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Daily Devotional, Thursday, February 1, 2018 - True Ministry

FEBRUARY 01ST 2018 BY DEE LOFLIN

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2 Corinthians 3:4-8

What do you think it means to serve the Lord? We know this is something commanded in the Bible, but at times we're just not sure what to do. Often, we don't think we are adequate for the task. Or perhaps we're so busy with all our other duties and responsibilities that finding the time or energy to serve God seems impossible.

Instead of looking at ministry through the lens of obstacles blocking our path, let's see what God says about it. True service is not something we do for the Lord, but something He does through us. This pattern was set for us by Jesus Christ Himself, who said, "The Father abiding in Me does His works" (John 14:10). The apostles' lives also show this is what God had in mind. When Jesus gave them the command to be His witnesses, He said to wait until they were "clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24:49)

By regarding service as God's work through us, we can have confidence—not in ourselves and our abilities, but in God, who makes us adequate for whatever He gives us to do. This perspective also keeps us from taking any credit for what we accomplish. Without the Lord's directive and the Spirit's empowerment, our service is worthless in God's eyes, no matter how productive it looks from a human standpoint.

What makes an effective servant of Christ is not natural abilities, creativity, or human initiative, but total dependence on Him for both direction and adequacy. God uses those who are weak, humble, submissive, and obedient so that He alone gets the glory.

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