

Serving

Love serves. I will use the freedom I have in Jesus to serve others in love. Jesus is my example; He said He did not come to be served but to serve others. I choose to make my attitude the same as His. And because there is a connection between love and service, I choose to serve as Jesus did. I will not ask what others can do for me today; rather I will prayerfully ask what I can do to serve them in love.

Jesus served me by willingly going to the cross for my sins. As a result I have been given freedom; this freedom is not permission to do anything I want, rather it is an opportunity for me to do what Jesus wants. Serving others in this way, the way Jesus served, brings great joy. Because of this, I choose to use my freedom to glorify Him and serve others instead of simply fulfilling personal desires. One result of serving others in love is a growing desire to guard against destructive criticism which harms them and robs me of personal energy and joy. Love serves.

My prayer today is that God would give me the ability to see the opportunities to serve others and to give me a heart for serving them. I pray love will flow outward from my heart because of all God has done for me, a love that turns into serving. I will serve others with love. In this way, I am loving my neighbor as myself and fulfilling all of God's commands. Serving is the logical and natural outcome of love. It is an expression of my faith, and my faith is expressed through love. Love serves.

As I serve, I serve without expecting anything in return. I don't do this in my own strength; it is the Holy Spirit working in me, for the fruit of the Spirit is love. I don't serve simply because there is a need. I don't serve out of guilt. I don't serve in hopes of being accepted by God, for He loves me and accepts me completely through the cross of Jesus Christ. I serve for one reason and one reason only, love. Love serves. Today I will express Jesus' love through service and I will thank God today for those who have served me as an expression of Jesus' love. Love serves.

Study: Serving

Day 1: Jesus Served - *Mark 10:43-45* (Page 771); *Matthew 9:35-38* (Page 740)

Day 2: Demonstration of Humility - *John 13:3-5, 13-16* (Page 822)

Day 3: Servant Attitude - *Philippians 2:3-8* (Page 900); *Mark 1:29-31* (Page 761)

Day 4: Free to Serve - *Galatians 5:13-14* (Page 893); *Galatians 6:9-10* (Page 894)

Day 5: Servant Leadership - *Luke 22:24-27* (Page 805); *1 Peter 2:16* (Page 935)

Day 6: Slave to Righteousness - *Romans 6:18-19* (Page 861); *2 Corinthians 4:5* (Page 883)

Day 7: Serve Jesus - *John 12:26* (Page 821). Read the *Daily Reading* once again and highlight things that stand out. Answer the three Life Transformation questions for growth in this area. Take time to learn the memory verse.

Memory Verse: Galatians 5:13 *"For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love."* Galatians 5:13

Life Transformation Questions:

1. As you read the *Daily Reading*, what stood out and why?
2. What action will you take to apply this truth? Be specific.
3. What areas of your life will benefit from this action? How and why?