

# SERVING

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**Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us...or ministry, let us wait on our ministering... (Romans 12:6-7)**

The word "ministering" in this passage means serving. The gift of serving is an ability to perform practical tasks related to the work of the Lord. A person who serves helps others accomplish spiritual goals by freeing them from routine but necessary duties.

The Amplified Bible translates this passage...

**...he whose gift is practical service, let him give himself to serving... (Romans 12:7)**

Serving differs from helps in that it relieves someone of certain duties. One who serves assumes the responsibility for certain tasks to free another to exercise their spiritual gift.

A person with the gift of helps assists someone in the performing of their ministry. For example, musicians in the church help the pastor accomplish spiritual goals during a church service. They do not relieve him of the responsibility of the service, but use their gift to help him accomplish spiritual objectives.

On the other hand, a person with the gift of serving might totally relieve a pastor from involvement in the distribution of food to those in need within the church body. An example of this is found in the early church where certain believers "served" tables to free the apostles for more important spiritual tasks:

**And in those days when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.**

**Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God and serve tables.**

**Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost, and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.**

**But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. (Acts 6:1-4)**

Observe the qualifications for those who were to serve. They were to be honest and full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom. Paul spoke of those who ministered or served him:

**The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain:**

**But when he was in Rome, he sought me out very diligently, and found me.**

**The Lord grant unto him that he may find mercy of the Lord in that day: and in how many things he ministered unto me at Ephesus, thou knowest very well. (II Timothy 1:16-18)**

The gift of serving involves bearing the burden of others:

**Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:2)**

The attitude of one who serves was described by Jesus:

**And He said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors.**

**But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he that is chief, as he that doth serve.**

**For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? Is not he that sitteth at meat? But I am among you as he that serveth. (Luke 22:25-27)**

**FOR FURTHER STUDY:**

Examples of serving:

-Angels:

Hebrews 1:14; 4:11; Mark 1:13

-Serving or waiting at meals:

John 2:5,9; Luke 10:40

