

A Heart To Serve The LORD

1 Samuel 12:14-25 (ESV)

If you will fear the LORD and serve him and obey his voice and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, and if both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the LORD your God, it will be well. But if you will not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then the hand of the LORD will be against you and your king. Now therefore stand still and see this great thing that the LORD will do before your eyes. Is it not wheat harvest today? I will call upon the LORD, that he may send thunder and rain. And you shall know and see that your wickedness is great, which you have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking for yourselves a king.” So Samuel called upon the LORD, and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day, and all the people greatly feared the LORD and Samuel. And all the people said to Samuel, “Pray for your servants to the LORD your God, that we may not die, for we have added to all our sins this evil, to ask for ourselves a king.” And Samuel said to the people, “Do not be afraid; you have done all this evil. Yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart. And do not turn aside after empty things that cannot profit or deliver, for they are empty. For the LORD will not forsake his people, for his great name’s sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you a people for himself. Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you, and I will instruct you in the good and the right way. Only fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you. But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king.”

What does God want from you?

Deuteronomy 10:12-13 (ESV)

And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good?

Though God does not need your service, your neighbors do

Serving others is the key to learning to love them

Matthew 22:36-40 (ESV)

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

“Do not waste time bothering whether you “love” your neighbor; act as if you did. As soon as we do this we find one of the great secrets. When you are behaving as if you loved someone you will presently come to love him.” – C.S. Lewis

5 Foundational Truths To Enable Us To Serve God And Love Our Neighbors

Serving God Requires Reverential Obedience To His Commands

1 Samuel 12:14 (ESV)

If you will fear the LORD and serve him and obey his voice and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD...it will be well.

1 John 5:2-5(ESV)

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

Serving God Starts With Standing Still And Seeing What He Will Do

1 Samuel 12:16 (ESV)

Now therefore stand still and see this great thing that the LORD will do before your eyes.

Psalms 46:10 (ESV)

Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!

Serving God Requires Consideration Of What He Has Done

1 Samuel 12:24 (ESV)

Only fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you.

John 19:30 (ESV)

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Psalms 92:1-2 (ESV)

It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night,

You Serve God By Following Jesus

1 Samuel 12:20b (ESV)

Yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart.

Matthew 16:24-26 (ESV)

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?

Those who choose to follow Jesus know two things for certain, it will be costly, and it will be worth it.

John 13:13-15 (ESV)

You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you.

You Cannot Serve God Without Prayer

1 Samuel 12:23a (ESV)

Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you.

John 14:12-14 (ESV)

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

Matthew 5:44 (ESV)

But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. We are able to serve God, because Jesus Christ has served us by giving His life for us

Mark 10:45 (ESV)

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.