

"The Joy of Serving!"

Therefore, since Christ suffered in his body, arm yourselves also with the same attitude, because whoever suffers in the body is done with sin. As a result, they do not live the rest of their earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God. For you have spent enough time in the past doing what pagans choose to do—living in debauchery, lust, drunkenness, orgies, carousing and detestable idolatry. They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you. But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. For this is the reason the gospel was preached even to those who are now dead, so that they might be judged according to human standards in regard to the body, but live according to God in regard to the spirit. The end of all things is near. Therefore be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray. Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

*1 Peter
4:1-11*

God gives each of us good gifts to use to *serve others*. Our faith grows and *joy abounds* as we serve with the gifts God gives us.

1. Adopt the mind of a servant.

Since Jesus went through everything you're going through and more, learn to think like him.

V. 1 MSG

a. Seek God first.

As a result, they do not live the rest of their earthly lives for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God.

V. 2

b. Attitude impacts joy.

So that I may come to you with joy, by God's will, and in your company be refreshed.

Romans 15:32

2. Make the choice to serve.

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

V. 10

a. The choice to be set apart.

They are surprised that you do not join them in their reckless, wild living, and they heap abuse on you.

V. 4

b. The choice to be brave.

Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the LORD!

Psalm 31:24

3. Stay ready for every opportunity to serve.

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.

V. 8

a. God provides the strength.

If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides...

V. 11a

b. The goal is God's glory.

...so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

V. 11b

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-Rich Villodas

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