

The ingredients to our build love for God Pt 4 Acts of service

This is our fourth teaching on the necessary ingredients to build our love for God. In our previous study we covered three points- (i) Praise ye the LORD, (ii) Sing praise to His name, (iii) In worship we praise the LORD- as one congregation, and as individuals.

In this study we will cover three additional points- (i) All God's children are to serve the LORD, (ii) serve the LORD in sincerity and in truth and (iii) Our reasonable service to God is to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to Him.

To establish a little more detail on our three points we search the scriptures using the words- serve (268 occurrences), service (116 occurrences) and work (689 occurrences).

i) All God's children are to serve the LORD

a) God told Pharaoh to let his people go to serve Him

"And I say unto thee, Let my son go, that he may serve me: and if thou refuse to let him go, behold, I will slay thy son, even thy firstborn" (Ex 4:23). See also Ex 7:16.

b) by the blood of Christ a Christian's conscience is purged from dead works- to serve the living God

"How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" (Heb.9: 14).

2. Serve the LORD in sincerity and in truth

"Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD" (Josh.24: 14).

3. Our reasonable service to God is to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to Him

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" (Rom.12: 1).

Illustration

When a preacher shares the gospel with a lost person and the person who has just believed and received the gospel asks- how will I know if I have believed in my heart, how will I know if I am truly saved? My answer is to tell the journey of a man who loves a woman. Because love takes place in our heart, and our motivation for doing things comes from the heart, then when the man starts doing things for the woman he loves, he knows that he loves her in his heart. He will buy her flowers, take her to dinner, to the movies and generally do things that show her he loves her.

Whereas, when the Jehovah Witnesses come to your door and encourage you to believe their gospel of the kingdom of heaven, which does not save a man today, you are not made into a new creature in Christ and no belief has taken place in your heart. Any acts of service will be motivated by fear or lies, and not be based on truth!

Questions

- i) What other forms of service are there that show our love?
- ii) How does acts of service, serving the LORD build our love for Him?

Answers from the scriptures

i) Other forms of service that show our love include:

* giving to supply the want of the saints

"For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God" (2Cor 9:12).

* when we sing to the LORD it is a service

"And these are they whom David set over the service of song in the house of the Lord, after that the ark had rest" (1 Chr.6: 31).

* fasting and prayer

“And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day” (Lk.2: 37).

* to seek the LORD is a service unto the LORD and we do so with all our heart

“And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, and in the law, and in the commandments, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart, and prospered” (2 Chr.31: 21).

* when we destroy not the weaker with our meat, and so serve Christ - it is acceptable to God

[15] But if thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died.

[16] Let not then your good be evil spoken of:

[17] For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

[18] For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God. (Rom.14:15-18)

* To follow the LORD we serve Him- the Father will honour us

“If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will [my] Father honour” (Jn 12:26).

May our service to the brethren be accepted by them

“That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judaea; and that my service which I have for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints” (Rom.15: 31).

Let your light so shine before men that they may see our good works and glorify the Father

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matt.5: 16).

By love we serve one another

“For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another” (Gal.5: 13).

ii) To love the LORD is linked to serving Him with all of our heart and with all of our soul

“And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul” (Deut 10:12). See also Deut 11:13, Josh.22: 5, and 1 Sam.12: 20

Serve the LORD with a perfect heart

“And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever” (1 Chr.28: 9).

Therefore, the more we serve the more we love, and the more we love the more we serve. Service to the LORD is an outward expression of love.

Our acts of service, our works show our love: the more we are forgiven, the more we love the more we DO, the more we DO the more we love

[44] And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head.

[45] Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet.

[46] My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.

[47] Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little (Lk.7: 44-47).

Serve Him in truth with all of our heart-

“Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great [things] he hath done for you” (1Sam.12: 24).

Let us do the will of God from the heart- with good will as to the LORD and not to men

[6] Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;

[7] With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: (Eph.6: 6, 7).

In conclusion:

* let us be a pattern of good works in doctrine, showing incorruptness and sincerity

“In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine [shewing] incorruptness, gravity, sincerity” (Tit.2: 7).

* serving the LORD in all truth and with all of heart (1 Samuel 12:24), and in doing so will build our love for the LORD.

IF you are a babe in Christ, or your love for the LORD- feels the same year upon year, I challenge you to seek Him for what He wants you to do, where He has set you in the church-

“And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues” (1 Cor.12:28),

Once you know, then get involved- serve in a work, a service, and in doing so you will build your love for the LORD.