



Servant's Corner

July 2013

Dying to Self

By Rich Henderson, Love INC Director

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. John 12:24

From time to time I find it is good for my spiritual life to walk through a cemetery and read the epitaphs engraved on the tombstones. It helps remind me that my stay on earth is temporary. I leave with a greater determination to make my life count for the Lord. It is fascinating to read the epitaphs and get some insight into how people remember the person buried there.

I found this gem in a graveyard in Tuolumne, California: "The best portion of a good man's life are the little, nameless, unremembered acts of kindness and of love". Wow! What a legacy! How does a person live such a life? In the verse above, Jesus tells us it requires death to self. Jesus' death bore much fruit in "bringing many sons to glory" (Hebrews 2:10).

The principle of bearing fruit through dying to self has applications beyond martyrdom. We bear fruit for God as we die to our own selfish desires and unselfishly serve those God providentially puts in our path. In Celebration Of Discipline, Richard Foster insightfully observes that, "in service we must experience the many little deaths of going beyond ourselves".

As the Holy Spirit works in your life to make you a servant like Jesus, it will inevitably involve dying to some of your own desires. It won't be easy. Death never is. But it will be worth it.



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