



## The Power of Serving Others

October 2, 2022

As Christians, it is supposed to be our nature to serve. We are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, that same Spirit who lived through Jesus while He walked the earth.

*Philippians 2:5-8* – “Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

*Mark 10:45* – “For even the Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

Jesus came to serve, and then He taught His disciples that they were to do the same.

*John 13:15* – “For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you.”

Our experience has shown that a person’s heart is most quickly touched by acts of service.

Our credibility and authority grows as we walk in servanthood, and the greater our authority, the more the world will listen to our message. Jesus was empowered precisely because He came as a servant. *Philippians 2:9-11* tells us the end result...

*Philippians 2:9-11* – “For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

As the ultimate servant, Jesus received ultimate authority from the Father. Because He had authority in the lives of those He served, Jesus was able to call people to repentance.

One of our strongest weapons is the kindness of God. Remember, it is the kindness of God that leads to repentance. It is one thing to tell the gospel and quite another to communicate, in a meaningful way, the love of God.

As Jesus said, “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him” (*John 6:44*).

There is a time and place for a verbal presentation of the gospel. As Paul says, “How shall they hear without a preacher?” (*Romans 10:14*).

The Apostle Paul’s ministry – *Acts 17*

Evangelism is a process: “I have planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase” (*1 Corinthians 3:6-7*).

Evangelism is a process that begins with planting, watering, and then at some point, God will use someone to reap a harvest as the gospel is made clear. We plant, we water, and God works.

If we approach people with kindness and humble service, treating them like friends, God will give us access to their hearts.

Some may choose not to reach out to their neighbors due to fear of failure. But that fear can also be alleviated if we view evangelism as a process and not just one conversation that we close the deal or we don’t.

We are turtles in this life trying to live like rabbits. We must begin to live as the turtles He created us to be. We need to slow down and care.

Understanding that evangelism is a process helps us overcome the fear of failure. Every act of love and kindness is powerful and impacting and will not fail, because love never fails.

*1 Corinthians 15:58* – “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.”