

Serving the Lord With What You Have

“...not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, **serving the Lord**,” Rom 12:11

First things first:

1. Salvation:
 - a. Without **faith** it is impossible to please God (Heb 11:6)
 - b. all **our** righteousnesses are like filthy rags; (Isa 64:6)

But, I thought works aren't important... isn't that correct?

1. Eph 2:8-9 “by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast”
2. Eph 2:10 “For we [redeemed] are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works**, ...”
3. 2 Peter 1:5+ “...giving all diligence, **add to your faith** virtue, to virtue knowledge, ⁶ to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, ⁷ to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. ⁸ For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
4. James 2:24 “You **see** [observable] then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only”
5. Matt 5:16 “Let your light so shine before men, that they may **see your good works** and glorify your Father in heaven.”
6. John 10:32 “Jesus answered them, “Many **good works** I have shown you from My Father...”
7. Acts 9:36+ “This woman [Tabitha/Dorcas] was full of good works and charitable deeds...”
8. Phil 2:13 “for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for **His good pleasure**.”
9. Titus 1:16 “They [unbelieving] profess to know God, but in works they deny Him...”
10. Titus 3:8 “This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to **maintain good works**. These things are **good and profitable to men**.”
11. Heb 10:24 “And let us consider one another in order to **stir up love and good works**,...”
12. Josh 24:14+ “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**. ¹⁵ And if it seem evil unto you to **serve the Lord**, choose you **this day whom ye will serve**;”

But, I don't have much time or money or knowledge... to be of service

1. **According to what one has:** 2 Cor 8:1-15 (v12)
 - a. ² that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their **deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality**. ³ For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were **freely willing**, ⁴ imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. ⁵ And not only as we had hoped, but they **first gave themselves to the Lord**, and then to us by the will of God.
 - b. ⁷ But as you abound in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—see that you **abound in this grace** also.
 - c. ⁸ I speak **not by commandment**, but I am testing the sincerity of your love by the diligence of others.
 - d. ⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.
 - e. ¹² For if there is **first a willing mind**, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have.
 - f. ¹³ For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened; ¹⁴ but by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may supply their lack, that their abundance also may supply your lack—that there may be equality. ¹⁵ As it is written, “He who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack.

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2. **Widow's mites:** Mark 12:41+ “Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much.⁴² Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans.⁴³ So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury;”
 - a. **Mighty Mite** (according to what one has): might be money, time, knowledge...
3. **Stewardship:**
 - a. 1Cor 4:1+ “Let a man so consider us, as **servants of Christ** and **stewards of the mysteries of God**.² Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.”
 - b. 1 Peter 4:10 “As each one has **received** a gift, **minister it** to one another, as **good stewards** of the manifold grace of God.”
 - c. Luke 16:10 “He who is **faithful in what is least is faithful also in much**; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.”
4. **Cheerful Giver:** 2 Cor 9:1-15
 - a. ⁵ Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren to go to you ahead of time, and **prepare** your generous gift **beforehand**, which you had previously promised, that it may be ready as a matter of generosity and not as a grudging obligation.
 - b. ⁶ But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.⁷ So let each one give as he **purposes in his heart**, not grudgingly or of necessity; for **God loves a cheerful giver**.
 - c. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an **abundance for every good work**.⁹ As it is written: “He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.”
 - d. ¹⁰ Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness,¹¹ while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.¹² For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many **thanksgivings to God**,¹³ while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men,¹⁴ and by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you.¹⁵ **Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!**
5. **God sees our service:** Matt 25: 31+
 - a. “Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’”

Can “serving” ever become a distraction to serving?

1. Luke 10:38+ “³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus’ feet and heard His word.⁴⁰ But Martha was **distracted with much serving**, and she approached Him and said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me.”⁴¹ And Jesus answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things.⁴² But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.”
 - a. Discussion

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Ways to cheerfully serve the Lord and encourage others with what we have

1. Sharing of Psalm 34 with me
2. “Praying for you” messages.
3. **By example** in reading... praying...
4. Saying thank you... all ages (to peers... younger ones... and older men/women.)
5. Ask others for help... or prayers...
6. Labor together with someone else... volunteering...
7. Faithful in normal responsibilities and areas that are not your responsibility (as unto the Lord)
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