

Aloha... My name is Waxer 😊 **THANK YOU**

Continuing our Topical theme of Faith and its Impact in our lives...

Faith and Serving - FAITH REFLECTED IN & BY SERVING

PRAY

- Biblical Serving is a Reaction . . . a Reflection... *I will Explain.*

Take **your Bibles** and turn to **Isaiah 6** → I want you to pay attention...

Maybe write on the side of your Bible these 4 Transitions in the Text.

“I Saw” 1-4

Isaiah 6:1 In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. 2 Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one called out to another and said, “Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory.” 4 And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke. -gotta be looking... His promise - ***seek and you will find.***

“I Said” 5-11

5 **Then** I said, “Woe is me, for I am ruined! ***Because I am*** a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.”

“He Did” 6-7

6 **Then** one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. 7 **He** touched my mouth with it and said, “Behold, this has touched your lips; **and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven.**”

“I Heard” 8-9

8 Then → I heard the voice of the Lord, *saying*, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?” **Then I said**, “**Here *am I. Send me!**” **9 He said**, “Go, and tell this people: ‘Keep on listening, but do not perceive; Keep on looking, but do not understand....’”

Not the Heb – “ehyeh” – “I am” / But “Ani” = “Am I”

Did you **Pick up** on that? **-What** was happening?

1 In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw

5 Then I said, “Woe is me,

6 Then 7 He touched my mouth = **your sin is forgiven**

8 Then I heard... WHO → “**Here *am I... Send me!**” **9 He said**, “Go,

Very much a “Pick me, Pick me”



This Happy, Willing and Able Spirit **came from a Soul** who had

Experienced God and His Grace and Mercy ! 🙌

Some out here – Have a Clear Recollection of this...

But - a Great number of You Don't - And THAT has been a Problem

Dr. Martin Lloyd Jones wrote a book about this called “Spiritual Depression”...



Saved? Saved From? Saved For? → Results in Flat Faith

The Happiest People I know are the Ones who Serve and Love Doing it

= (seen some great marriages come out of it)

Understand:

- Fear is a Feeling, Faith is an Action

- Worship and Faith are VERBS, Not Nouns

- Faith is Not a Shelter against Difficulties, BUT a Belief in the Face of Contradiction → Even – “Why am I not Healed ?”

- Faith MUST have an Object. We Can't have Faith in Faith

* A Little Faith will get you to Heaven,
And Larger Faith will bring Heaven to You!

One of the greatest Mix-ups and Confusions is the present Christian
Understanding of Servanthood, and Serving - IS:

It is *almost always heard*, (Regardless of how hard the preacher tries)

As an Obligation, a Duty, a Responsibility.

That is Not At-All God's Purpose and Intent or Even HIS Description of it

You often hear me say, “Christianity is Not a Law affair, but a Love affair”

“The Christian faith is often dismissed as a simplistic myth or fable, a story that people tell themselves to make sense of the world or find meaning in an otherwise bleak and unforgiving world. And while this sentiment may have resonance in certain circles today, IT IS utterly foreign and completely unknown to the early Christians who first followed Jesus as Lord.

For them, faith flowed from lived experience. The eternal life of God's kingdom broke into their world in an unavoidable and inescapable way, and all they could do was respond.” -Wisdom Hunters devotional

* Biblical Serving is a Reaction . . . a Reflection...

Fruit trees... Koinonia with Father, Worship, “G.R.A.C.E.” Reminder

Serving Others is a Direct Expression of one's Devotion and Love for God

In fact, Faith that Leads to Serving God is a Core Value of Christianity,

The Bible does Not Allow a Faith that is Separate from Our Actions

This Value is Rooted in Jesus's Teachings and His Own Examples of Selfless Service.

The Example of Jesus: Jesus Modeled the Ultimate Act of Servanthood on the Cross. . .

BUT as we Experience every other year in our Vigil - We also know His Other Great Symbol of Servitude was the Towel.

One of the great Blessings of this sabbatical was being able to Visit my other friends churches, - And One Very Special One:

John 13:1 Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

The hardest time to serve is - When you're Tested.

2 During supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray Him,

The hardest time to serve is - When you're Hurt Deeply

3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God, 4 got up from supper, and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself. 5 Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.

The ... to serve is When others Don't Deserve it at all

[the Key is "God-Love"]

➔12 So when He had washed their feet, and taken His garments and reclined at the table again, He said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you?”

13 “You call Me **Teacher and Lord**; and you are right, for so I am. 14 “If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.

15 “For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. 16 “Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master, nor is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him.

17 “If you know these things, you are blessed **IF** you DO them.

Serving is CHRIST LIKE -We know the verses...

Phil 2:5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus. ...7 emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.

Mark 10: 45 “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

Serving is The Most Loving thing

John 15:13 “Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

1 John 3:16 We know Love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our Lives (notice not “breath”) for the brethren.

But again - all this can Sound Dutiful real fast

But it's Not ➔ *IT is* – It IS to BE:

A natural outcome of FAITH: As the Bible says,

“Faith by itself, if it is Not accompanied by Action, is dead” (James 2:17) NIV

“Fruit Trees”

In this view, Servitude is Not just an Optional “Activity”

BUT Living Proof of Genuine Faith.

HOW??? **Again...**

SUM:

Motivation of Gratitude: **OUR Drive, our Motivation, our Passion**

For Serving is Motivated by Gratitude for the Grace and Salvation

We have Received From God,

It is a Loving Response to God's Prior Love For YOU!

* **Coming home from Koko Marina**

Humility over Ambition: The Motivation For Serving God is a Recognition of His Love

– and Not a Desire for Personal Glory or Recognition.

God’s kids are Moved to Serve with Humility and to **"count others**

more Important (significant) than yourselves" (Phil 2:3).

How Faith Manifests in Service

Love in Action: **Acts of Kindness become a Way to Show God's Love to the world**

Gal 5:13 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, **but through Love serve one another**. 14 For the whole Law is fulfilled **in one word**, in the statement, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.”

Serving is the Natural way to Live out Father’s Call to Love By:

Use of Spiritual gifts: **1 Peter 4:10–11** → Called based - Not Need

Serving the Weak: **Matthew 25:32–40.**

Building Community: When believers serve together → IT :

- **Strengthens** the **Bonds within** the Christian community,
- **Creating** a more **Compassionate** and **Unified body**.
- It **Extends Beyond** the church walls to build Stronger,

More Compassionate Communities

Serving is NOT a Demand, but a GROWTH PLAN

Serving Stretches us beyond our Comfort zones, Helping us Develop Empathy, Patience, and a Heart that Mirrors Christ's.

Serving Others - Keeps our “Faith” Vibrant and Alive,
Allowing it to Move from Belief to Practice.

Lastly:

Through service, we also come to Rely More on God.

This Dependence Deepens our Relationship with Him,

As we Learn to Trust Him More fully while we Serve.

Col 3:23 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

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So why not? = Nothing to Prove and Nothing to Lose

The only thing that Impresses Jesus in the Bible is Faith

We live in such a Self-Centered Culture today

* “If culture is the water we swim in, Fish don’t even know that they’re wet”

Do you?