;

4 they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads.

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Obstacles to Using Our Gifts

There are already enough people serving

I don't know what my gift is?

I don't have time

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Application

Live in anticipation of the Lord's return

Learn to love

Diligently seek opportunities to serve

Trust God to use you

Glorify God