

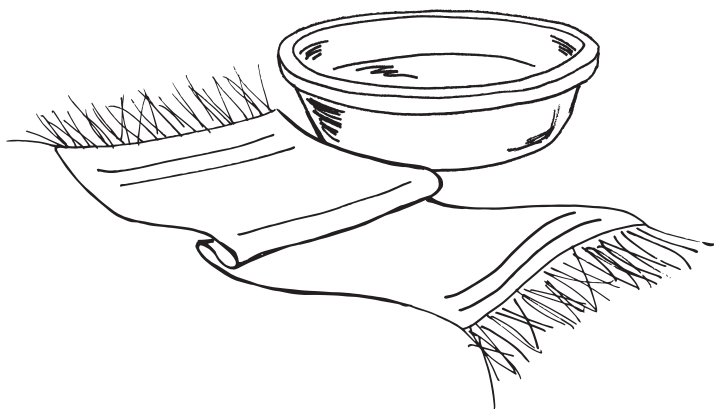
*‘Wisdom in a pint pot! This is a truly great little book. Imagine sitting down with an experienced, godly, wise Christian, who has been pastoring pastors whilst looking after a huge church, and asking him to give you an hour of his distilled wisdom. This is what you have here. I know of no better book on the subject. Christian, if reading this doesn’t bless you, sue me! Warren Wiersbe is always worth reading, and this is him at his best.’*

**Roger Carswell**, *Evangelist and author*

*‘This is a wonderful book that allows ministers to be mentored, challenged and encouraged by an experienced, godly, sympathetic and senior pastor. Warren Wiersbe opens his heart and applies the Scriptures in thirty short chapters, each of which is like a fireside chat with a wise guide. Faithful, biblical exegesis is combined with pastoral warmth and practical realism, and the book is packed with great quotes and illustrations. It does not offer any quick fix solutions to the difficulties of ministry, but rather establishes basic principles. It does not provide clever methods to follow, but calls us to have hearts of compassion and love. This is a book to read slowly, repeatedly, prayerfully and repentantly. I would encourage every minister and aspiring minister to read a chapter a day so that you learn to serve in the way that God wants.’*

**John Stevens**, *National Director, FIEC*

On Being a  
**Servant**  
of God

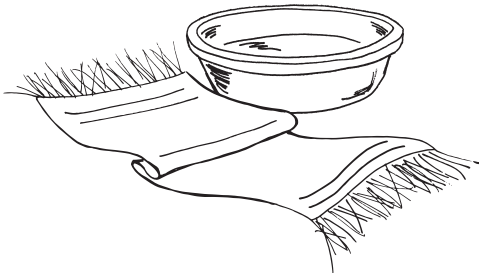


Warren W. Wiersbe

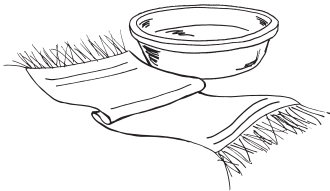
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# Contents

By Way of Introduction .....	1
On Being a Servant of God .....	9
Notes.....	191



## By Way of Introduction



That a new edition of this book is called for is a great encouragement to me. I rejoice that there are believers who want to be servants of God and who are willing to pay the price. I am as fallible as any other human being, but I have done my best to share with you the principles the Lord has taught me. It's been my happy privilege to pastor three churches, teach in the seminary classroom, counsel and pray with a host of God's servants in different parts of the world, and fellowship with some of God's choicest servants from whom I have learned much. 'Such as I have, I give you.'

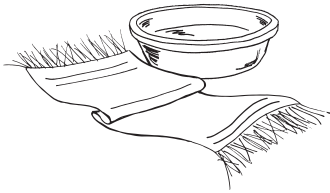
This book is for ministers spelled with a small 'm' as well as for those who are in what we call 'full-time Christian service', that is, Ministers with a big 'M'. Both are essential to the building of God's church, and we are all labourers together with the Lord.

The Bible knows nothing about 'lay' and 'clergy'. We are all one in Christ and seeking to use our gifts for His glory.

