

## Finding God in Service

Dr. M.W. Lewis

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"Finding God in Service."

Service is the basis of all progress toward God. Service is the basis of the two great commandments. And so, we can see that service is very important in our struggle to express divinity of God within us. Those two great commandments I'll read at this time, and in them you will find the answer to this subject: find God in service. Matthew, the 12th 22nd Chapter, 36th to 40th Verses, we read: "Master, which is the great commandment in the law? And "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all Soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Now, if you love God, you will surely serve Him. We have no trouble in serving those we really love, and, if you see God in everyone - in your neighbors - you will surely serve them, without question of a doubt. And then, finally, we love those most who serve us most. And you cannot get away from that eternal truth.

And that's why the guru is so important: Because he serves us most. It is he, as a channel of God, who takes us to God. Don't you think that's the greatest service? So remember those three things. If you really know God, and love Him, you will serve Him. And it will not be difficult. And, if you see His Light in others, if you see God in others, they will be your neighbors - no matter their race, color, or creed - and you'll have no trouble in serving them, because surely you can serve those whom you love - being your own relatives, so to speak.

And finally, those who serve us most - or serve us in the best way - naturally, those are the ones we love best. And the greatest example is the guru, because he serves us as no one else can serve us, because he has been appointed - commissioned - by God to take us back home to our one Cosmic Home of Light. So in these two commandments we find this question answered: "Find God in Service."

Now, the goal of service is something we must not forget. The goal of service is what: is to find God. Even the businessman, he knows that he has got to serve his customers if he's going to make money. That's the law. And so, the goal of service, the real goal, even though the businessman thinks he'll feel good if he makes money, and will be able to do this, and that – that's so. But he's really finding and searching for God, because money, he feels, will give him fulfillment of all desire, and happiness, and health, and wealth. But behind it, is his yearning of his Soul to find God. And so service is necessary. And the goal of service – do not be sidetracked – the goal of service is to find God.

Therefore, we come to the question - how to attract His attention? How to attract God's attention is the most important thing, because the goal is to find Him. How to attract His attention? Work, as I said in the scripture, reading of the scriptures, work not to please men, but to please God. If you want to attract His attention, don't be sidetracked by thinking that, if you work for man and do good to people, that that's enough. No. Work for one thing: To please God. Then you'll never be disappointed. Because even though your motive is the highest, and you work to please others, sometimes it doesn't work out that way. But, if you work to please God, you can never fail.

And the Master said that in one of his letters to me. I remember distinctly he said, "There was a time when I worked to please others. There was a time when I wanted to be, to do good to others that they think well of me. But," he says, "now, now I work only to please God and I find in that, freedom." If you work to please God, the answer is that you will have freedom, because God is freedom. God is all. He has made all things. If He is the Sole Doer, why shouldn't we work only to please Him? Because even though this Cosmic Dream with its delusion has the power to make us feel that we are working for ourselves, or doing this and that for ourselves. That's not so. God, in spite of that, is the Doer. And so, all He asks is that we play our part. Perform service. Not forget Him – The Giver.

Now another way to attract His attention is to help His children. That's the second commandment. First is to work for God – to please God Alone. Second is to serve His children. And, as I have said, when you see in them His Light as producing them, creating them, sustaining them, it will be easy for you to work for them according to your talents. Do something for them every day. Now you can't give each one you meet a hundred dollars and last very long. That's one way. If you've got it, that's fine. But there's something you can do for God's children, some way, according to your talent. If you can't give them money, you can do some little thing. At least you can open your mouth, and say a word of encouragement. So do that. That's service. And in so doing you will attract God's attention.

Another point to remember is this. Whatever you do; whatever you do for God and His children, do in peace. Have peace in your Soul. Whatever you do - this is a very important point - to find God in service,

whatever service you render, you must render it in peace. And thereby, with that peace, God can get in. If you're restless; if your mind is restless, and you do not have that peace as you do for others, you cannot give the full measure of service, because God can't get in with a restless mind. He just can't. That doesn't go. But, if you do it with peace, and bliss, and joy in your heart, that's the best medicine for the body, mind, and Soul; and having a healthy body, mind, and Soul, God functions naturally. And whatever service you give, according to your talents, will be of the highest, because God is in you.

