

For many of us, the idea of spending more of our time in service seems a burden too great to carry. We look at how busy our lives already are, and the idea of trying to fit another obligation into it is overwhelming. Lucky for us, there is an alternative that not only will not make you feel any more busy, but will instead bring greater peace and rest into your life. Does this sound too good to be true? Spend some time with us this week and see!

Day 1

The Glory of Christ

We need to begin this week by focusing on the glory of Christ. Christ has created all things by His word as a way of making known the invisible and mysterious glory of the Father. He also sustains all things by His word, and he transforms and recreates us through His word. Jesus is the perfect representation of the fullness of the Glory of the Father, and as such is the superlative of everything good. There is nothing more glorious than He. The love that Jesus showed in His earthly ministry, culminating in His substitutionary atonement on the cross provides wonder for eternity. How many aspects of Christ's glory can you think of today? How many aspects of Christ that some find unpleasant can you investigate to find the hidden goodness? If you were to begin everyday by spending time in meditation on the glory of Christ, how would your life change? Would it take that long? Is there time brushing your teeth, in the car, washing the dishes, or doing any other kind of mindless task that you could devote to this meditation? The beginning of our life as servants is not to serve, but to glory in the service that was done for us by Christ. This changes everything, for we are not the givers, but He is. His interest in our service is that we might receive even more.

Verses: Hebrews 1:3, Isaiah 9:6, Ephesians 1:17-21

Prayer Topics: Grandeur, Awe, Appreciation

Day 2

Seek to Become Glorious

If we have thoroughly pondered and meditated on the glory of Christ, and we have made a habit of it, then the natural outcome will be our own glory. This is inevitable. Have you ever gotten a new (to you) car? Generally, at our house, the decision to buy a new (to us) car is preceded by many months or even years of pondering whether we are at the point of diminishing returns with our old car. Is it costing us more than it is worth to keep it? Even after this point occurs, it takes a while to research the best option, look at prices, find the car, and finally make the purchase. We have never impulse-bought a car. This process is at work in most things in our lives. We usually don't make any changes without a long period of thought and meditation that forms our thinking about what needs to happen in our lives. We see something, see it again, start to become attracted to it, then over time it becomes natural that our physical lives will take the form that our brains have already taken. The process of meditating on Christ and seeing His glory, if followed faithfully, will end in our lives coming to resemble His. It will not need a lot of willpower and discipline, although there is always some of that involved, for the simple reason is that it will be a completely natural outgrowth of the renewing of our minds. Most of the time we think of service as a task that needs to be completed, when in truth service is becoming who God desires us to be. He doesn't need task doers or box checkers, but disciples. Then your whole life will be of service in His kingdom.

Verses: Matthew 6:6, Proverbs 4:20-22, Psalm 119:11

Prayer Topics: Service, Transformation, Splendor

Day 3

Public Glory

Will you live out the glory of God publicly? This does not mean (in most circumstances) carrying a sign or wearing a t-shirt. It does not involve (mostly) buying a bull horn or starting a social media channel. Public Glory is just putting your light on a hill instead of under a basket. It does not mean drawing attention to yourself, although it will be seen and attended to. It means living out the love of God to others beyond your immediate friends and family. Starting to see those around you as possible, or potential, brothers and sisters in Christ. It means extending the love you have for those closest to you to those you encounter every day. It is not very difficult though it is profound. Smiling to others, saying hello, being polite, and being of service to them in the small ways that occur so often. Starting conversations and seeing where they go. This does not mean giving them a tract or using the “Romans Road” as a conversation starter with everyone you encounter. Though some will be won to Christ through such things, many will be turned off by being your “project.” Just see them as fellow human beings who God loves and treat them that way. Try to get to know them rather than talking at them, and see where it goes. Try very hard not to see others as impediments to your agenda, but see them as your agenda. Live the love and glory of Christ publicly, there is no law against it, and much grace for it.

Verses: Luke 8:39, 2 Timothy 1:8, Revelation 12:11

Prayer Topics: Radiance, Love, Joy

Day 4

Relational Glory

When we think of glory, we usually think of something like a movie star or winning a competition of some kind. The gold medal is a symbol of the kind of glory we most often consider, and those who win it display it for years, if not for the rest of their lives. There is another aspect to glory, however, and it is vital in our understanding of God. God’s glory is relational. What does this mean? Jesus tried to wash Peter’s feet and he resisted, to which Jesus replied that if Peter did not let Jesus wash his feet, they had nothing to do with each other. This is a very unusual and profound interaction. The only kind of relationship that could be had with Jesus was the kind in which Jesus served and glorified Peter, taking the dirty and inglorious in him and making it clean and presentable. Everything around God’s throne shares in His glory, and if something doesn’t share in His glory, it has no relationship to Him. It is not possible to have a relationship with God and not reflect His glory, because that would not reflect the love of God, who wants to gift all things with the mark of His authorship. Service is not something we do but something we are. We are of service to God when we have a relationship with Him and share in His glory. It is very personal, very relational. In the same way, our service to others is not some task we perform for them, but a drawing of them into our relational sphere, into our glory cloud, and so into Christ’s.

Verses: John 13:4-14, 2 Samuel 22:32-35, Psalm 18:36

Prayer Topics: Affiliation, Resemblance, Exchange

Day 5

The Satisfaction of Glory

Living in service to God means being in step with Him, reflecting who He is as a natural by-product of our relationship with Him, and finding the joy of being united to Him. We live busy, restless, unfulfilled lives because we are out of step with Him, trying to find in a multitude of other things what can only be found in Him. We are constantly afraid of missing out on fulfillment, so we are blown back and forth by every wind of each new fad, needing to participate in everything that comes along because each thing might be the thing that finally makes us feel right, listening to every voice and bowing to every authority because we are not bowing to the ultimate authority. Finding the satisfaction of service means being incorporated into Christ, sharing in His glory that touches every aspect of our lives in a way that satisfies our deepest needs and longings, finding a purpose for the entirety of our being. This is the life we were meant for, and no other life will do. Live it.

Verses: Isaiah 58:11, John 6:35, Psalm 22:26

Prayer Topics: Peace, Joy, Generosity