



O705
February 04, 2007

What's the key to a happy life?

(Facing the fact that life is not all about me)
(SERIES: **Making This Year My Best Year Yet: 05 of 07**)
by Dr. David Foster

"Serve the Lord with gladness!" (Ps. 100:2 KJV)

"... whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,"
(Mat 20:26)

"You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature ; rather, **serve one another in love.**" (Gal 5:13)

"But Jesus called them together and said, "Among the heathen, kings are tyrants and each minor official lords it over those beneath him. But among you it is quite different. **Anyone wanting to be a leader among you must be your servant.** And if you want to be right at the top, you must serve like a slave. Your attitude must be like my own, for I, the Messiah, did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give my life as a ransom for many."
(Mat 20:25-28)

7 REASONS WE SERVE

Serving **Re-centers my life.**

"Why didn't I die at birth?" (Job 3:11)

"You may worship no other god than me. You shall not make yourselves any idols: no images of animals, birds, or fish. You must never bow or worship it in any way; for I, the Lord your God, am very possessive. I will not share your affection with any other god! And when I punish people for their sins, the punishment continues upon the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of those who hate me; but I lavish my love upon thousands of those who love me and obey my commandments." (Exo 20:3-6)

"But **seek** first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matt 6:33-34)

Serving **Encourages others.**

"Therefore **encourage one another** and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. Now we ask you, brothers, to respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each

other. And we urge you, brothers, warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone." (1 Th 5:11-14)

Serving **A cure for loneliness.**

"Just as each one of us has a body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and **EACH MEMBER BELONGS TO ALL THE OTHERS.**"
(Romans 12:4-5)

Serving **Sharpens my skills.**

"God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other..." (Peter 4:10; TLB)

Serving **Opens up new possibilities.**

"Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will serve before kings; he will not serve before obscure men." (Prov 22:29)

"A gift opens the way for the giver and ushers him into the presence of the great." (Prov 18:16)

"If you insist on saving your life, you will lose it. Only those who throw away their lives for my sake and for the sake of the Good News will ever know what it means to really live." (Mark 8:35)

Serving **Never goes unrewarded.**

"And Jesus replied, 'Let me assure you that no one has ever given up anything--home, brothers, sisters, mother, father, children, or property--for love of me and to tell others the Good News, who won't be given back, a hundred times over, homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and land--with persecutions! **All these will be his here on earth, and in the world to come he shall have eternal life.** But many people who seem to be important now will be the least important then; and many who are considered least here shall be greatest there.'" (Mark 10:29-31)

"So, my dear brothers, since future victory is sure, be strong and steady, always abounding in the Lord's work, for you know that **nothing you do for the Lord is ever wasted** . . ." (1 Cor 15:58)

Serving **Shows I'm serious.**

"Work hard and cheerfully at all you do, just as though you were working for the Lord and not merely for your masters, remembering that it is the Lord Christ who is going to pay you, giving you your full portion of all he owns. He is the one you are really working for. And if you don't do your best for him, he will pay you in a way that you won't like--for he has no special favorites who can get away with shirking." (Col 3:23-25)