



## Study Circle - Loving God Series

### Pre - Reading for Loving Heart Not Money - Parts 1 and 2

What is required for service is not money or materials. A loving heart is the first requisite. All service done without a love-filled heart is as dry as dust. Fill your hearts with love. When you are filled with conceit, everything looks out of shape. When you are immersed in the Spirit, everything looks good and beautiful. Forgetting this higher destiny, people are ceasing to be human. Sathya Sai Speaks 21.31: November 21, 1988

People are engaged today in the all absorbing occupation of acquiring money, more money. They are obsessed with the feeling that through money alone they can get all they want. This obsession is the root cause of the crisis facing humankind. Although money is needed for certain purposes, it is not the main source of security and happiness for the human being. People should learn to lead good lives with modest incomes. Ostentation and pride are the enemies of spiritual progress. Sathya Sai Speaks 21.31: November 21, 1988

Human life is not meant to amass wealth. When you depart from the world, can you take even a naya paisa (penny) with you? A person cannot take even a fistful of sand when he or she leaves the world. Otherwise, there would have been rationing for sand also. What you ultimately carry with you is only the results of your actions, merit or sin. Hence, do not indulge in sinful deeds. Undertake meritorious activities. Paropakārāya puñyāya, pāpāya parapīdanam (One attains merit by serving others and commits sin by hurting them). Help ever; hurt never. To the extent possible, perform acts of charity and help everybody. Fill your hearts with love. Sathya Sai Speaks 35.2: January 19, 2002

The advent [of this Avatar] took place sixty- four years ago. All these years, this hand has not stretched at any time to seek anything from anyone. I have not asked anyone. I will never ask anyone and there will never be an occasion for it. How then are these things happening? For any good work, there is no impediment in Bharat (India). When you want to do any good work wholeheartedly, money flows in torrents. The narrow minded who undertake any work will never be satisfied. They cannot understand the actions of those who are large-hearted and broad-minded. Sathya Sai Speaks 23.34: November 23, 1990

I am not asking you to serve the whole world in a big way. It is enough if you keep God in your heart and serve as per your capacity. Sathya Sai Speaks 34.7: April 14, 2001

#### Service Guidelines

You can take up whatever work is appropriate, in keeping with your aptitudes and capacity. Sathya Sai Speaks 18.15: July 7, 1985



In rendering service if you try to do something which is beyond your capacity it is a sign of your ego. If you give less than what you can, then you are a thief (denying to others what is due to them). You must exercise discrimination in performing service. You must regard service as a *sādhana* (spiritual discipline). Sathya Sai Speaks 17.16: July 14, 1984

There is a program connected with Ceiling on Desires. You must realize that the program has not been launched to raise funds. The object of the program is to prevent waste of money, time, food or other resources and to use all these for the welfare of the people. The money that is saved need not be kept for the Sathya Sai Organizations. It may be used in the best way you choose for the benefit of others. Sathya Sai Speaks 17.16: July 14, 1984

Nowadays even avowedly spiritual organizations are involved in business. Sathya Sai Organizations should never become such commercial institutions. The only kind of commerce in which they can indulge is from heart to heart, from love to love. It is in such a sublime exchange that they should take part. They should have no financial or other material involvement. Organizations which get entangled in money or property do not grow. We should be concerned with genuine, God-oriented, heart-to-heart association. *Sevā* (selfless service) must be done hand-in-hand in comradeship. This will demonstrate the unity of the Cosmic Being.

Sathya Sai Speaks 18.22: November 17, 1985

The Sathya Sai Organization and its units must not collect money or material from those outside the membership. Fund collection is as much opposed to this movement as fire is to water. If you yield on this point, spiritual advance will perish. Let only members contribute. Do not ask all and sundry or anyone who is not a member of the *samithi* (center). Sathya Sai Speaks 11.24: May 14, 1971

We have for every unit a president, a secretary, a joint secretary and a treasurer. But I wonder why we should have a treasurer when we are not concerned with money. The name indicates that we have a treasure, which we have collected, which we guard and on which we rely. We deal with something much more valuable than money—love. Where money is collected and kept, misunderstanding grows, factions are rampant and love departs. Money and the ways in which people run after it have caused chaos in the world. Base your activities on *dharma* (righteousness and justice). Fill your hearts with *prema* (love). Then I will shower grace and be ever with you. Where is the need for money for *bhajan* (devotional singing), for *dhyāna* (meditation) and for *nagar-sankīrtan* (devotional singing in the streets)? For *nagar-sankīrtan*, you require only legs to move, tongues to sing and hearts to receive the name of God. For special purposes and on special occasions, funds are collected only from members of the *samithi* (center). This has been the rule from the very beginning. It is the very basis of this Organization. For all other activities, you need no funds. You need only a loving heart, a pure heart, a wide heart. Sathya Sai Speaks 10.33: November 21, 1970

I was perusing the reports you gave Me on the points I had placed for your consideration. I must say that your suggestions regarding the raising of funds were uniformly bad. On the point, all of you are of one mind and that is not satisfactory to Me. Money is fundamentally *rajo-guṇa* (quality of passion), fraught



with danger and harm. Like the bees which collect and store honey for a future day, the human too stores and collects money but alas the bees are smoked out and the honey is stolen. I do not agree with any of your ideas to collect and store money. I do not like your going about collecting funds, or raising donations. I assure you that funds will come, provided you sincerely pray for every worthy cause. Have that faith and watch the funds flow in. The sages of ancient times celebrated many yagnas (rituals ceremonies) with no resources other than faith and sincerity. Moreover, I must tell you that not much money is needed for many of the items of work. Yearning in the heart, Name on the tongue— these are enough for bhajan (devotional singing) and nagar-sankīrtan (devotional singing in the streets). The gopīs (milk-maids of Brindāvan) sang the name of God when they churned the pots for butter in the early morning hours. The bangles on their wrists jingled the time. The whir of the rods and the pots provided the background tune and the fragrant morning breeze carried the song into every neighboring ear. The fifteen or twenty who constitute a samithi or sangha (center or group) must be able to put together, without any fuss or fanfare, the money needed for all these activities. You should not draw in anyone as member of the samithi for the sake of the money that he or she may have. Guṇa (qualities) are more valuable than ānās (coins). Money is the root cause of all misunderstandings and factions. Keep it in the background. Give it the least importance. Have love, humility, detachment and service as your funds. Sathya Sai Speaks 8.44: November 21, 1968

Do not plan beyond your capacity and move about with lists from person to person to get funds. By this the institution gets a bad name and you too will not be spared. You may say, “But when Swami comes to our place we must spend a lot on reception arrangements”. Do not involve yourselves in expensive luxury. I would like you to spend any extra money that you have for the feeding of the poor or for any similar beneficial object. (Sathya Sai Speaks 7.18: April 21, 1987)



## Study Circle - Loving God Series

### **Loving Heart, Not Money, Needed for Service - Part 1**

There is suggested pre-reading material for this study circle.

#### **Objective**

Understanding how service with a loving heart leads to loving God.

#### **Quotes**

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#### **Suggested Questions**

1. Why is a loving heart the first prerequisite for service?
2. What is a simple service? Can you recall an instance where you participated in a service project that did not require much money spent?
3. Can you recall a service project where the resources just came through without trying, after you had surrendered to Swami?



4. What is the best service? Why?
5. Can you think of an example of how Swami, our Loving God, had demonstrated proper service?

**Life Application**

Identify a service you could provide during the coming week where having a simple, loving heart is more valuable than having money.

**Affirmation**

Start the day with Love, Spend the day with Love and End the day with Love. This is the way to God.