



Connected in Words

Holy Habits:



Serving God, Serving Others

**When was the last time anyone did a
'random act of kindness' for you?**

**Have you ever done something like that
for someone else?**

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So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life - your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life - and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for Him ... fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognise what He wants from you, and quickly respond to it ... God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you. *Romans 12:1-2 (MSG)*

**What opportunities has God given you to
serve Him in your everyday life over the
last month? Did you act on it?**

Be honest in your estimate of yourselves, measuring your value by how much faith God has given you. Just as there are many parts to our bodies, so it is with Christ's body. We are all parts of it, and it takes every one of us to make it complete, for we each have different work to do. So we belong to each other, and each needs all the others. God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well.

Romans 12: 3-6 (TLB)

What gifts and skills do you think God has given you to use?

What gifts and skills do you appreciate in others -

- **In your family?**
- **In your church community?**
- **In your daily occupation / places you visit often?**

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Colossians 3:23-24 (NIV)

What motivates you to do what you do?

How easy do you find it to apply this scripture in non-church settings?

The one who plants in response to God, letting God's Spirit do the growth work in him, harvests a crop of real life, eternal life. So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued in doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up, or quit. Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all, starting with the people closest to us in the community of faith. *Galatians 6:8-10 (MSG)*

What clues are there in this passage about the source of our motivation and enthusiasm for doing what God has called us to do?

Be enthusiastic to serve the Lord, keeping your passion toward Him boiling hot! Radiate with the glow of the Holy Spirit and let Him fill you with excitement as you serve Him. Let this hope burst forth within you, releasing a continual joy. Don't give up in a time of trouble, but commune with God at all times. Take a constant interest in the needs of God's beloved people and respond by helping them. And eagerly welcome people as guests into your home.

Romans 12:11-13 (TPT)

How do we keep ourselves 'fit for purpose'?

If with heart and soul you're doing good, do you think you can be stopped? Even if you suffer for it, you're still better off. Don't give the opposition a second thought. Through thick and thin, keep your hearts at attention, in adoration before Christ, your Master. Be ready to speak up and tell anyone who asks why you're living the way you are, and always with the utmost courtesy ... It's better to suffer for doing good, if that's what God wants, than to be punished for doing bad. That's what Christ did definitively: suffered because of others' sins, the Righteous One for the unrighteous ones. He went through it all - was put to death and then made alive - to bring us to God. *1 Peter 3:13-18 (MSG)*

Our faith and gratitude for all the Lord has done for us sets us apart from others who act for the common good.

What will you say the next time someone asks you why you do what you do?

For further study & reflection:

‘The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.’

Matthew 13:31-32 (NIV)

Have you ever made a seemingly small gesture or step of faith, and reaped huge rewards?

Read Matthew 25:14-29

What might God be calling you to do for Him that will take your ‘pocketful of faith’ and invest in growing His kingdom?

“I can do everything God asks me to with the help of Christ who gives me the strength and power.” *(Philippians 4:13 (TLB))*