 In Christ

> Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.
> *— 1 Corinthians 15:58*

Book: New Testament / 1 Corinthians
Topics: serving, encouragement, obedience, reward, work

Interpretation:
1 Corinthians 15:58 is a verse that encourages us to remain steadfast and constant in the work of the Lord, emphasizing that our labor will not be in vain if we continue to grow in it. This invitation is relevant not only to the Corinthian Christians to whom *the apostle Paul* was writing, but also to us today.

How can we understand this verse?

First, we must understand what it means to be *“steadfast and immovable in the work of the Lord.”* The work of the Lord can refer to the tasks we perform in the church or ministry, but it can also include our daily lives and how we live out our faith in the world.

This means that it is not just about what we do in the church or in our communities, but also how we bring our faith to our work, our families, and our relationships with others.

Why is it important to be steadfast and constant?

Remaining steadfast and constant in the work of the Lord can be difficult in a world that often conflicts with our Christian values. However, it is important because it allows us to grow in our faith and in our relationship with God.

Moreover, when we are steadfast and constant, we influence the world around us. We can be an example to other Christians and to those who have not yet come to know God. So, instead of conforming to the world’s standards, we must remain true to our values ??and beliefs and continue to grow in the work of the Lord.

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> For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.
> *— 1 Corinthians 3:9*

Book: New Testament / 1 Corinthians
Topics: serving, Church, Evangelism

Interpretation:
1 Corinthians 3:9 is one of the most beautiful expressions of God and man cooperating. *The Apostle Paul* uses this word to describe how God works with his followers in the world.

What does it mean to co-operate with God?

First, the term *“co-worker”* implies partnership or cooperation in the work of God. Paul says that they are not simply *“workers”* of God, but that they are actively involved with Him in building *His Kingdom*. This cooperation involves more than simply following God’s commands, but also conscious and creative participation in God’s work.

God’s plow

The verse also mentions that we are God’s *“farm,”* which has profound implications. Tilling the soil is the process of preparing the land for fruitfulness, requiring persistent and constant labor.

So we can take this verse as an invitation to the work of preparing our souls, an inner work we do to prepare our hearts for God’s purposes. *The Holy Spirit* is at work in us, preparing us to bear fruit in love, peace, patience, and humility.

God’s building

Finally, the verse mentions that we are *“God’s building.”* This term refers to the church, the community of believers. The church, in turn, is the place where we gather to serve God and grow together as children of God.

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translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God’s slaves.
>
> *— 1 Peter 2:16*

Book: New Testament / 1 Peter
Topics: serving, evil, freedom, life, slavery

Interpretation:
The Christian life is a life of freedom. But what exactly does it mean to be free in Christ? The Apostle *Peter* gives us the answer in *1 Peter 2:16*

Freedom as a cover for evil

In this verse, Peter tells us that some may use *freedom in Christ* as an excuse to do whatever they want. After all, if we are already saved by the grace of God, why can’t we do whatever we want? But Peter warns us that this is not true freedom. True freedom sets us free from sin and the bondage of selfishness. If we use our freedom as an excuse for our actions, we fall back into the bondage of sin that Christ came to set us free from. This is not the freedom God wants for us.

Serving God as free people

Instead, Peter calls us to act as servants of God despite our freedom in Christ. This may seem contradictory, but it is actually an essential part of our freedom. If we are truly free in Christ, we are free to serve God and not ourselves. As the apostle *Paul* says in *Galatians 5:13, “You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.”*

Freedom in Christ enables us to serve God with all our hearts, without worrying about our own justification or salvation. We are free to love God and to love others. Serving God does not mean seeking our own glory or honor, but rather seeking His glory and honoring Him.

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> But be sure to fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you.
> — *1 Samuel 12:24*

Book: Old Testament / 1 Samuel
Topics: serving, awe, heart, miracles

Interpretation:
The message of *1 Samuel 12:24* is centered around the need to fear God and serve God with sincerity and devotion. This Bible passage reminds us to acknowledge the great things God has done for us and around us and to respond to our gratitude by living a life dedicated to His will.

When this verse tells us to fear God, it is in the same *way that children fear their parents*. It speaks to our relationship with *our Creator*, submission, and adoration. Fearing God with all our hearts means having His presence and guidance in every aspect of our lives and making decisions that are in line with His values.

