

# The Gift of Serving

## Romans 12:7

### I. What is the gift of serving?

- A. Actually, we have taken the gift of ministering (Romans 12:7) and the gift of helps (1 Corinthians 12:28), combined them into one gift, and called it the gift of serving.
- B. The words “*ministry*” and “*ministering*” in Romans 12:7 literally mean “to do service,” and they come from the exact same root word from which we get our English word, “deacon.”
- C. In fact, the office of deacon was first instituted because men were needed who could work behind the scenes performing necessary, everyday tasks. Why? So that the apostles could give themselves continually to prayer and the Word of God. Acts 6:1-7
- D. So, a person with the gift of serving isn’t a king, and doesn’t even want to be a king, but he or she is a “king maker.” He enjoys working behind the scenes, performing necessary jobs, manual tasks, and duties.
- E. In Acts 9:36-42, we have an example of a server. This lady’s name is Dorcas, and she used her talent of sewing in the gift of service. She would make clothes for all the widows in the church.

### II. Why is the gift of serving necessary?

- A. It is possible that more people have this gift than any other because it is so necessary to the body of Christ.
- B. The person with this gift paints the walls, picks up the trash, makes costumes for WTB, cleans the church buildings, bakes the cookies, cooks meals for the sick, drives the bus, fixes things that are broken, helps with projects in the office, vacuums the floors, cleans the toilets, helps with church office projects, works to beautify the church property, and on and on we could go...

- C. Without servers, we would have a bunch of preachers and teachers trying to speak on broken-down P.A. systems in run-down church buildings to empty chairs.
- D. Servers are NOT the people who figure, since they can do nothing else in the church, they must have the gift of service. This attitude would belittle the gift and be an insult to the Holy Spirit who gave the gift.
- E. Remember this: there are **no** menial tasks in God's work.  
1 Corinthians 10:31
- F. Without servers, little or nothing would be accomplished in the work of God.

### III. What are some characteristics of the server?

- A. We will use Timothy as an example of a server. He was the apostle Paul's right-hand man, serving and doing whatever he could to help Paul.
  - 1. Philippians 2:22 – What a great verse that epitomizes the server.
  - 2. Paul refers to Timothy as his “*workfellow*” in Romans 16:21.
  - 3. Let's examine some characteristics of the server.
- B. First, the server enjoys freeing up others to achieve their God-given responsibilities. 2 Timothy 4:10-12
  - 1. Because Timothy came to serve Paul, Paul was able to send others to minister in different locations. Acts 19:22
  - 2. A server derives satisfaction from knowing that he is freeing up time for the pastor or church staff by performing manual tasks and jobs. A server would never have the attitude, “Let them do it. That's what we're paying them for.”
  - 3. On the other hand, a server would be quick to say, “You shouldn't be doing that. I can do that.”
- C. Second, the server likes to meet practical needs. 2 Timothy 4:13
  - 1. The server would feel much more comfortable fixing the plumbing, painting the house, or cleaning the home for a widow than to have

prayer and a Bible study with her. Let's look at that needy widow and see how the various gifts would most likely respond to her.

- The mercy-shower would go and just listen to the widow's worries, concerns, cares, and problems. Her problems would become the mercy-shower's problems.
- The teacher would love to go and have a Bible study with her.
- The administrator would go over to her house, set up a budget for her, and devise a plan for the widow's survival.
- The exhorter would encourage her, give her a pep talk, and get her busy doing things to take her mind off of her problems.
- The giver would purchase paint, or carpet, or whatever was needed.
- The server would be the first to volunteer to go over and put in the carpet, or make her a meal, or paint the house.

2. Servers are good at manual jobs and enjoy working with their hands.
3. Because the server is faithful and devoted to helping others, he is called upon often and usually has a hard time saying "no."
4. Because there is such a willingness and excitement to serve, the server can be taken advantage of by others.

D. Third, a server is happier when following, rather than leading.

1. Paul had asked Timothy to stay at Ephesus and assume a position of leadership in the church (1 Timothy 1:3). As Paul reunites with Timothy, Timothy is sick (1 Timothy 5:23) and in tears (2 Timothy 1:4). Paul is trying to encourage him.
2. We get the idea that Timothy was much happier serving **under** Paul's leadership than to be the one leading.
3. Function within the strengths God has given to you.

E. Fourth, a server needs the approval and encouragement of the one he serves. 2 Timothy 1:4-7

1. Paul wrote two books to encourage Timothy.
  2. If the server feels like he is being taken for granted or not appreciated, he can get hurt or offended.
  3. Many times, those with the gift of server have a negative attitude towards themselves and need approval and encouragement.
- F. Fifth, a server is typically faithful and reliable. 1 Corinthians 4:17, 1 Thessalonians 3:2
1. They take their service for the Lord very seriously.
  2. Paul really leaned on Timothy. He knew he was faithful and reliable. Paul knew he could count on Timothy to get the task done (whatever it was).
  3. If you need to get a manual task done for a ministry:
    - The giver can't come and help, but will be glad to help you purchase the materials you need.
    - The teacher is too busy studying for a lesson.
    - The exhorter will tell you how excited he is about it, but may never show up.
    - The administrator may not show up, but will send somebody he recruited in his place.
    - The server will be there 15 minutes early with tools in hand, ready to go!

**IV. How does Satan attack the person with this gift?**

- A. Causes pride because of the work he has done
- B. Causes a feeling of insignificance (because he is not in front of people in the limelight)
- C. Causes jealousy when those with the spotlight get attention and praise
- D. Causes a lack of concern for spiritual growth
- E. Causes discouragement because he feels unappreciated
- F. Causes him to focus on people instead of who he is ultimately serving (the Lord)

- Servers are people-pleasers, so they must be careful to constantly make sure they are doing their service unto the Lord and not unto men.

G. Read Luke 10:38-42 to see the carnal uses of this gift.

**V. Scriptures the server should memorize**

- A. Ephesians 6:6-7
- B. Matthew 20:26-28
- C. Romans 12:10-11
- D. 2 Peter 3:18
- E. Hebrews 6:10