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## Basic Disciplines for Believers

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### Discipline #6: Selfless Serving

*God's purpose and plan in saving me involves my selfless serving of others for the growth of His body and the advancement of His kingdom.*

#### Why? 6 Reasons to Serve:

**1. The Example of Jesus (Son of God, Creator of the Universe)**

Matt 20:28 "just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." (cp. John 13:1-17)

**2. The Commendation of Early Believers**

1 Cor 16:15 I urge you, brethren-- you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and *that* they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints--<sup>16</sup> that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with *us*.

**3. The Command to Serve One Another**

Gal 5:13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not *use* liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

**4. The Goal of Leaders**

Eph 4:12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

**5. The Purpose of Spiritual Gifts**

1 Pet 4:10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

**6. The Promise of God's Recognition and Reward**

Heb 6:10-12 <sup>10</sup>For God *is* not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, *in that* you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

1 Cor 15:58

#### Down Is Up: God's View of Greatness

##### Matthew 20:20-28

<sup>20</sup> Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Him with her sons, kneeling down and asking something from Him. <sup>21</sup> And He said to her, "What do you wish?" She said to Him, "Grant that these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on the left, in Your kingdom." <sup>22</sup> But Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able." <sup>23</sup> So He said to them, "You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give,

but *it is for those* for whom it is prepared by My Father." <sup>24</sup> And when the ten heard *it*, they were greatly displeased with the two brothers. <sup>25</sup> But Jesus called them to *Himself* and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> "Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.

<sup>27</sup> "And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave--<sup>28</sup> "just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." (cp Mark 10:35-45)

##### Matthew 23:1-12

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, <sup>2</sup> saying: "The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. <sup>3</sup> "Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, *that* observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do. <sup>4</sup> "For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay *them* on men's shoulders; but *they themselves* will not move them with one of their fingers. <sup>5</sup> "But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments. <sup>6</sup> "They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, <sup>7</sup> "greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, 'Rabbi, Rabbi.' <sup>8</sup> "But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. <sup>9</sup> "Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. <sup>10</sup> "And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ. <sup>11</sup> "But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. <sup>12</sup> "And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

##### Mark 9:33-35

<sup>33</sup> Then He came to Capernaum. And when He was in the house He asked them, "What was it you disputed among yourselves on the road?" <sup>34</sup> But they kept silent, for on the road they had disputed among themselves who *would be the* greatest. <sup>35</sup> And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all."

##### John 13:1-17