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> All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
> — *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

Book: New Testament / 2 Timothy
Topics: serving, Church, equipment, life, Word of God, work

Interpretation:
The Bible is the written *Word of God*, and it is an invaluable tool for our lives. As Christians, we believe that all Scripture is inspired by God and has an important purpose. *2 Timothy 3:16-17* speaks of the usefulness of Scripture in our lives.

Teachings

Scripture is useful for teaching us God’s truths. By reading the Bible, we can learn more about the nature of God, His love for us, and His plan for our lives. Scripture shows us how *Jesus* lived and teaches us how we can live according to God’s plan.

Rebuking

The term “reproof” refers to correction or rebuke. Scripture can be used to correct our thoughts and actions that are not in line with God’s will. When we read the Bible, we are exposed to the truth and can see our shortcomings and weaknesses. Correction is not always easy to accept, but it is necessary if we are to grow and improve.

Correcting

Correction is not enough unless it causes us to change our actions. Scripture shows us how we can change and improve our lives. When we recognize our shortcomings and weaknesses, we can seek God's help to overcome them. The Bible shows us how to live a righteous life and gives us the tools to do so.

Training in righteousness

The word "righteousness" refers to righteousness and integrity in our lives. Scripture teaches us what is right and wrong and shows us how to live a righteous life in the eyes of God. The Bible sets moral and ethical standards and gives us guidelines for living by them.

Equipped for every good work

The verses tell us that the Word of God is able to fully equip a man of God for every good work. This means that if we want to be useful and effective in serving God, we need to cling to the Word of God and allow it to guide and instruct us. It is His teachings and His love that will support and strengthen us in difficulties and guide us on the path of good deeds.

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> And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to observe the Lord’s commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?

> — *Deuteronomy 10:12-13*

Book: Old Testament / Deuteronomy
Topics: serving, awe, blessing, law

Interpretation:
Deuteronomy 10:12-13 are important verses in the Bible because they give us a general idea of what God expects from us. In these verses, God asks Israel—and by extension, us, His followers—to do three important things: fear Him, follow His ways, and love Him with all our heart and soul.

What does it mean to "fear God"?

Fearing God doesn't mean literally dreading Him, but rather deeply respecting Him, revering His majesty and power, and keeping His commandments. *Proverbs 9:10* says, *"The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom."* When we fear God, we understand that He is the Creator and Ruler of the universe, and we are His creation.

Follow God's ways

Following God's ways means living in accordance with God's will, keeping His commandments, and adhering to His teachings. For example, in *Ephesians 5:1* we read, *"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children."* By following God's ways, we ensure our future and prosperity in the spiritual realm.

Loving God with all our heart and soul

Loving God with all our heart and soul means having a close, personal relationship with Him, honoring and glorifying Him in everything we do. In *John 14:15*, *Jesus* told His disciples, *"If you love Me, keep My commandments."* When we love God with all our being, we follow His Word and remain close to Him.

Why is it important to keep the Lord's commandments?

The reason we should keep the Lord's commandments is because it allows us to live a full and prosperous life. As *Deuteronomy 10:12-13* says, by keeping God's commandments, we will prosper. Prosperity implies not only the accumulation of material goods or wealth, but also inner peace, happiness, loving relationships, and satisfaction in everyday life. Keeping the Lord's commandments allows us to live in harmony with our environment and experience God's love and grace in our lives.

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> It is the Lord your God you must follow, and him you must revere. Keep his commands and obey him; serve him and hold fast to him.
> — *Deuteronomy 13:4*

Book: Old Testament / Deuteronomy
Topics: serving, awe, following, idols, listening

Interpretation:
God's commandments are clear and straightforward. Throughout the Bible, we find various verses calling us to follow His teachings and live by principles and values ??similar to His own. *Deuteronomy 13:4* calls us to follow the Lord, fear Him, and keep His commandments.

Follow God and fear Him

In today's world, most people have their own beliefs about religion. However, following God is more than just a religious affiliation; it is a relationship with Him and a willingness to follow His teachings, not follow our own desires and whims. Fearing God is not simply being afraid; it is respecting and honoring His authority and power. This is why this verse calls us to follow God and fear Him to stay on the right path and make wise decisions in life.

