

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits--
who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good as long as you live
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Psalm 103:1-5



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THE LEADER AS PATIENT

PSALM 50:7-15

"Hear, O my people, and I will speak, O Israel, I will testify against you. I am God, your God. ⁸ Not for your sacrifices do I rebuke you; your burnt offerings are continually before me. ⁹ I will not accept a bull from your house, or goats from your folds. ¹⁰ For every wild animal of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. ¹¹ I know all the birds of the air, and all that moves in the field is mine. ¹² "If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world and all that is in it is mine. ¹³ Do I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of goats? ¹⁴ Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the Most High. ¹⁵ Call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me."

ISAIAH 64:4

From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

LUKE 12:35-38

"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶ be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷ Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸ If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves."

What do you learn about how God relates to his people?

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RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

ACTS 17:22-25

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³ For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.



What does each passage have in common? What picture of God emerges? Of his relationship to his people?

3

God is not served by human hands.

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MOTIVATION FOR DISCIPLESHIP

MARK 8:34-38

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

MARK 10:28-31

Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." ²⁹ Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, ³⁰ who will not receive a hundred-fold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

MARK 10:41-45

When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. ⁴² So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. ⁴³ But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, ⁴⁴ and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. ⁴⁵ For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

What motives does each passage address?

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What does each passage have in common? What is different?



THE REWARDS OF MINISTRY

**MINISTRY IS LIKE THE SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM:
IT IS NOT SOMETHING WE DO FOR GOD, BUT SOMETHING GOD DOES FOR US.**

THE SACRIFICE	THE REWARD
Lay down our lives for Christ's sake and the gospel's	Life , real life, eternal life that begins now
Leave behind everything that represents security	Homes, family, security : both in this life and the life to come
Choose the downward road toward servanthood and being last	Greatness , a life of impact, touching the lives of others

The glory goes to the worker.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT WE ARE SERVANTS OF GOD?(MOSES: 1 CHR 6:49, 2 CHR 24:9, NEH 10:29, DAN 9:11, REV 15:3; PAUL: TITUS 1:1; JAMES: JAMES 1:1)

We serve in God's
 and with God's
 in order that people might see, not our kindness
 but God's

The result: People are drawn
 We are
 Others are served
 God is (The glory goes to the worker!)

THE ECONOMY OF GOD!

What then does God want from us? Does he receive nothing from us and from our humble service? He wants offerings of thanksgiving (Ps 50:14): he wants our gratitude and our worship, our honor and the best intentions of our hearts. He desires these things and they honor him when we bring them. He simply doesn't want us to work for him.

God is the who !
 He is still the King. He calls the shots. Yet we wait for him -- for his mercy!
 He is the shepherd-Lord, the Servant King.

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JOB DESCRIPTION VS. DOCTOR'S PRESCRIPTION

"Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance" Mark 2:17

LEADERSHIP AS A JOB

GOAL: RECEIVING [] IN THE FORM OF:

- [] or respect from others (or God)
- paying down a debt of gratitude toward God
- feeling of [] in having an impact on others or the group
- feeling of superiority because of being in leadership

LEADERSHIP AS A DOCTOR'S PRESCRIPTION

GOAL: RECEIVING [] INTRINSIC REWARDS ASSOCIATED WITH TRUSTING GOD AND LOVING PEOPLE.

HEALING COULD INCLUDE:

- healing from selfishness and self-focus
- healing from [] of risk and vulnerability
- healing from low self worth or sense of inability to make a difference in the lives of others

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bible knowledge, expertise, experience.
- Typical leadership traits (extroversion, self-confidence, etc).

QUALIFICATIONS:

- FAT: [] available []
- Evidence of God's healing already: a testimony of God's work.

JOB REQUIREMENTS: []

- Corporate worship, small group meetings
- leadership team meetings, training sessions
- conferences & retreats
- meetings with group members
- meetings with leadership team members

PRESCRIPTION FOR HEALTH: []

- [] to learn how to love and lead others, how to depend on God
- time spent with others helps us grow in love for them
- [] :meetings with team members help us have insight to help others better

ATTITUDES:

- I just have to do it.
- If I don't, no one will.
- They (you, God) need(s) me.
- I am not really getting anything out of this.

