

Service

Service: Privilege and Responsibility

It is the privilege and duty of all who have health and strength to render to God active service. All are to labor in winning souls to Christ (White, *Christ's Object Lessons* 343).

The Bible gives no endorsement to idleness. It is the greatest curse that afflicts our world. Every man and woman who is truly converted will be a diligent worker (ibid. 343).

As in the natural, so in the spiritual world: every power unused will weaken and decay. *Activity is the law of life; idleness is death* (ibid. 364).

The responsibility I am to carry is to “work for Christ.” That is different than working for the church. Much of the work of the church is to maintain the institution. Working for Christ means: serving Christ by serving others He leads you to, and sharing the gospel commission.

Our time belongs to God. Every moment is His, and *we are under the most solemn obligation to improve it to His glory*. Of no talent He has given will He require a more strict account than of time (ibid. 342).

The only way in which we can redeem our time is by making the most of that which remains, by being co-workers with God in His great plan of redemption (ibid. 342).

Kindly affections, generous impulses, and a quick apprehension of spiritual things are precious talents, and lay their possessor under a weighty responsibility. All are to be used in God's service . . . The love that gives kindness to only a few is not love, but selfishness . . . *The Lord desires us to use every gift we have; and if we do this, we shall have greater gifts to use* (ibid. 352).

Their joy is the joy set before Christ—“*to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work.*” (John 4:34). They are in cooperation with the Lord of glory. This thought sweetens all toil, it braces the will, and it nerves the spirit for whatever may befall (ibid. 403).

The mission of Christ's servant is a *high calling* and a *sacred trust* (White, *Desire of Ages* 357).

Don't Think of Failure

When we give ourselves wholly to God and in our work follow His directions, He makes Himself responsible for its accomplishment. He would not have us conjecture as to the success of our honest endeavors. Not once should we even think of failure. We are to cooperate with the One who knows no failure (ibid. 363).

The Consequences of Not Working for Christ

In the great judgment day those who have not worked for Christ, those who have drifted along, carrying no responsibility, thinking of themselves, pleasing themselves, will be placed by the Judge of all the earth with those who did evil (ibid. 365).

For all the knowledge and ability that we might have gained and did not, there will be an eternal loss (ibid. 363).

Surrender to Serve

In all our service a full surrender of self is demanded. He looks to see how much of the spirit of Christ we cherish, and how much of the likeness of Christ our work reveals. He regards more the love and faithfulness with which we work than the amount we do (ibid. 402).

“May the God of peace sanctify you completely” (I Thessalonians 5:23). It’s saying each day, “Father, where do you want me to grow, and what do you want me to do today.” People should ask, “Are you and your brother Jesus twins?”

Jesus said to Peter, “Feed My sheep,” but He gave him nothing with which to feed them (John 21:17). The process of being made broken bread and poured out wine means that you have to be the nourishment for other people’s souls until they learn to feed on God. They must drain you completely, but be careful to replenish your supply, or you will quickly be utterly exhausted . . . God saved and sanctified you to exhaust you. Be exhausted for God, but remember that He is your supply. “All my springs are in You” (Psalm 87:7)

Being a delivery boy for my Father is not a 9-5 job. He will call me into service at any time with no limits on how long the work will take. It is His agenda and if I listen closely He will tell me when to start, what to do and when to stop.

There are souls perplexed with doubt, burdened with infirmities, weak in faith, and unable to grasp the Unseen; but a friend whom they can see, coming to them in Christ's stead, can be a connecting link to fasten their trembling faith upon Christ (White, *Desire of Ages* 297).

Serve Like Christ

He [Jesus] lived to please, honor, and glorify His Father (White, *Desire of Ages* 74).

When my "Big Brother" is my hero, I will want to live as He lived. Each day I will want to please, honor and glorify my Father also.

When Christ was living on the earth, how surprised His associates would have been, if, after becoming acquainted with Him, they had heard Him speak one word of accusation (judging), of faultfinding (gossip), or of impatience. Let us never forget that those who love Him are to represent Him in character (White, *Ministry of Healing* 489).

Christ gave no stinted service. He did not measure His work in hours. His time, His heart His soul and strength, were given to labor for the benefit of humanity. Through weary days He toiled, and through long nights He bent in prayer for grace and endurance that He do a larger work. With strong crying and tears He sent His petitions to heaven, that His human nature might be strengthened, that He might be braced to meet the wily foe in all his deceptive workings, and fortified to fulfill His mission of uplifting humanity. To His workers He says, "I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done (John 13:14) (White, *Ministry of Healing* 500).

God Will Use Us

There is no limit to the usefulness of one who by putting self aside makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart, and lives a life wholly consecrated to God. If men will endure the necessary discipline, without complaining or fainting by the way, God will teach them hour by hour and day by day (White, *Desire of Ages* 250).

Stand in your God-given personality. Be no other person's shadow. Expect that the Lord will work *by* and *through* you (White, *Ministry of Healing* 499).

In choosing men and women for His service, God does not ask whether they possess learning or eloquence or worldly wealth. He asks: "Do they walk in such humility that I can teach them My way? *Can I put My words into their lips? Will they represent Me?*" (White, *7 Testimonies* 144)

The greatest competitor of devotion to Jesus is service for Him. *We are not sent to battle for God, but to be used by God in His battlings.*

My job is not to see what needs to be done and to do it. My job is simply to be a tool in His hand to be used or not used as He chooses. If I am relying on myself to determine if I should solve the problem, there is a good chance that I may be working outside of what God wants done. It may be that when I help another out of adversity, that God's will for that person was to experience adversity to bring them to a deeper level of relationship with Him. It may be like helping a young butterfly out of a cocoon. By solving its struggle, I am killing the butterfly. The struggle is what makes it strong and gets its system working.

Seeking the Lost, Hymn #373

Thus would I go on missions of mercy,
Following Christ from day onto day,
Cheering the faint and raising the fallen,
Pointing the lost to Jesus, the Way,
Going afar upon the mountain,
Bringing the wander back again,
Into the fold of my Redeemer,
Jesus the Lamb for sinners slain.

A Bible Lesson on Service

Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw them [the four men who brought him], He said to the paralytic, Son, your sins are forgiven . . . take up your bed and walk (Mark 2:3-5).

The four men remained nameless—we don't know anything of them. The only person named is Jesus and all the credit and glory goes to Him. The four men were tools God used to bring the paralytic to Jesus and tools don't seek any recognition.

They picked the man up placed him on a mat and carefully brought him—The man was already messed up and they were very careful how they handled him. We need to be careful and committed to helping those people God places in our path.

When Jesus saw their (four men who brought the paralytic) faith, He healed the paralytic—As a friend, I am called to intercede in behalf of those who are down and out. While they may not know God well

enough to seek Him, I can intercede for them.
As a friend I must never give up on God appointed relationships and I must convey success and victory through Jesus to the other person. They let the bed down—They knew when to turn the person over to Jesus. He is the only one who can bring healing.
We must be drawn out of selves for others before we will experience victory for struggles in our own lives (*Fundamentals of Christian Education* 207).

Representing Jesus

If I claim to be a Christian, I am saying that I will represent Jesus in all that I do—when I work, play, eat, interact with people who bother me, with my wife, with my children, alone (but still before the universe). My objective is not to enhance or protect me. It is to reveal Him. Paul's source of contentment came from: 1) knowing that God loved him and 2) from knowing that he was "a tool in his Father's hands" to accomplish what God wanted him to do with all his strength.