Keep His commandments and listen to His voice

God's commandments are a way of life, a guideline we follow in our daily lives. By following them, we ensure that we are doing the right thing, ensuring our own well-being and the well-being of others. It is also important to listen to His voice. The Bible is a powerful tool that allows us to hear and understand *God's Word*. This way, we can know what He expects of us at every moment of our lives.

Serve and be faithful to God

Serving God is a sign of gratitude and love for Him. It means a willingness to put His teachings into practice and help others do the same. We must understand that we are responsible for sharing God's message with others, guiding them on the true path of life. Faithfulness to God is also very important, because He is faithful and expects the same from us. We must have a close relationship with Him and trust that He always guides us and cares for us.

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> You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.
> *— Galatians 5:13*

Book: New Testament / Galatians
Topics: serving, desires, freedom, humility, love

Interpretation:
Galatians 5:13 is a Bible verse that tells us about the importance of freedom in our lives and how we can use it to serve others. As Christians, we believe that God has called us to freedom and given us the ability to make our own decisions, but that does not mean we should use our freedom as an excuse to follow our own selfish desires.

The apostle *Paul* wrote this verse to the community of believers in Galatia to remind them that although we are free, our freedom should always be guided by love for others. We should use our freedom to serve others, not to satisfy our own needs and desires.

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> “You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?” declares the Lord Almighty. “Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with your own house.
> *— Haggai 1:9*

Book: Old Testament / Haggai
Topics: serving, awe, gratitude, punishment, righteousness, selfishness

Interpretation:

The Bible verse in *Haggai 1:9* reveals the dissatisfaction that comes from constantly searching without true direction. *"You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little"* shows that the search for human satisfaction is a difficult task in itself, without the presence of God.

This verse also talks about the need for righteousness. The phrase *"What you brought home, I blew away"* shows that the lack of a sense of righteousness and devotion to God can lead to dire consequences.

God says that His house is desolate. This House is a symbol of the Church, where God desires to be worshiped and has a close relationship with HIS people. The house represents the place where believers gather to honor God and hear His word. We can understand that this House of God has become an empty and desolate place. People have forgotten God and sought to satisfy their personal desires, leaving aside their duty of worship and devotion.

The Bible tells us that as children of God, we are to put God first. He expects us, like the Israelites, to be fully committed and serve Him at all times. We should seek a closer relationship with God rather than focusing our efforts on the pursuit of material satisfaction. Instead of focusing on our own desires, we should strive to be obedient to God and allow Him to shape our lives according to His will.

Moreover, we must remember that our relationship with God cannot flourish if we leave the house of God. It is in the Church that we can be strengthened and nourished as children of God. *The Church* is a place where we can find emotional and spiritual support. It is a place where we can worship, pray, and share our faith with other believers.

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> God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.
>
> *— Hebrews 6:10*

Book: New Testament / Hebrews
Topics: serving, righteousness, work

Interpretation:
Hebrews 6:10 tells us that God is just by nature and that He never forgets our deeds and the labor of love we have shown for His name. This requirement of justice is inherent in divinity, and many people

throughout history have wrestled with this question: How can a just God allow evil and injustice in the world? However, this verse assures us that God is just and will reward our efforts in due time.

How can we understand God's justice in this verse?

To better understand God's justice in relation to our actions, we must take a closer look at the context in which this verse is found. In the previous verses, the author of Hebrews encourages believers to maintain faith and not fall into a life of sin. The author tells us that those *in Christ* are saved by grace and must continue to work toward a deeper relationship with Him.

Next, in verse 11, the author goes on to say that we are to pursue *"the full assurance of hope to the end,"* and in verse 12 he mentions the example *of Abraham*, who *"by his patience obtained the promise."* These verses teach us that even though we are saved by grace, we must continue to work on our faith and persevere in our efforts.

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> How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!
> *— Hebrews 9:14*

Book: New Testament / Hebrews
Topics: serving, Jesus, purification, sacrifice, sin, Spirit

Interpretation:
In *Hebrews 9:14*, the writer explains the superiority of the New Covenant and the effectiveness *of Christ's* sacrifice as the perfect *High Priest*. This verse tells us that the blood of Christ, who offered Himself spotlessly to God, can cleanse our conscience from dead works so that we can serve the living God. But what does this mean for us today?