ATTITUDES:

- I learn more than my SG members from each discussion.
- How is God serving me in my role here? How am I being healed?
- I need to be in leadership (in ministry) much more than I am needed.

Often we begin as patients and end up as employees.

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LEADERSHIP AS A JOB	LEADERSHIP AS A DOCTOR'S PRESCRIPTION
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LONG TERM RESULTS:

- : I have done great things for God. The glory goes to the worker.
- Resentment : I have sacrificed a lot!-for God, for this church, for this ministry involvement.
- : I have done as much as I can do.

LONG TERM RESULTS:

- : God has done great things for me! The glory goes to the worker (i.e., God).
- : I continue to receive much more than I give!
- : I can never get enough!

Is our ministry our work for God, or a part of his work for us? The glory goes to the worker!

MOTIVATIONAL APPEALS:

- "Missed you at small group. Where were you?"
- "I am really hoping everyone will be able to come to the church retreat. You all really should go!"

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MOTIVATIONAL APPEALS:

- "I wanted to come by to see you because I didn't get to see you at small group. How are you doing?"
- "I would look forward to the chance to spend time with you at the church retreat."

Invitation

BIBLICAL IMAGES:

- Luke 7:35-50: Simon (proud, judging)
- Luke 10:38-42: Martha, resentful while trying to feed Jesus
- Luke 15:11-32: The older son protesting the party "I have worked for you for years..."
- Luke 18: 9-14: The Pharisee (proud)

BIBLICAL IMAGES:

- Luke 7:35-50: the woman (forgiven, grateful)
- Luke 10:38-42: Mary, eager to feed on Jesus' words
- Luke 15:11-32: The younger son enjoying the party (no longer a slave but a son)
- Luke 18:9-14: The tax collector (humble)

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THE HOLY SPIRIT: THE DOCTOR WITHIN THE PATIENT



The Doctor-Patient Image, like any analogy, is limited in its ability fully to model our relationship with God. God is much more invested in our healthy recovery than even good doctors are in their patients; it would be more fair to compare God to a doctor who not only treats his patients, but then adopts them as his beloved children. And while the image of a father is also important in Scripture, this doesn't also capture all of it either. It is as if the Doctor goes home to live within the patient, to enable the patient to make healthier choices and to stay in the center of the doctor's plan for the patient's recovery. The Doctor-in-patient is spoken of in Scripture as the Holy Spirit. It is crucial to understand the importance of the Holy Spirit's work. We've been talking about it all along--the Holy Spirit is the shepherd of our souls and the servant giving us wisdom and insight for ourselves and those we serve and lead.



And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you." **John 14:16-20**



"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come." **John 16:13**



With Jesus in us in the way that the Father is in Jesus, we can have confidence that our sincere efforts to allow Jesus to live his life in us will bear fruit. We also know that this doctor is patient, loving, forgiving; he understands our propensity to turn from his wise prescriptions for health, and he guides us gently into increasingly trusting his wisdom for our lives over time. This is not simply what we must **do**, but this is also **who we are** and **whose we are**.

"Apart from me you can do nothing."
John 15:6



Implications of the Holy Spirit for the patient-leader:

• [] We can believe that a real transaction has taken place when we come to God--we are his, adopted as children and given a guarantee of his consistent care (as a shepherd, as a servant, as a doctor) through the presence and work of the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 1:13-14

• [] We can step out in risky ways in our leadership or ministry opportunities, because God both calls us into them, and also empowers and resources us for them. This is especially significant if we're wrestling through identity formation and thus sensitive about being affirmed or criticized, struggling with deep guilt and shame, feeling emotionally fatigued, or even working through depression. Sometimes we may not feel like we have the emotional resources, self-definition, inner strength, and stamina to follow through with our doctor's recommendations. But the Holy Spirit meets us in whatever condition we are in, and empowers us in ways we might think are small, but which are deeply significant nevertheless. Acts 1:8