That's a very important point in this subject of finding God in service. How to attract His Attention is to be peaceful, that you receive Him when He comes. If your mind is restless, even though your intentions are good, you cannot really help people to the fullest extent. And so, whatever you do in service for God, and for others, do in peace.

And to the humble devotee who remembers these three things, which I have said, God's Attention will be on him. You will attract God's Attention, and that's what we want. That's the greatest thing. If God is with us; then we can truly serve. If He isn't with us; we can serve only in a haphazard way. But, when He is with you, then you can perform service, and also the greatest service, which I will come to at the end of these few words. So to attract God's Attention: serve Him first; serve His children; and what you do, serve with His Bliss in your heart. Then you have God, and whatever service you do will be right, and will help you on progressing toward your home in Cosmic Consciousness.

Now, we come to the law of service. The law of service is: you must give. You must give. But give for a greater gain. When you give, we're selfish, of course. But that's natural. It's natural. But the law of service is: you must give to receive. And you must not be afraid to give. Naturally, or sometimes naturally, that is in your consciousness because you feel, "Well, if I give everything away I'll have nothing left to live on." That's right. That's, if you look to the world, that's right. You won't have anything. They'll take it all away from you. But, if you have the Higher Consciousness of God, you won't be left alone. Because

God is the Sole Doer in you and everyone else, and even though you haven't a place to lay your head, or a friend left, and He's with you, you have everything.

And so this, this law of service is: we must give. It is giving that is indispensable to receiving. We give for a greater gain. Now Jesus set this example. He gave. He gave his life as a ransom for many. The Master said that very thing. He says, "My life . . ." near the end when he was all gone, so to speak, from giving. He was tottering, and his body was emaciated, and there wasn't much left of it. He said, "My life is a ransom for many." But when he said it, I could see behind that that he had gained. He had gained, of course, Eternal Consciousness with God.

And so Jesus set the example. He gave. He gave for his disciples. It was because of his giving – his service – that his disciples were able to receive the Omniscient Consciousness of God, and give to others, as they preached his gospel. Because Jesus gave, he gave, and because he gave, others received. His disciples received. And you, and I, who meditate and feel the Omniscient Consciousness of God, the Christ Consciousness which Jesus expressed, we receive that because of his efforts to send us this channel of Christ Consciousness. And, of course, Jesus gave and received the greatest gain. He sacrificed his body, according to worldly standards. But in so doing, he carried out God's Great Work, the Will of God, that the scriptures be fulfilled. And in so doing, of course, he was One with God.

And so, don't forget. That in service, service we have to give. And that's the law of service – to give that you receive. And so, when you help one another during the week, or give your full consciousness to God, you are giving. But you're going to gain; you're going to gain.

You know your own Soul will be saved, if you serve God first, and then serve His children. You know that. Your Soul tells you that. That isn't selfishness. That's common sense, to my way of thinking. Certainly they say "give unselfishly." That simply means, don't give with attachment, that's all. Don't give – "Now I'll give this to you, but I hope you're going to give me something back in return." That's not it. You give unselfishly because you know that person is your brother, or your sister. He's a child of God, and God is in him. So you give. In that consciousness, there's no attachment. What if he does give you something in return? That's fine. You both feel good. So realize this service, the law of service, is to give.

Now we come to the part of service, which is the path of action – very important. The path of service means the path of action. Not just to sit down and do nothing, but to be active in God's Work. And in this path of action – or path of service – the devotee sacrifices his little self, and his attachments, for his Greater Self, or for God. In other words, the path of action has as the goal to do God's Will. Not for your own little self. That's all there is to it. And instead of losing, you gain everything.