The Need to Cleanse Your Conscience

To understand the importance of cleansing our conscience, we must understand what dead works are. Dead works, in biblical terms, are those actions that lead us to spiritual death and distance us from God. Conscience, in turn, is the faculty by which we are to discern between good and evil, and when

we commit actions that are contrary to the will of God, our conscience becomes polluted and prevents us from having a close relationship with Him.

Atonement by the Blood of Christ

But through the blood of Christ, we have access to redemption and can be forgiven for our dead works. His sacrifice made it possible for our conscience to be cleansed and to have a pure and true relationship with God.

Our Responsibility as Christians

However, it is not enough to simply have our conscience cleansed by the blood of Christ. We must also fulfill our responsibility as Christians to keep our conscience free from dead works. This means that we must strive to live according to the will of God, keeping His commandments and avoiding falling into sin.

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> Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.
> *— John 12:26*

Book: New Testament / John
Topics: serving, Father, following, Jesus

Interpretation:
John 12:26 is a key verse for understanding what it means *to truly follow Jesus*. In this verse, Jesus offers his followers a clear and direct invitation to follow Him, and in turn, promises that those who follow him will be honored by their Father.

The verse begins, *“Whoever serves me must follow me.”* In this sense, Jesus is inviting his followers to follow him actively and faithfully. The word *“serve”* in this context can be understood as more than just obeying God’s commands. In ancient cultures, the act of serving someone was deeply rooted in social relationships. To serve someone meant continually offering them help and support, seeking to meet their needs and desires.

Thus, *Jesus* is saying that those who actively and faithfully follow Him must also be willing to serve others. This forces us to consider our own attitudes toward others: are we willing to serve them too? Are we willing to put their needs above our own?

Jesus then goes on to say, *“and where I am, my servant also will be.”* In this sense, this verse reminds us that following Jesus is not only a matter of obedience, but also involves being close to him, supporting Him, and accompanying him in His work on earth. It involves being close to others who love and serve God, and being an example to them.

Finally, Jesus promises, *“My Father will honor the one who serves me.”* This is an important reminder for those who seek to follow Jesus and serve others. The idea of ??being glorified by God is a powerful motivation for many believers, as it gives us a reason to persevere in times of difficulty and adversity. However, it is also important to remember that this honor is not based on our own merits, but on the grace and mercy of God.

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> Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.
> *— John 13:14*

Book: New Testament / John
Topics: serving, humility, Jesus, neighbor

Interpretation:
In *John 13:14, Jesus* teaches us a powerful lesson about humble service and the importance of helping others. He, as Lord and Teacher, humbled himself and washed the feet of His disciples. He did this to show them that as followers of Christ, we too must learn to serve others in humility and love.

In a world that often values ??success, power, and wealth, Jesus reminds us that true success and true greatness come through humble service. He calls us to follow His example and be a blessing to others.

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translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.
> — *John 13:16*

Book: New Testament / John
Topics: serving, humility, slavery

Interpretation:
This verse carries a powerful message of humility and reminds us that we should not act superior to others. *Jesus* teaches them at one of the last suppers with his disciples that everyone is equal before God and that authority should not affect how we treat others.

Jesus is an example of this because, as the Son of God, He humbled himself by washing his disciples' feet, an act that only the lowest servants did at that time. Jesus shows that even though he was their Lord, there was no one inferior to Him and that everyone was equal before God.

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> But be very careful to keep the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you: to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, to keep his commands, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.
> — *Joshua 22:5*

Book: Old Testament / Joshua
Topics: serving, heart, law, soul

Interpretation:
Joshua 22:5 is a very important and significant verse in the Bible, emphasizing the importance of fulfilling the commandments and law that *Moses*, the Lord's servant, gave to the people of Israel. God always sought faithful people who would walk in His ways and keep His commandments. This verse

reminds us of the need to follow His will, demonstrating our love for our Creator.

Love the Lord your God

This verse reminds us that we must love God above all else. But how can we demonstrate this love? First, by loving and keeping His commandments. We find several passages in the Bible that call us to love our neighbor as ourselves, such as *Matthew 22:37-40*, but we must also remember to love our Creator with all our heart and soul.