• [] The work of the Holy Spirit doesn't end with providing us the resources with which to serve. The Holy Spirit acts the way a father does teaching a toddler to walk--holding fingers, pacing the child's progress, and preventing injury while the tot is building up the muscles with which to master the act of walking. The Holy Spirit's presence in our lives makes it possible to know that our mistakes will be forgiven while we continue to try to live as we are created to live. John 16:13

• [] Finally, the relationship doesn't stop when the prescription first takes affect. The doctor-father-indweller has more hope for us than simply to get better. He remains in our life, continuing to work and to empower us to become more and more the spitting image of his Son and our older brother, Jesus. Ephesians 4:13-16

"Until all of us come to... the measure of the full stature of Christ." Eph 4:13

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1

THINK ABOUT YOUR OWN LIFE. IN WHAT SETTINGS ARE YOU MOST LIKELY TO STRUGGLE WITH "WORKING FOR GOD"?

Goal: wages or health. Everyone is a mixture of agendas; purity of motive is impossible to attain. What would it look like to be more focused on the good change God can bring about in your own heart and life rather than any comparative feelings you might have towards others or even towards God? Perhaps spend some time identifying the good work God is doing in your heart through recent struggles or challenges in ministry.

Long-term results: What do you see as the most obvious long-term results of ministry in your own life: pride, resentment & burnout or gratitude, humility, & enduring motivation? How can you make choices to honor God's work?

2

THINK ABOUT YOUR CURRENT MINISTRY CONTEXT. WHAT MIGHT BE THE MOST IMPORTANT NEXT STEP IN MOVING THE MINISTRY FROM A WORKING FOR GOD OUTLOOK TO A RECEIVING HEALING FROM THE DOCTOR OUTLOOK?

Qualifications: How do you see people as ready for leadership? How do you consider people for ministry roles?

Job requirements vs. Prescription for health: Do you need to consider how you communicate the expectations for involvement in a way that connects what people do with how it is helping them grow in faith and character?

Motivation appeals: When you were invited into your ministry position, did the appeal focus on the opportunity for you, or the need in the ministry? What was most attractive about saying "Yes"? How do you invite others into ministry with you?



ON HIS BLINDNESS

BY JOHN MILTON

In 1652 John Milton went blind. It was only after this event that he dictated his great epic *Paradise Lost*, one of the most profound pieces of English poetry. This sonnet indicates some of how he saw his affliction.

“When I consider how my light is spent
Ere half my days in this dark world and wide
And that one talent which is death to hide
Lodge within me useless, though my soul more bent
To serve therewith my Maker and present
My true account, lest he returning chide.
“Doth God exact day-labor, light denied?”
I fondly ask. But patience, to prevent
That murmur soon replies “God doth not need
Either man’s work or his own gifts; who best
Bear his mild yoke, they serve him the best. His state
Is kingly; thousands at his bidding speed,
And post o’er land and ocean without rest;
They also serve who only stand and wait.”

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They also serve who only stand and wait.

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PAGE 5

others, name, resources, great love
to God, blessed, glorified
master, serves



PAGE 6

FIRST COLUMN

wages, approval, significance
what things leaders do

SECOND COLUMN

health, fear
faithful, available, teachable
What things leaders need, training, partnership



PAGE 7

FIRST COLUMN

pride, burnout
Obligation, Guilt, duty

SECOND COLUMN

gratitude to God, humility, enduring motivation
Opportunity, appeal, growth



PAGE 9

pledge, power, trainer, perfecter

OTHER RESOURCES

"If there lurks in most modern minds the notion that to desire our own good and earnestly to hope for the enjoyment of it is a bad thing, I submit that this notion has crept in from Kant and the Stoics and is no part of the Christian faith. Indeed, if we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased." C.S. Lewis, "The Weight of Glory" in *The Weight of Glory and Other Addresses*. Collier Books, 1980.