Now, we find first, that in this path of action, the ordinary devotee, or the person, first serves himself. Then he begins to think. He wakes up; he sort of wakes up a little. Then he serves his family, and he feels pretty good. But that isn't enough. Then he begins to serve his country and that's, that's, that's not enough. Then he serves the world. Then he feels much better than when he's just serving his little self. But that isn't enough, because the first commandment is what? Thou shalt serve God with all thy heart, and thy mind, and thy strength. Then what does he do? Then he serves God Alone, in his family, in the country, and in the world. Do you see the point?

To serve God it doesn't make any difference what you're doing. The thing is you remove all limiting barriers. That's the point. The man serves his family. The greatest devotee serves his family best; he serves his country best; he serves the world best, because he sees God in the members of his family; in the members of his country; and in the world, and seeing them, he realizes God is in every one. And, as such, he serves them to the greatest and fullest extent. This is the underlying law of the path of action.

Now, the Bhagavad Gita points this out most beautifully. And according to the title "Finding God in Service," you will find your answer right in this first passage which I'll read. It is the 3rd Discourse of the Bhagavad Gita, the 19th Line, wherein we read: "Therefore," therefore, "without attachment," without attachment, "constantly perform action which is duty. For by performing action without attachment, man verily reaches the Supreme."

So you will find God, as the title says, by performing action, or service, without attachment. There's the whole answer. You can't do it unless you see God first, and then see Him in everything. And so, in this passage in the Gita, we have it most beautifully spoken in words about "Finding God In Service."

Now, I have another reference, which is the 3rd Discourse, 22nd Line, 22nd to the 24th Line. And here it refers to the fact that we must serve God in others. We must play our part in the Drama of Life. And we read, and this is the greatest example. God gives us the example, because He has everything. It is not necessary for Him to act or serve. He has everything. Yet He goes on and does it. And so, you who have God through meditation, and following the channel of Self-Realization, you don't need to serve others, because you have God. And yet, you've got to do it, because that's the law, as pointed out as you will read now, as you will listen.

"There is nothing in the three worlds, Oh Arjuna, that should be done by me, says the Lord, nor anything unattained that might be attained." God has everything. "Yet I mingle in action. For if I mingled not ever in action, unwearied, men all around would follow my path. These worlds would fall into ruin, if I did not perform action. I should be the author of confusion of castes, and should destroy these creatures."

So you see God doesn't need to do a thing. He has everything – universe upon universe – but, if He didn't keep the law in order, so to speak, keep His house in order, then everybody would follow suit, and nothing would be done. And in those countries where they sit down finding God, so to speak, and do nothing – look at those countries, India sinned, of course – why? Because they didn't perform the

second commandment – thou shalt serve others. Thou shalt play your part in the Drama of Life. And so, in finding God, that kind of service is also necessary.

Now another point is this; that those actions which purify us by the performance of yoga, are definitely service and take us toward God. Why? Because when you perform yoga, or your techniques of Self-Realization, you prepare your vehicle to receive God. And receiving Him, you can perform the greatest service of all, which is what my final point will be.

It is this: the highest service that you can perform is to give others a taste of God. It is very important. Now you can perform service to others by giving them money; you can give them position in life, and such things. That's good. That's wonderful. But, if you give them a taste of God, if you give them a little bit of God's Consciousness, so to speak; a little bit of the Holy Ghost; then you give them something Real. Because having that, they will be able to perform the greatest service of all – they can do the Will of God, because God is in them. This is very important – the greatest thing that you can do; the greatest service that you can do, is to give others a little touch of the Holy Ghost.

Those of you who met the Master, and went in his presence, you know how you felt. Why? Because he gave you, he performed for you the greatest service of

giving you a little of the Holy Vibration – a little touch of it, a little bit of the Substance of God. This is the greatest thing. This is performing the greatest service. But, you must remember that you can – you must attain first. You must attain first, before you can give. That's the important thing. You must attain first, before you can give.

