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Serving Your Way To Greatness
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As believers we must know that there is an importance in serving, Jesus being our example, how He served and what His attitude in doing so was about. Serving is not something to be taken lightly; it is a part of the kingdom principles.

Matt 20:25-28 "But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. 26 But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; 27 And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: 28 Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." KJV

Jesus said many times in the gospels "you have heard it said, but I say unto you". He was imparting kingdom principles to them.

Phil 2:19-22 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state. 20 For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. 21 For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's. 22 But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel." KJV

Paul writing to the believers, is speaking of Timothy and how he will care for them with a servants attitude.

(Pastor prayed for the people) "We approach this part of the service with anticipation, and as we have meditated on the scriptures in relationship to sharing we are reminded and stirred up, You have allowed us to have foresight into the importance of having a servants mentality and a servants heart and that serving is the gateway to greatness in Your kingdom, we thank you for understanding and revelation knowledge, minister to the people regardless of whatever challenges they are facing today, Holy Spirit we thank you for ministering to your people. In Jesus name."

This is a paradox that we find in the kingdom of God, that in order to be great we learn to serve, to live we die to self, to be blessed we learn to give, this is opposite to what we have been raised with in the world, but when we move into the kingdom of God and our minds have begun to be renewed we realize the importance of having a servants attitude and mentality. Paul in Romans chapter 1, stated that first he was a servant. Whatever we do in the kingdom of God, first we are to be servants, than the other ministries fall into place.

A true story was shared in regards to being a servant and how being a servant will open doors to our destiny.

Many years ago an older couple was visiting in the Philadelphia area, walking into a hotel looking for a room for the night, they were told by the clerk on duty, that there was nothing available because of several conventions taking place in the city. However, the clerk being the kind of caring person that he was, offered them his room, they agreed to take it, but the next morning as they were checking out, the older man told him that he should be the manager in charge and have a great hotel to manage, he then said someday he would build a hotel for him and he would have that job, the clerk smiled and kind of laughed, but about two years later after he had forgotten about it, the clerk received a letter in the mail. In the letter was a ticket to fly to New York from

the old man, the old man told him he just wanted him to come for a visit because of the way he had taken care of them in the past, the older man met him and drove him to the corner of 5th Ave. and 34th Street, where he pointed to a new building, this is the hotel that I have built just for you to manage, the young man could hardly believe what was being said to him. The older mans name was William Waldrof Astoria and the hotel was the first new Waldrof Astoria. The clerk was the first manager and his name was George C. Bolt.

A servant does whatever it takes to get the job done. Servant hood opens the door for the fulfillment of Gods promises in our lives. It is not always easy, but it is the way to the fulfillment of our destiny. We are so programmed because of the pressure in the world and the corporate structure to do whatever it takes to get to the top, that people are hurt on the way, becoming a selfish way or ambition, we forget Gods way to the top means that we must have a winners mentality, without a winners mentality, even though it is Gods way, we won't win. Confidence is such a fragile thing and if we lose our confidence we won't have that winner's edge, that fight that is needed. God told Joshua that in order to be confident he must meditate in the word of God and this is what is required of us, putting the word first place and putting God first place. God's way is the way to greatness; He wants us to win in life.

Phil 2:4-11 "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. 5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a *servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." KJV

As we look at the life and ministry of Jesus, we see the best examples that we can have regarding being a servant, showing the attitude and mentality that He had. Paul tells us in Galatians that we are to serve one another with love, having our minds and attitude like Jesus. This mind is not being forced upon us, but we must allow it to be there, opening the door to us. It can be rejected and we don't think like Jesus, this is where our confidence comes in. Many times we are struggling with the fact, that we are in Christ Jesus, sitting in heavenly places with Him, all things under our feet. Jesus never lost sight of who He was or what His mission was.

John 17:4 "I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." KJV

We are equal heirs with Jesus, there can be times when we don't want to do things that are not exciting, but we must take control of our flesh. Jesus made Himself take control; it was His choice and must be our choice. We have seen people who exalt themselves, trying to make a reputation, always able in their minds to do things better than anyone else, but Jesus made no reputation for Himself taking the form of a servant, made in the likeness of men. Jesus was in heaven at the right hand of the Father, and He made Himself obedient to Gods plan.

