

# Taking your Spirituality to the Next Level

*SERVING*

February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011

“We do not need more workers in the church; we need more worshippers!

I have never seen a true worshipper that was not a worker for Christ.”

*Howard Hendricks*

**Hebrews 9:14** Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins.

## What is your Motivation?

### ... Obedience

**Deuteronomy 13:4** Serve only the LORD your God and fear him alone. Obey his commands, listen to his voice, and cling to him.

### ... Gratitude

**1 Samuel 12:24** But be sure to fear the LORD and faithfully serve him. Think of all the wonderful things he has done for you.

### ... Gladness

**Psalms 100:2** Worship the LORD with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy.

### ... Forgiveness, Not Guilt

**Isaiah 6:6-8** Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup> He touched my lips with it and said, “See, this coal has touched your lips. Now your guilt is removed, and your sins are forgiven.” <sup>8</sup> Then I heard the Lord asking, “Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?” I said, “Here I am. Send me.”

### ... Humility - John 13:12-16

**Philippians 2:3** Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves.

### ... Love

**Galatians 5:13** For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.

**2 Corinthians 5:14-15** Either way, Christ's love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. <sup>15</sup> He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.

**Mark 12:28-31** One of the teachers of religious law was standing there listening to the debate. He realized that Jesus had answered well, so he asked, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?” <sup>29</sup> Jesus replied, “The most important commandment is this: ‘Listen, O Israel! The LORD our God is the one and only LORD. <sup>30</sup> And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’”

## EVERY Christian is Gifted to Serve!

- If you are a Christian you definitely have a spiritual gift.
- God's purpose in giving you that gift is for you to serve with it for His Kingdom.

Luke 22:27 Who is more important, the one who sits at the table or the one who serves? The one who sits at the table, of course. But not here! For I am among you as one who serves.

**WANTED:** Gifted volunteers for difficult service in the local expression of the Kingdom of God. Motivation to serve should be obedience to God, gratitude, gladness, forgiveness, humility, and love. Service will rarely be glorious. Temptation to quit place of service will sometimes be strong. Volunteers must be faithful in spite of long hours, little or no visible results, and possibly no recognition except from God in eternity.

*You are expected to serve and gifted to serve, but are you willing to serve?*