The thirty 'chats' in this book deal with some principles of ministry that I wish somebody had shared with me when I was ordained back in 1951. Christian ministry has never been easy, but it seems to be more difficult today in spite of the sophisticated electronic tools that are available. People are still people and churches are still churches; human nature hasn't changed and the enemy is as deceptive and destructive as ever. There are still problem people and people with problems, and like the beggar at the temple door in Acts 3, they expect to receive something from us. May we not fail them!

May you have much joy and fruitful blessing as you serve the Lord of the harvest!

**Warren W. Wiersbe**



Whether you are a volunteer or a full-time Christian worker, I wish I could sit down and leisurely chat with you about your ministry. I obviously can't do that, so I'm doing the next best thing and sharing my thinking with you in this book. Perhaps you're just getting started in your ministry, or you may be a veteran with battle scars. In either case, I trust that what I say will encourage you in the greatest work in the world, serving the Lord Jesus Christ.

Serving God is a wonderful thing if we understand what it is and how God does it through us. Ministering for Jesus Christ can be as uplifting and exciting as hang-gliding, or it can be as burdensome and boring as repeatedly rolling the same rock up the mountain, as Sisyphus did in the Greek myth. No matter how difficult the work or how many times we feel like quitting, we can keep

going and growing *if we minister the way God tells us to in His Word.*

When I began my ministry back in 1950, I'm afraid I didn't have a clear vision of what Christian work was all about. Consequently, I floundered and was frustrated, not knowing exactly what to do or how to evaluate what I was doing. A Roman proverb says, 'When the pilot does not know what port he is heading for, no wind is the right wind.' I was certainly a bewildered pilot! Because I had received excellent training, I didn't lack for methods or ideas; but I wasn't clear as to *principles*. I was on the ocean of life with a road map instead of a compass, and I wasn't sure how to handle the rudder of the ship.

Now, many years and tears later, I think I have a limited grasp of a few of the principles of ministry; and I want to share them with you. As the familiar couplet puts it:

*Methods are many, principles are few;  
Methods always change, principles never do.*

Certainly we need methods to serve God, but we must remember that methods work because of the principles behind them. To adopt a new method just because it worked for somebody else, without first understanding the principles behind that method, is to abandon both the compass and the rudder and start drifting helplessly on the tempestuous sea of service.

If you're frantically searching for guaranteed quick-fix methods, this book isn't for you because ministry is built on *basic principles*, not clever methods. God doesn't want us to have 'ministry by imitation'. He wants 'ministry by incarnation', what Paul wrote about in Philippians 2:13: 'For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.'

Let's begin with a definition of ministry that I've been using for several years. All definitions have their limitations, and this one isn't perfect; but it will at least keep us on the right track as we think together.

*Ministry takes place when divine resources meet human needs through loving channels to the glory of God.*

The kind of ministry this definition is talking about is best illustrated by an event recorded in Acts 3:

*Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, 'Look at us.' So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. Then*



*Peter said, 'Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.' And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them – walking, leaping, and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God (vv. 1–9).*

Here you have the four basic elements of ministry. Peter and John saw a man in great need: he was physically lame and spiritually dead. Manifesting the compassion of Christ, they shared God's power with him; and he was completely healed and soundly converted to Christ. God was glorified, opportunity was given to preach the gospel, and two thousand more people trusted Christ (Acts 2:41; 4:4).

So, if you and I are going to serve Jesus Christ – the way God wants us to minister and the way the apostles ministered – we must (1) know the divine resources personally, (2) see the human needs compassionately, and (3) become channels of God's mighty resources so that (4) God alone is glorified. When God is glorified, His Spirit can work to bring Christ to those who need to know Him. In reaching one individual, Peter was able to reach the masses.

Before you turn to the next chapter, ponder this definition of ministry and examine your own heart.

Do you know God personally and the marvellous resources that are available through Jesus Christ? Are you concerned about the needs of others so that you see them and want to help? Do you have compassion for those with needs? Are you willing to be a channel for God's glory?

*Ministry takes place when divine resources meet human needs through loving channels to the glory of God.*

I suggest you memorise this definition.