1 – Reasons For Serving God

Genesis Chapters 27 & 28

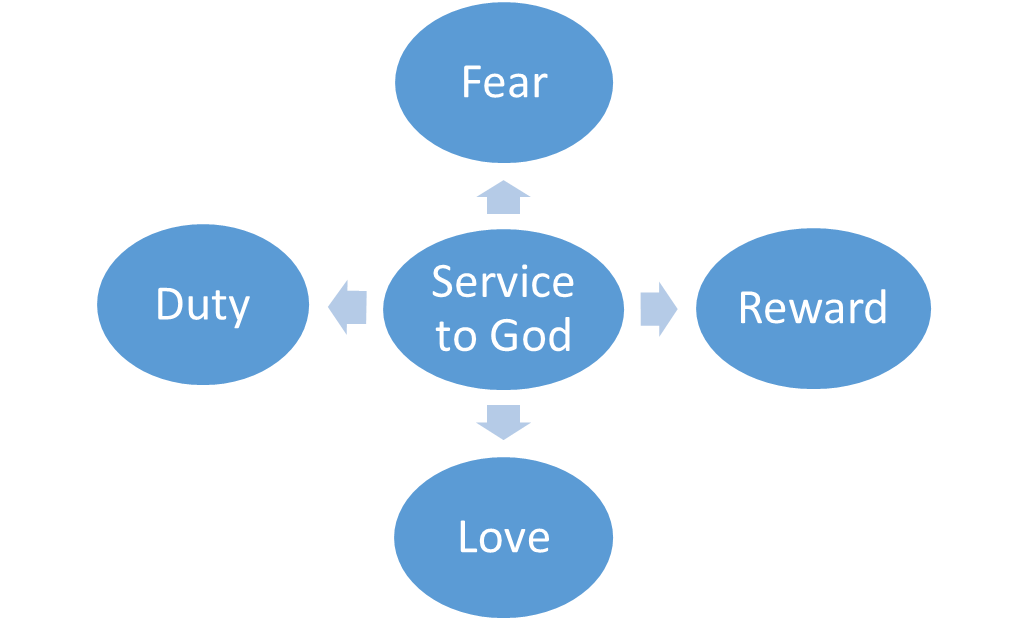
2 - **God is concerned with the “Why” in our service unto Him**

Are there wrong reasons to serve the Lord?

* More than just how, where, when and what, our ***“why”*** is critically **important to God** and our **ability to endure and overcome**.
* **Our reasons** will become manifest. (1 Corinthians 4:5)
* It is only through true ***“purpose of heart”*** (NKJV) that we will ***“remain faithful to the Lord”*** (ESV). (Acts 11:23)
* **Understanding “*service*”…** (Ephesians 4:12; 1 Timothy 1:12; 2 Timothy 2:4; “attendance (as a servant)” (Strong) Luke 1:38)
* A reminder of what the faithful will do in heaven. (Revelation 22:3-5; 7:15)

3 - **Our reasons for Serving God**

Who is at the center of our lives?



4 - **Godly Fear**

Defined as “to reverence, venerate, to treat with… reverential obedience” (Thayer)

* Our service to God must begin by **recognizing who He is**… that is, the **Creator** of all things and the **giver** and **sustainer** of **life**. (Psalms 100:1-3; 95:1-8; 119:73; Exodus 20:20; Hebrews 12:28-29)
* An inseparable link between **godly fear and obedience**. (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)
* Includes **reverence for His will**. (Psalms 4:4; Malachi 2:5)
* Shown by **putting Him first & abounding in his work**.   
  (Haggai 1:12; 1 Corinthians 15:58)
* Key to our “**persuasion**” (2 Corinthians 5:11) as well as our continued pursuit of holiness. (2 Corinthians 7:1)

5 – **Love**

Agape love is an act of the will and not of the heart that seeks the best interest.

* **Defined by God toward us and to reciprocated to Him in like kind.**(1 John 4:7-21)
* To be **extended to all others** including brethren (John 13:34; John 15:12; 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10); **the lost** (John 3:16) and even **our enemies** (Matthew 5:44)
* Without it, my service will “***profit me nothing***”. (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)
* ***“Perfect love casts out fear”*** as the primary driver of our service to God. (1 John 4:18)

6 – **Duty**

Defined as “to owe… (be) under obligation” (Strong)

* **Based on our fear**, it’s our duty to serve God. (Luke 17:10)
* **It’s our reasonable or rational service**! (Romans 12:1-2)
* Often translated ***“ought”***… (Hebrews 5:12; 1 John 4:11; John 13:14) because of what He has done for us.
* Not “**I have to…”** but **eager** and **unashamed.** (Romans 1:14-16)
* “**Make Me A Servant**” - (Luke 15:19; 2 Timothy 2:21)
* What we are to ***“render to God”***. (Matthew 22:21)
* **When and with what**? (Matthew 6:33; Haggai 1:4-7; Malachi 1:8; 3:10; 2 Corinthians 8:5)

7 – **Reward**

When are we seeking our reward? (Matthew 6:1; Hebrews 11:13-16, 26)

* ***“What then will there by for us?”*** (Matthew 19:27; Psalms 19:11; Psalms 58:11
* **“Looked to” by those who walk by faith**. (Hebrews 11:10, 13-16)
* With the “***eyes of your heart***” (Ephesians 1:18-20) looking **not at the** seen **but the unseen**. (2 Corinthians 4:16-18)
* **Looking forward with anticipation and longing** - not fear and trepidation. (1 John 2:28; 2 Peter 3:10-15)
* **Preparations** to be made (Matthew 25:1-13)… **Endurance** to be exercised. (Hebrews 10:32-39; Luke 21:19)

8 - **Will You Choose to Serve The Lord Today?**

* **Out of reverence and respect** for who He is (our Creator and Redeemer) and understanding of who we are (sinners who wish to be reconciled)?
* **Out of love** for what He has done for us?
* **Out of duty** because He deserves our faithful obedience?
* Because you believe in His promises and you earnestly **seek the eternal reward**?