

Service

John 13.12-16; Psalm 100.2; Deuteronomy 13.4

Train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but **godliness** has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. 1 Timothy 4.7b-8

We need to be honest with the facts about the Discipline of serving God. Serving God is not a job for the casually interested. It's costly service. He asks for your life. He asks for service to him to become a priority, not a pastime. He doesn't want servants who will give him the leftovers of their life's commitments. Serving God isn't a short-term responsibility either.

EVERY CHRISTIAN IS EXPECTED TO SERVE

How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! Hebrews 9.14

*Worship (serve) the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.* Psalm 100.2

Of course, motives matter in the service we are to offer to God. The Bible mentions at least six motives for serving.

We are Motivated by Obedience

It is the LORD your God you must follow, and him you must revere. Keep his commands and obey him; serve him and hold fast to him. Deuteronomy 13.4

We are Motivated by Gratitude

But be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you. 1 Samuel 12.24

We are Motivated by Gladness

*Worship (serve) the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.* Psalm 100.2; 84.10

We are Motivated by Forgiveness, Not Guilt

Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, 'See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.'

*Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?'
And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'* Isaiah 6.6-8

We are Motivated by Humility

'Do you understand what I have done for you?' he asked them. 'You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.' John 13.12-16

We are Motivated by Love

You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. Galatians 5.13

EVERY CHRISTIAN IS GIFTED TO SERVE

The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4.7-11

Jerry Bridges. *The Practice of Godliness*. Navpress. Colorado Springs, CO. 1983.
Richard J. Foster. *The Celebration of Discipline*. Harper & Row. San Francisco, CA. 1978.
R. Kent Hughes. *Disciplines of a Godly Man*. Crossway Books. Wheaton, IL. 1991.
John Ortburg. *The Life You've Always Wanted*. Zondervan. Grand Rapids, MI. 2002.
Donald S. Whitney. *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*. Navpress. Colorado Springs, CO. 1991