*servant in the Greek means: to become a slave, one in a permanent relation of servitude to another, his will altogether consumed in the will of another, to be enslaved and to bind yourself

There are many different kinds or levels of serving God and others, either in the church or outside the church. The local church is where we learn to serve, we learn to walk in love, learn to forgive and grow up, it is the womb of God, where we become the mature sons and daughters of God.

Many people will run from the problems, but then growth is put on hold, being like the children of Israel making another trip around the mountain. Even though they are born again and have been for a long time, until they are obedient and learn, they will continue to make trips around the mountain. It is hard for the religious world to understand how Jesus was able to make himself a servant, coming from deity in heaven. Jesus emptied Himself of self and as a man He humbled self and this is what is required of us in order for us to become true servants of God, it has to be a heart change or choices that we make. Right choices will cause us to be lifted up or exalted, this is what happened to Jesus. The same scripture in the Amplified version explains more in detail what happened when Jesus became a servant.

Phil 2:4-11 "Let each of you esteem *and* look upon *and* be concerned for not [merely] his own interests, but also each for the interests of others. 5 Let this same attitude *and* purpose *and* [humble] mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus: [Let Him be your example in humility:] 6 Who, although being essentially one with God *and* in the form of God [possessing the fullness of the attributes which make God God], did not think this equality with God was a thing to be eagerly grasped *or* retained, 7 But stripped Himself [of all privileges and rightful dignity], so as to assume the guise of a servant (slave), in that He became like men *and* was born a human being. 8 And after He had appeared in human form, He abased *and* humbled Himself [still further] and carried His obedience to the extreme of death, even the death of the cross! 9 Therefore [because He stooped so low] God has highly exalted Him and has freely bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, 10 That in (at) the name of Jesus every knee should (must) bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 And every tongue [frankly and openly] confess *and* acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." AMP

The following scriptures are an account of Abraham getting a wife for his son Isaac. He ask his servant Eliezer to take an oath in regards to finding the wife from his relatives, he did not want Isaac to marry any of the local girls, Eliezer agreed to Abrahams request and spoke of what he expected to happen when he arrived at Nahors home. Rebekah, meaning beauty and fair to look on, was more than willing to give him a drink, and to water all the camels that he had with him, regardless of how many times that she had to climb the steps from the bottom of the well. She had a servants attitude and was not selfish but was willing, she opened the door for her destiny and her blessings would be great.

Gen 24:14-20 "And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I will give thy camels drink also: let the same be she that thou hast appointed for thy servant Isaac; and thereby shall I know that thou hast shewed kindness unto my master. 15 And it came to pass, before he had done speaking, that, behold, Rebekah came out, who was born to Bethuel, son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, with her pitcher upon her shoulder. 16 And the damsel was very fair to look upon, a virgin, neither had any man known her: and she went down to the well, and filled her pitcher, and came up. 17 And the servant ran to meet her, and said, Let me, I pray thee, drink a little water of thy pitcher. 18 And she said, Drink, my lord: and she hastened, and let down her pitcher upon her hand, and gave him drink. 19 And when she had done giving him drink, she said, I will draw water for thy camels also, until they have done drinking. 20 And she hastened, and emptied her pitcher into the trough, and ran again unto the well to draw water, and drew for all his camels." KJV

Eliezer also told her father how God had blessed Abraham and she would be well treated and cared for.

Gen 24:35 "And the Lord hath blessed my master greatly; and he is become great: and he hath given him flocks, and herds, and silver, and gold, and menservants, and maidservants, and camels, and asses." KJV

God wants to prosper us, when we begin to serve out of a servant's heart, our will becomes wrapped up in Gods will for the long haul, God is going to exalt. That is what Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the patriarchs did and were rewarded on the earth as well as laying up treasures in heaven. We all agree that we want to become servants like Jesus.