

Seeing how service and success work together

Working without requiring material benefits in return may sound strange in this society, where people are used to working very specifically to receive pay, while sometimes filling out time sheets to the nearest 15-minute increment. However, acting with freedom from personal desire can still be compatible with achieving success.

In fact, freeing yourself from expectations of personal rewards can open your mind and spirit into more creativity and inspiration and allow you to make initially unpaid efforts that may pay off handsomely in the future.

Here is one of those strange spiritual laws: sometimes you get more when you're less attached. Just think of times in your own life when you may have wanted something very badly, and what you wanted came to you only after you gave up your intense desire and moved into a receptive state of allowing.

Spiritual Wisdom

When an archer is shooting for nothing, he has all his skill. If he shoots for a brass buckle, he is already nervous. If he shoots for a prize of gold, he goes blind or sees two targets — He is out of his mind. His skill has not changed. But the prize divides him. He cares. He thinks more of winning than of shooting — And the need to win drains him of power.

—Chuang Tzu

If you don't have detachment from the fruits of your actions, you won't even be able to meet the very common tests and obstacles along the road to success. For example, you may have to pay your dues somewhere along the line by doing some apprentice or internship work for free to learn certain skills.

Be Careful

Turning your work into divine service doesn't mean that you have to live like a pauper (a lesson I haven't always learned so well!) Even if you're getting paid very well for the work you do, you can still perform your actions as service.

Even if you work in a non-spiritual corporate environment, you can bring a service approach by looking for ways to be helpful to your work environment. You can serve the people around you by bringing a positive attitude, showing a good example, or offering a cheerful greeting. You can make sure that someone who is being forgotten gets the recognition that he or she deserves. You can strive to inspire corporate decisions that are based on integrity and a win-win-win approach where the world also benefits from the company's work.

Spiritual Wisdom

Wise words about service

Many great spiritual servants have passed through this world. Some are still passing through today. Here are some of their inspired words about divine, selfless service:

- “God can do great things through the man who doesn’t care who gets the credit.”
—Robert Schuller
- “Joy can be real only if people look upon their life as a service, and have a definite object in life outside themselves and their personal happiness.”
—Leo Tolstoy
- “Only that which is done not for fame nor name, nor for appreciation or thanks of those for whom it is done, is life’s service. “
—Hazrat Inayat Khan
- “The test of real service of God is that it leaves behind it the feeling of humility.”
—Baal Shem Tov
- “Do your work and perform your duties with all your heart. Try to work selflessly with love. Pour yourself into whatever you do. Then you will feel and experience beauty and love in every field of work.”
—Mata Amritanandamayi
- “All service of God must be performed with gladness and zest, otherwise it is not perfect.”
—the Zohar
- “I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy. “
—Rabindranath Tagore