Walk in all His ways

We must remember that our path should be God's way, not our own. *Proverbs 3:5-6* counsels us to trust in the Lord with all our hearts and not lean on our own understanding. We must follow God's teachings and principles as laid out in the Bible to follow His ways.

Keep God's commandments

Obedience to God's commandments is a way to demonstrate our love for Him. One of the most important and fundamental commandments is *"You shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3)*. By following this commandment, we put God first in our lives. There are many other commandments in the Bible that we should follow, and they all lead us to a life filled with love and righteousness.

Serve God with all your heart and soul

Serving God should be our priority in life. We must understand that everything we have and who we are comes from Him. He deserves all our gratitude, love, and service. In *John 12:26*, ??*Jesus* reminds us that if anyone wants to follow Him, they must be willing to serve Him.

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> But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.
>
> *— Joshua 24:15*

Book: Old Testament / Joshua
Topics: serving, family, following, idols

Interpretation:
The Book of Joshua is one of the historical books of the Old Testament. It recounts how *Joshua, as Moses'* successor, led the people of Israel across the Jordan River and won a victory at Jericho.

In chapter 24, Joshua addresses the people of Israel before his death, reminding them how God led them out of Egyptian slavery, through the desert, and into the land of Canaan. He challenges them: if they do not wish to serve the Lord, they can choose which gods to serve.

Biblical context

At that time, people in Canaan worshiped many gods and goddesses. The Amorites worshiped Molech, and their religious rites included the sacrifice of children and adults. Throughout the Old Testament, God condemns these rites and demands that they worship only Him. Joshua knew the people of Israel were easily tempted by these popular religious practices and wanted to ensure they chose God above all else.

Relevance today

Today, many people still struggle with the temptation to worship other gods instead of the God of the Bible. Some may choose the pursuit of money, success, or fame over serving the Lord. Others may be tempted to follow popular religious practices that are not in line with *God's Word*. However, as believers, we must remember that there is only one true God, and He deserves our devotion and worship.

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> And the people said to Joshua, “We will serve the Lord our God and obey him.”
>
> *— Joshua 24:24*

Book: Old Testament / Joshua
Topics: serving, listening, obedience

Interpretation:

The Book of Joshua tells the story of the conquest of Canaan by the Israelites under the leadership *of Joshua* after the death *of Moses*. Joshua was a pious and faithful man of God, charged with leading the people of Israel to the Promised Land and conquering it by force.

Chapter 24 of the Book of Joshua describes the leader's final speech before his death. In his message, Joshua calls the tribes of Israel to serve and obey God, reminding them of what He has done for them in the past and their role in the future.

The importance of serving and obeying God

In this verse, we see how the people of Israel respond to Joshua's call to serve and obey God. The decision they made is crucial not only for the people of Israel then but also for us today.

Serving God means putting Him first in your life, keeping His commandments, and living according to His will. We often succumb to the temptation to follow our own desires and goals, leaving God and His teachings aside. Obedience to God's voice means paying attention to what He speaks to us through His Word and Spirit and acting accordingly. It is an active and conscious response to God's will for our lives.

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> “On the day when I act,” says the Lord Almighty, “they will be my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as a father has compassion and spares his son who serves him.”
>
> — *Malachi 3:17*

Book: Old Testament / Malachi
Topics: serving, reward, Salvation, end times

Interpretation:
The Book of Malachi is the last book of the *Old Testament* and is considered one of the prophetic books. In this book, God speaks to His people through the *prophet Malachi* to correct their unfaithfulness and restore their relationship with Him. *Verse 17 of the third chapter* of the book is especially poignant because God promises that those who faithfully follow Him will be considered His special treasure and will be forgiven.

In this verse, God shows us that *those who faithfully follow Him are very valuable to Him*. He considers them His special treasure. This is not only a way of identifying His followers, but also showing how much value He places on them and how important they are to Him. It can also be interpreted as a sign of God's love for those who honor Him.

The verse also talks about forgiveness. God says that He will forgive them as a man forgives a son who serves him. This is an emotionally powerful image that shows us God's love and forgiveness in His relationship with us. This shows us that God is willing to forgive us despite our shortcomings and mistakes if we repent and follow His way.

