

Serving For the Lord's Glory

I Peter 4:7-11

I Peter 14

Introduction

Jesus is returning soon and this will end the world as we know it.

This fact should make us serious about doing the work of the Lord.

(Read I Peter 4:7-11)

I. Serious and Watchful

(Read vs. 7)

Serious = clear minded, ready for action, realistic.

Watchful = clearheaded in prayer

Jesus' return is always motivation for holy living.

II. Fervent Love

(Read vs. 8)

Fervent = stretched to the limit.

(Read vs. 1:22)

This is love that openly reaches out and goes the whole distance. It is what makes us lights in a dark world.

This is especially true as the end of time draws near.

This is shown by our not dwelling on people's past sins and being quick to forgive them.

It is shown by our not holding other's faults against them.

Proverbs 10:12- ***...love overlooks the wrongs that others do.***

III. **Be Hospitable**

(Read vs. 9)

This was important in the ancient world. There were few hotels.

However, it could also be dangerous.

I Timothy 3:2- ***A leader must be ... hospitable.***

Titus 1:8- ***He must welcome people,...***

Hebrews 13:2- ***Be ready with a meal or a bed when it's needed. Why, some have extended hospitality to angels without ever knowing it!***

We should display real, practical, love in our everyday life. We should serve others even when it is inconvenient for us.

IV. **Do Not Be Idle**

(Read vs. 10)

It is tempting to sit around and wait for the Lord's return.

However, God has given us gifts to be used for His service, and we should use those gifts.

Manifold = many colors- like a rainbow.

When the church uses its gifts as a body (like a rainbow), it is a beautiful thing.

V. Spiritual Gifts

(Read vs 11)

There are around 20 spiritual gifts mentioned in the Bible.

Romans 12:6-8- *let's just go ahead and be what we were made to be, without enviously or pridefully comparing ourselves with each other, or trying to be something we aren't. If you preach, just preach God's Message, nothing else; if you help, just help, don't take over; if you teach, stick to your teaching; if you give encouraging guidance, be careful that you don't get bossy; if you're put in charge, don't manipulate; if you're called to give aid to people in distress, keep your eyes open and be quick to respond; if you work with the disadvantaged, don't let yourself get irritated with them or depressed by them. Keep a smile on your face.*

I Corinthians 12:8-10, 28-30- *The variety is wonderful: wise counsel clear understanding simple trust healing the sick miraculous acts proclamation distinguishing between spirits tongues interpretation of tongues. ...You're familiar with some of the parts that God has formed in his church, which is his "body": apostles prophets teachers miracle workers healers helpers organizers those who pray in tongues. But it's obvious by now, isn't it, that Christ's church is a complete Body and not a gigantic, unidimensional Part? It's not all Apostle, not all Prophet, not all Miracle Worker, not all Healer, not all Prayer in Tongues, not all Interpreter of Tongues.*

Ephesians 4:11- *filled earth with his gifts. He handed out gifts*

of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher

None of these lists are exactly the same. This means that there is no comprehensive list.

However, these gifts fall into two main categories:

1. Speaking gifts
2. Serving gifts

When these gifts are used for God's glory, it is like sweet music in an orchestra.

Conclusion

What it all boils down to is the fact that as Christians we are used to work together serving God and each other until the Lord returns.

His return is our motivation.

His gifts are our methods.

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II. Fervent Love

(Proverbs 10:12)

Fervent = _____ to the limit.

This is shown by our not _____ on people's past sins and being quick to forgive them.

III. Be Hospitable

(I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8; Hebrews 13:2)

This was _____ in the ancient world. There were few hotels.

We should serve others even when it is _____ for us.

IV. Do Not Be Idle

It is tempting to _____ around and wait for the Lord's return.

_____ = many colors- like a rainbow.

V. Spiritual Gifts

(Romans 12:6-8; I Corinthians 12:8-10, 28-30 Ephesians 4:11)

(Read vs 11)

There are around _____ spiritual gifts mentioned in the Bible.

There is no _____ list.

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What it all boils down to is the fact that as Christians we are used to work together serving God and each other until the Lord returns.

His _____ is our motivation.

His gifts are our _____.

Possible Answers: methods, manifold, dwelling, soon, action, important, 20, comprehensive, inconvenient, prayer, stretched, sit, return

