

Emptying Ourselves



Declaring God's Word (Day 331)
by Derek Prince

In Philippians 2, Paul said that we need to follow Jesus' example. I always say that our attitudes determine our approaches, and our approaches determine the outcome. Here is the attitude we need to cultivate:

> "Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant" (Philippians 2:5–7, NASB)

The Greek word translated "bond-servant" literally means "slave." So, we see that Jesus, who was Lord of all, emptied Himself and was willing to become a bondservant, a slave. We must imitate His attitude.

Paul penned a beautiful, parallel passage in Galatians:

> "For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh [do not gratify your own fleshly, selfish desires], but through love serve one another. For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Galatians 5:13–14, NASB)

Looking outward at others is the way in which we free ourselves from indulging in our fleshly natures or yielding to selfishness. We are to serve one another in love. I believe that the Holy Spirit is emphasizing this loving, selfless attitude to God's people today. Many people talk about serving the Lord but never serve their fellow believers. I do not know how much you can really serve the Lord if you are not willing to serve your fellow believers, because the Lord comes to us in the members of His body. Our attitude toward those members is really our attitude toward the Lord Himself.

Devotional
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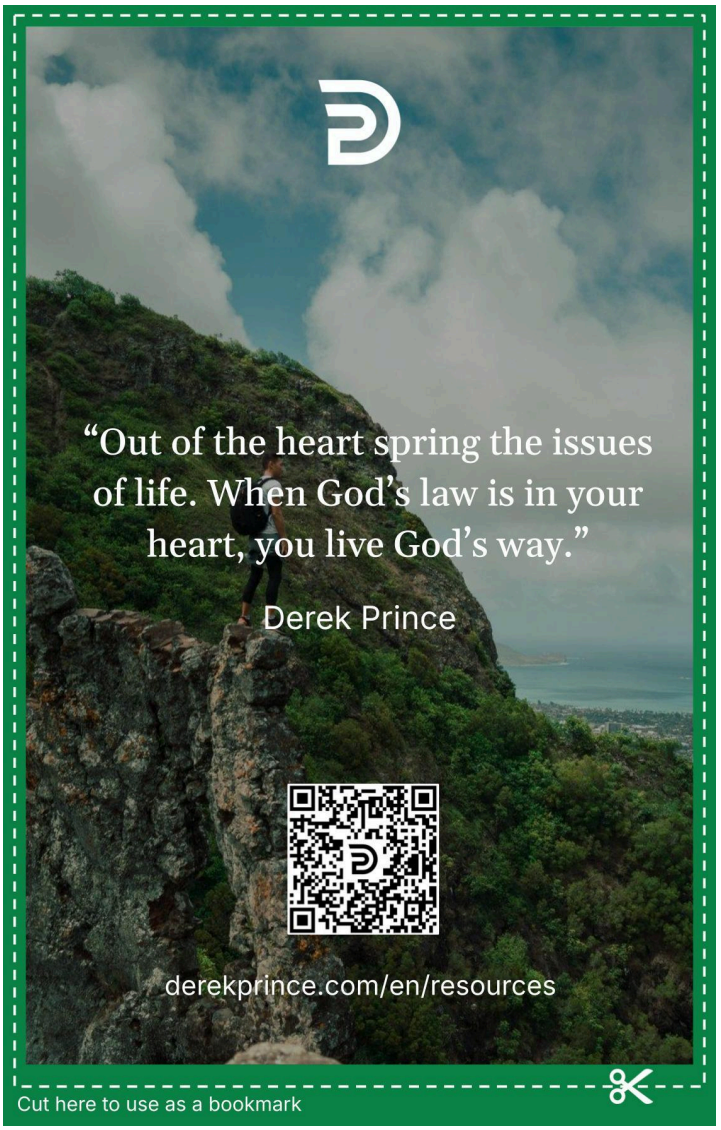
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