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> For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.
>
> *— Mark 10:45*

Book: New Testament / Mark
Topics: serving, humility, Jesus, sacrifice, Salvation

Interpretation:
In *Mark 10:45*, *Jesus* declares the main purpose of His coming to this world: to serve and to give His life as a ransom for all. In this verse, Jesus addresses His disciples and teaches them that power and influence should not be a source of pride and arrogance, but rather a tool for serving others. Jesus shows His followers that true leadership comes from serving and sacrificing for others.

Sacrifice and service

The main message of this verse is the power of service and sacrifice. During His ministry, *Jesus* not only preached about love and mercy, but He also demonstrated it in His actions. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and gave hope to the hopeless. Even in the face of His own death, Jesus showed that He valued serving and loving others more than His own life.

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> Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.”
> — *Mark 9:35*

Book: New Testament / Mark
Topics: serving, humility, Jesus, understanding

Interpretation:
Mark 9:35 is a teaching that focuses on humility and the importance of serving others. *Jesus* is sitting with His disciples and telling them how the desire to be first or the best can lead to vanity and arrogance, which can be detrimental to a person’s faith and relationship with God. Instead, Jesus calls them to be servants of all, putting aside their own selfishness and caring for the well-being of others.

Humility in the Bible

Humility is a recurring theme in the Bible and is considered an important Christian virtue. Jesus himself is considered the perfect model of humility, serving others and putting aside his own honor and prestige. In *Philippians 2:3-4* we read, *“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”* This passage reminds us that humility involves putting the interests of others before our own.

The importance of service

Jesus teaches that serving others is an important way to demonstrate humility. In *John 13:14-15*, *Jesus* washes the feet of His disciples and tells them, *“Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.”* This act of service is a powerful example of Jesus’ humility, as He was willing to devote Himself to service in order to teach His disciples the importance of service and humility. As followers *of Christ*, we too are called to serve others and to give up our own comfort and pride.

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> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave.
> — *Matthew 20:26-27*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: serving, humility, neighbor, slavery

Interpretation:
Matthew 20:26-27 is written in the context of a discussion about greatness in the kingdom of God. The disciples *James and John*, along with their mother, approached *Jesus* to ask permission to sit on His right and left sides in His glory.

Jesus responded by telling them that they did not know what they were asking for, since they could not drink from the same cup of suffering that He did, and that they must humble themselves to follow His example. Jesus then teaches them that greatness in the kingdom of God is not achieved through power or authority, but through service and humility.

What does it mean to serve others?

The Gospel of Matthew presents us with this phrase from the lips of Jesus, who is speaking to His disciples to teach them about the importance of service and humility in their lives. In these verses, Jesus teaches them that it is not about seeking glory, power, or authority, but about serving others and being available to them.

The word "slave" comes from the Latin "servus." However, in the context of this verse, it is not about forced or imposed slavery, but about a personal choice to serve others. Being a servant means putting the needs of others above your own, humbling yourself before them, and being willing to help.

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> Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.
> — *Matthew 20:28*

Book: New Testament / Matthew

Topics: serving, Jesus, sacrifice, Salvation

Interpretation:
Matthew 20:28 presents one of the most important biblical teachings on service and sacrifice. In this verse, *Jesus* emphasizes the importance of serving others, even to the point of laying down his life for them.

First, it is important to highlight Jesus as the ultimate example of service and sacrifice. He himself says that he came not to be served, but to serve, which means that His main goal was always to help others. Jesus spent His entire earthly life serving those in need, healing the sick, comforting the suffering, and teaching *the Word of God*. Even when He faced death on the cross, He did so out of love for humanity, seeking to save everyone from sin and death.

This example of Jesus' service and sacrifice should inspire us all to follow His path. In our daily lives, we can find opportunities to serve others in many ways. Instead of focusing only on our own needs and desires, we can look for ways to help others. This could be through giving charity, giving advice, or simply listening to someone in need. In doing so, we are fulfilling Jesus' command to serve others.