Many people come, they join the work, and they begin right off – want to teach, want to do good to the world. How can you do good, if you don't know it yourself, yet? So the thing is, we must attain first. And Ramakrishna said, most wonderful words, he said, "Unless God's power flows through you, you cannot help others. You cannot give to others. If God's power flows through you, then you can really help others. If not, you can do nothing." It's God's power that's the reality, do you see? He meant you can really help them. He didn't mean you can help them physically, or mentally, or with money, and so forth. No. He meant, if you really, truly, want to help a person to get out of this mire of delusion, then you've got to give them a little taste of God.

Now Jesus said that. His life is an example of that. And we read that in St. Luke, the 6th Chapter, 18th and 19th Verse. We read most beautifully as follows. This shows that before you can give to others you

must have the Holy Ghost, and you must give the Holy Ghost. It must go out of you. Not in imagination, but in reality. And this is what we read of what Jesus did. In St. Luke, the 6th Chapter, the 17th to 19th Verses: "And he came down and stood in the plain,...and a great multitude of people...came to hear him to be healed of their diseases. And they that were vexed with unclean spirits; and they were healed. And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went virtue out of him and healed them [all]."

"Virtue" is the Holy Ghost. And so you see, that's the greatest thing that you can give to others. When virtue, Jesus said, "Virtue went out of me," he meant the Holy Ghost went out of him. A little bit of God's Presence in him went out and healed the others. That's the greatest service that can be performed.

And so, finally, in the Bhagavad Gita we have that spoken of, without question, most clearly, as follows. In the 18th Discourse, 65th Line, where we read – I want you to listen carefully, this is the epitome of the highest performance of service; the greatest service, remember, is to give others a little bit of God's Presence in you. But to do that, you have to know Him first. You can't give something you haven't got, can you? That's why Self-Realization is so important. It gives us the ways and the means to contact God. And if it is God's Will that His Power flows through you, you can give to others. If it isn't, you can't do a thing. Really!

Now it says just that here in the Bhagavad Gita, 18th Discourse, as follows – first it emphasizes the first commandment, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy strength, with all thy Soul, and with all thy might." If you do that, you will have God contact. It says, "Merge thy mind in Me. Be My devotee. Sacrifice to Me. Prostrate thyself before Me."

That means fully surrender to God's Consciousness in yourself. You can't do it, if you, have diversions and/or attachments. You can't do it. If you really want Him, you can do it, because He's the Doer. "Merge thy mind in Me. Prostrate thyself before Me. Thou shalt come even to Me. I pledge thee My troth. Thou art dear to Me." Imagine, the Master of the Universe speaking to His devotees, you and me, who really want God. That's the first point. Then, it says speaking about the greatest service you can perform is this:

"He who shall declare this supreme secret among My devotees, having shown the highest devotion to Me, without doubt he shall come to Me." "He who shall declare the supreme secret. . ." The "supreme secret" is, and, if you love God with all your heart and Soul, the Master of the Universe will come to you. That's the supreme secret. But it says, "He who shall declare" that. Now it doesn't just mean saying, as I have said, "God'll come to you, if you merge in Him." No. It means, "he who shall give some of God in him to others." He who shall do that. That's what "declare" means – he who shall do that, "having

shown the highest devotion to me, without doubt, he shall come to me.” Now, if you really want God, do that. Merge in Him. Be one with Him. He will come to you.

Then it says, “Nor is there any among men who perform a dearer service to Me, than he.” There’s nothing you can do greater. There’s no greater service than to give God to others. I mean in reality. But don’t you see that presupposes that you must perform the first commandment – thou shalt know God, thou shalt love God with all thy heart, strength, and thy mind. Then, you can do the second commandment. Carry it out. Thou shalt give that to others. And it says, he, “Nor is there any among men who perform dearer service to me, than he. Nor any other shall be more beloved by me on earth, than he.”

There you have the answer to find God in service. There’s no greater service that you can do than to prepare yourselves. Prepare your vehicles for the coming of Divinity – for the coming of God. And when He’s in you, if it is His Will, and it passes through you as an instrument to others, that’s the greatest service that you can do. Doing that – doing that you know that God is pleased, and that you are performing, and carrying out His Great Will.