

# **Spiritual Disciplines of the Christian Faith (CM2)**

**Service & Stewardship**

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# Spiritual Disciplines of the Christian Faith (CM2)

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# What is Christian Service?

Christian Service means to reflect the love of God by doing the work of God with a willing heart, especially in caring for the needs of others.

*“The highest form of worship is the worship of unselfish Christian service. The most eloquent prayer is the prayer through hands that heal and bless.”*

Billy Graham

# Equipped for Service

*Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed...<sup>4</sup> There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.<sup>5</sup> There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.<sup>6</sup> There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.*

*<sup>7</sup> Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ...*

*1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-7*

# Equipped for Service

*For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup> We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; <sup>7</sup> if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; <sup>8</sup> if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.*

*Romans 12:4-8*

## Equipped for Service

*So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

*Ephesians 4:11-13*

# Equipped for Service

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.*

*<sup>11</sup> If you speak, you should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If you serve, you should do so 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.*

*1 Peter 4:10-11*

# Three Reasons you need to serve others:

- 1. People need your help; it's the compassionate response.** There is a lot of pain and grief and lostness in the world – and even in the Church – and we can do something to make that better.

*If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? <sup>18</sup> Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.*

*1 John 3:17-18*



# Three Reasons you need to serve others:

## 2. When you help others you are helping Jesus – quite literally!

*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, <sup>36</sup> I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' <sup>37</sup> "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? <sup>39</sup> When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' <sup>40</sup> "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' Matt. 25:35-40*

➤ Mother Teresa: “It’s alright Jesus, I’m here now.”

# Three Reasons you need to serve others:

3. You NEED to help others for your own sake; it changes you; **it makes you more like Jesus**. You NEED to serve others in order to be whole yourself!!

*The real test of a saint is not one's willingness to preach the gospel, but one's willingness to do something like washing the disciple's feet – that is, being willing to do those things that seem unimportant in human estimation but count as everything God.*

Oswald Chambers

*One thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.*

Albert Schweitzer

## **We Serve Christ & No Assigned Task is Unworthy**

*There are many of us that are willing to do great things for the Lord, but few of us are willing to do the little things.*

D.L. Moody

*There is no work, however vile and sordid, that does not glisten before God.*

John Calvin

*A good many people are kept out of the service of Christ, deprived of the luxury of working for God, because they are trying to do some great thing. Let us be willing to do little things. And let us remember that nothing is small in which God is the source.*

D.L. Moody

# This is Our Call as Christians

*Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.*

John Wesley

*When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die.*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

# Stewardship

*But godliness with contentment is great gain. <sup>7</sup> For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. <sup>8</sup> But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. <sup>9</sup> Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup> For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.*

*<sup>17</sup> Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. <sup>18</sup> Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. <sup>19</sup> In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.*

1 Timothy 6:2b-19

# Stewardship

God has made us caretakers of the stuff in His world for two reasons.

First Reason, God wants us to do more than just survive; He wants us to be happy and to enjoy the things of this world. God specifically says in Scripture that He gives us good things for our enjoyment.

*Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.*

1 Timothy 6:17

# Stewardship

And the Second Reason God has made us caretakers of the things in His world is so we share with those in need, whenever they are in need.

*So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. <sup>3</sup> But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your giving may be in secret.*

*Matthew 6:2-4*

# Stewardship

1. God owns everything
2. He has made us the caretakers of His stuff, for our own enjoyment and to share with others in need.
3. Since God owns everything already, **He does not need for you to give to accomplish His will in the world!**

*I have no need of a bull from your stall or of goats from your pens, <sup>10</sup> for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. <sup>11</sup> I know every bird in the mountains, and the creatures of the field are mine. <sup>12</sup> If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is mine, and all that is in it. Psalm 50:9-12*



# Stewardship

*Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

*Matthew 6:19-21*

*Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. <sup>9</sup> Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the LORD?' Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.*

*Proverbs 30:8-9*

# Stewardship

*No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.*

Matthew 6:24

*But just as you excel in everything-in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us-see that you also excel in this grace of giving.*

2 Corinthians 8:7