On the other hand, it is also important to mention the concept of *"ransom"* in this verse. Jesus says that He gave His life as a ransom for many, which means that His death and resurrection have the power to save us from sin and death. This ransom is an act of unconditional love and mercy on the part of God that makes it possible for us to be freed from our condition of sin and death and to have eternal life with Him.

Another important lesson to learn from this verse is that *Jesus* calls himself *"the Son of Man."* This points to His humanity, His ability to suffer and feel pain just like any other human being. This statement shows us that Jesus is not only a divine being, but also close, accessible, and sympathetic to our needs.

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> His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'
> — *Matthew 25:21*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: serving, blessing, money, reliability, reward

Interpretation:
In the Bible verse *Matthew 25:21* we find a story about a servant who was rewarded for being faithful in doing what he was asked to do. This story is an important teaching about the importance of being faithful in small things, as it can lead us to receive greater blessings.

This passage is part of the teaching about the kingdom of heaven that Jesus shared with his disciples. In the story, a rich man who was about to go on a journey gave his servants charge of his property. He gave one of them five talents, another two, and another one talent, according to each one's ability.

The servant who received five talents used them wisely and was able to double them, as did the one who received two talents. But the servant who received only one talent hid it and did nothing with it.

When the master returned, he called his servants to give an account of what they had done. Then the one who had received five talents gave him ten, and the one who had received two gave him four. The master was pleased with them and congratulated them, saying, *"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"*

This story teaches us the importance of being faithful and diligent in small things, and the fact that God has given us different talents and abilities that we can use for the good of His Kingdom. Often we want to have big opportunities and responsibilities, forgetting that everything begins with small tasks and wise stewardship of what we have been given.

We can also learn from the example of the servant who hid his talent, who showed paralyzing fear and did not dare to use what was entrusted to him. It is important to remember that God calls us to be courageous and trust Him even in situations that seem small or insignificant.

This verse can help us understand that in our Christian walk, every step we take is important and that God values ??our faithfulness. We can apply this to many areas of our lives, work, personal and spiritual. In addition, it also encourages us to take risks, trust God and take risks in doing new things, even if they seem small or insignificant to us.

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> No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.
> — *Matthew 6:24*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: serving, debt, greed, materialism, money

Interpretation:
In today's society, we are constantly being driven by the need to achieve wealth and success in life. The intense competition for money and material possessions often causes us to forget the fundamental truth that this Bible verse from *Matthew 6:24* offers.

The meaning of the verse

The teaching of this verse is clear: we can only serve one master, material or spiritual. Serving wealth distances us from God, and this leads us to make decisions that harm our values ??and distance us from true happiness.

The Bible teaches us that God is the source of all goodness and that serving Him is the path to happiness, peace, and harmony in our lives. While money and material possessions may bring us temporary happiness and pleasure, they cannot satisfy our spiritual or emotional needs.

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> The Lord will rescue his servants; no one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.
> — *Psalm 34:22*

Book: Old Testament / Psalms
Topics: serving, life, protection, Salvation

Interpretation:

Psalm 34 is a hymn of praise, thanksgiving, and trust in God. This verse concludes the Psalm with a powerful statement about the redemption that God offers His servants. It is a beautiful promise from God to those who place their faith and hope in Him. This statement brings comfort, peace, and security to all who trust in God.

God's redemption

The word "redeem" means "to free from bondage by paying a price." Redemption is a powerful image that refers to being freed from something that oppresses us or holds us captive. Redemption is a major theme throughout the Bible. In the Old Testament, redemption is often spoken of in the context of God's freeing His people from slavery in Egypt. In the New Testament, redemption refers to the work *of Jesus Christ* in paying the price for our sins.

God is the author of redemption. He is the one who frees the oppressed and captive. *Psalm 34:22* reminds us that God is the one who redeems the souls of His servants. This is a promise that God makes to those who place their faith in Him.

Trust in God

Psalm 34:22 also reminds us of the importance of trusting God. When we trust Him, we submit to His will and trust that He knows what is best for us. Faith and trust in God allow us to live without fear and worry, knowing that God is with us and protects us from all harm.

Trusting God is a daily task. There are times in our lives when we find it difficult to trust God, whether because of fear or difficult circumstances. It is at these times that we must remember that God is always with us, that He protects and guides us.

