

IMPROVE YOUR SERVE

1 Peter 4:10-11

10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Peter, in his later years, as an elder of the church (1 Pet. 5:1), exhorts the Christians to whom he is writing regarding a portion of the divine power (2 Peter 1:3) placed within them. He uses the word χάρισμα, which refers to “special gifts of a non-material sort bestowed through God’s generosity on individual Christians.” These divine spiritual attributes are given to each person so that they would have the ability and strength (Phil. 4:13) to serve the Lord’s people. In fact, Peter says they are to be deployed specifically to “serve one another.” Simply put, they are told to ensure (implying an obligation) that both the spiritual and physical needs of the brothers and sisters in Christ are provided for in a sacrificial way. This service focuses on living out the rest of this physical life “no longer for human passions but for the will of God (v. 2)” with the end goal of bringing glory to God! Overall, our empowerment, giftedness, and sacrificial service to others is to magnify the “splendid greatness” of God to the world in hopes that others would be inspired by the Lord’s splendor (Matt. 5:16).

In a different letter, Paul says all actions are to be done in the name of the Lord. That’s a critical factor in a Christian's decision-making process. “To do or not to do” is directed by God rather than our whims, preferences, opinions, or moods.

Colossians 3:17

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Sometimes, service focuses on the ME or THEY rather than the Lord.

Sometimes, we focus on what we feel we can't do rather than what God can do through us.

Sometimes, our service is limited by our comfort and preferences rather than God’s goal of building up the church.

Sometimes, it focuses on and exalts specific gifts rather than God’s glory.

The truth is, our service to the Lord is less about us and more about Him. It is less about things and more about the heart.

Sometimes, we just need a reminder and a challenge to keep our focus on what is most important—the Lord’s will and His glory!

May God bless each of us as we continually strive to improve our service to Him. May he be glorified as we use our precious God-given gifts to care for one another.

Colossians 3:23

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.

Shalom,
Ryan