Those who trust Him will not be condemned

Psalm 34:22 concludes with a powerful statement: *“no one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.”* This is a promise for those who put their faith in God and trust Him for their redemption. It is proof that God has a reliable supply for our needs and concerns when we place our trust and faith in Him.

This promise should also be seen in the context of the work *of Jesus Christ* on the cross. As Christians, we believe that through His death and resurrection, *Jesus* redeemed us and set us free from the bondage of sin. The promise in *Psalm 34:22* is for those who put their faith in Him and trust in what Jesus has done for us. Because of His work on the cross, we will not be condemned.

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translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him.
> — *Psalm 37:23*

Book: Old Testament / Psalms
Topics: serving, following, obedience, trust

Interpretation:
Psalm 37 is one of the most famous and frequently quoted psalms in the Bible. Known as a psalm of the righteous, it contains many exhortations relevant to our daily lives.

Divine guidance and the importance of the steps prescribed by the Lord

Psalm 37:23 reminds us that our lives are not random. Rather, our steps are predetermined by God, and He approves of our path. In other words, we are not mere spectators of our lives; rather, the Almighty gives us the direction we need to fulfill our purpose in this world.

It's important to emphasize here that divine guidance does not mean that God forces us to make specific decisions in our lives. Rather, divine guidance is like a beacon that illuminates our path and shows us the right way. We must be wise and make the right decisions based on the direction and purpose God reveals to us.

How divine guidance can help us in our lives

Divine guidance can be especially valuable when we are faced with difficult decisions. When we don't know which path to take, God's guidance can be a beacon that helps us stay on track. Moreover, divine guidance can also help us avoid actions or decisions that could have negative consequences for our future.

Another important aspect is that divine guidance helps us strengthen our faith and trust in God. When we learn to trust divine guidance, we demonstrate our faith in God and our belief that He has a plan for our lives.

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> Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.
> — *Romans 12:11*

Book: New Testament / Romans
Topics: serving, obedience, Spirit

Interpretation:
In *Romans 12:11, the Apostle Paul* encourages Christians not to be lazy, but to be diligent in everything that requires effort and dedication. He also encourages them to be zealous in spirit in serving the Lord.

Diligence as a christian virtue

The term that the Apostle Paul uses here for diligence is *spoud?*, which means *“zeal,” “enthusiasm,” “effort.”* The basic idea behind this term is to do something with determination and passion, without giving up in the face of difficulties.

Elsewhere in Scripture, we find the same call to diligence. For example, *Proverbs 13:4* says that *“A sluggard’s appetite is never filled, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.”* Diligence, then, is a virtue that is valued in the Bible because it is a sign of responsibility and dedication to what God has entrusted to us.

Fervor in the Spirit

The second exhortation Paul gives in this verse is to be fervent in spirit in serving the Lord. The word used here for fervent is ze?, which means ardor, excitement, or passion for something. In the context of the Christian life, the idea is to be enthusiastic and devoted to the work of God, driven by love *for Christ and His Church*.

In *Revelation 3:15-16, the Lord Jesus* rebukes the church in Laodicea for their spiritual lukewarmness, saying that He would rather have them be cold or hot than lukewarm. That is, a lack of zeal in the faith is something that displeases the Lord and is detrimental to our spiritual life.

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> Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.
> — *Romans 6:13*

Book: New Testament / Romans
Topics: serving, conversion, righteousness, sacrifice, sin

Interpretation:
Romans 6:13 is a call to holiness and righteousness. In this passage, the *Apostle Paul* tells godly Christians that they should avoid giving in to the temptations of sin and instead focus on living righteously and holy lives in the Lord.

Present your members to God

The first part of the verse calls us not to present our bodies to sin. This means that we are not to allow our actions and behavior to be influenced by human weaknesses that separate us from God.

Instead, we are to offer our bodies and minds to God as instruments of justice. It is important to note that this call is not simply a restriction on our actions, but an expression of worship and obedience to God.

Alive from the dead

The second part of the verse shows us God's power over death. The Apostle Paul calls us to present ourselves *"alive from the dead"* so that we can experience the eternal life that God offers us through *Jesus Christ*. The life of a believer is a life of resurrection: we rise from our former way of life and devote ourselves to living according to the will of God.

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