

# FÉNELON ON SERVICE AND ON GOD, OUR ONLY NECESSITY

*For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister.*

—SAINT MARK 10:45

ANY one having authority over others must consider these words. It must be genuine service. If we would effectively serve those under us we must bear with their imperfections, correct them patiently, and gently lead them in the way of God. By being humble we can soften needed discipline. We should be all things to all men, never forgetting that we were created to serve them. We must never be discouraged. We must ask God to change their hearts since only He can do it. Examine your relations with those committed to your care and for whom you are responsible before God.

*The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.*—PSALM 23[22]:1

ARE we not ashamed to wish for anything but God? We have the source of all good and still we think we are poor. Even in religion we seek temporal comforts and consolations, regarding our religion as a means of softening our troubles rather than as a way of renunciation and sacrifice; hence all our discouragements. Let us begin to give ourselves to God. In serving Him, never try to bargain about what He will do for you. To suffer a little more or a little less in this short life is no great thing.

What can I lack when I have God? Yes, God Himself is the infinite and only good. The false blessings of the earth only serve to make men unhappy. Nothing is good but the God of my heart Whom I shall carry within me always. Let Him take from me pleasures, riches, honours, friends, health, even life—as long as He does not rob my heart of Himself I shall always be rich. I shall lose nothing; I shall have all. The Lord has sought me in my wanderings. He has loved me when I did not love Him. He has gazed upon me tenderly in spite of my ungratefulness. I am in His hands. He leads me as He pleases. I feel my weakness and His strength; with such a Stay I shall not want.

—François de Salignac de la Mothe-Fénelon (1651–1715),  
Archbishop of Cambrai, in his *Meditations and Devotions*, sel.,  
trans. Elizabeth C. Fenn (London: A. R. Mowbray, 1954), 10, 17–  
18. First published by Morehouse-Gorham, New York, in 1952.

[www.sp-gg.com](http://www.sp-gg.com)

[www.sp-ms.com](http://www.sp-ms.com)

[www.sp-hs.com](http://www.sp-hs.com)

[www.sp-dh.com](http://www.sp-dh.com)

# FÉNELON ON SERVICE AND ON GOD, OUR ONLY NECESSITY

*For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister.*

—SAINT MARK 10:45

ANY one having authority over others must consider these words. It must be genuine service. If we would effectively serve those under us we must bear with their imperfections, correct them patiently, and gently lead them in the way of God. By being humble we can soften needed discipline. We should be all things to all men, never forgetting that we were created to serve them. We must never be discouraged. We must ask God to change their hearts since only He can do it. Examine your relations with those committed to your care and for whom you are responsible before God.

*The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.*—PSALM 23[22]:1

ARE we not ashamed to wish for anything but God? We have the source of all good and still we think we are poor. Even in religion we seek temporal comforts and consolations, regarding our religion as a means of softening our troubles rather than as a way of renunciation and sacrifice; hence all our discouragements. Let us begin to give ourselves to God. In serving Him, never try to bargain about what He will do for you. To suffer a little more or a little less in this short life is no great thing.

What can I lack when I have God? Yes, God Himself is the infinite and only good. The false blessings of the earth only serve to make men unhappy. Nothing is good but the God of my heart Whom I shall carry within me always. Let Him take from me pleasures, riches, honours, friends, health, even life—as long as He does not rob my heart of Himself I shall always be rich. I shall lose nothing; I shall have all. The Lord has sought me in my wanderings. He has loved me when I did not love Him. He has gazed upon me tenderly in spite of my ungratefulness. I am in His hands. He leads me as He pleases. I feel my weakness and His strength; with such a Stay I shall not want.

—François de Salignac de la Mothe-Fénelon (1651–1715),  
Archbishop of Cambrai, in his *Meditations and Devotions*, sel.,  
trans. Elizabeth C. Fenn (London: A. R. Mowbray, 1954), 10, 17–  
18. First published by Morehouse-Gorham, New York, in 1952.

[www.sp-gg.com](http://www.sp-gg.com)

[www.sp-ms.com](http://www.sp-ms.com)

[www.sp-hs.com](http://www.sp-hs.com)

[www.sp-dh.com](http://www.sp-dh.com)

# FÉNELON ON SERVICE AND ON GOD, OUR ONLY NECESSITY

*For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister.*

—SAINT MARK 10:45

ANY one having authority over others must consider these words. It must be genuine service. If we would effectively serve those under us we must bear with their imperfections, correct them patiently, and gently lead them in the way of God. By being humble we can soften needed discipline. We should be all things to all men, never forgetting that we were created to serve them. We must never be discouraged. We must ask God to change their hearts since only He can do it. Examine your relations with those committed to your care and for whom you are responsible before God.

*The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.*—PSALM 23[22]:1

ARE we not ashamed to wish for anything but God? We have the source of all good and still we think we are poor. Even in religion we seek temporal comforts and consolations, regarding our religion as a means of softening our troubles rather than as a way of renunciation and sacrifice; hence all our discouragements. Let us begin to give ourselves to God. In serving Him, never try to bargain about what He will do for you. To suffer a little more or a little less in this short life is no great thing.

What can I lack when I have God? Yes, God Himself is the infinite and only good. The false blessings of the earth only serve to make men unhappy. Nothing is good but the God of my heart Whom I shall carry within me always. Let Him take from me pleasures, riches, honours, friends, health, even life—as long as He does not rob my heart of Himself I shall always be rich. I shall lose nothing; I shall have all. The Lord has sought me in my wanderings. He has loved me when I did not love Him. He has gazed upon me tenderly in spite of my ungratefulness. I am in His hands. He leads me as He pleases. I feel my weakness and His strength; with such a Stay I shall not want.

—François de Salignac de la Mothe-Fénelon (1651–1715),  
Archbishop of Cambrai, in his *Meditations and Devotions*, sel.,  
trans. Elizabeth C. Fenn (London: A. R. Mowbray, 1954), 10, 17–  
18. First published by Morehouse-Gorham, New York, in 1952.

[www.sp-gg.com](http://www.sp-gg.com)

[www.sp-ms.com](http://www.sp-ms.com)

[www.sp-hs.com](http://www.sp-hs.com)

[www.sp-dh.com](http://www.sp-dh.com)

# FÉNELON ON SERVICE AND ON GOD, OUR ONLY NECESSITY

*For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister.*

—SAINT MARK 10:45

ANY one having authority over others must consider these words. It must be genuine service. If we would effectively serve those under us we must bear with their imperfections, correct them patiently, and gently lead them in the way of God. By being humble we can soften needed discipline. We should be all things to all men, never forgetting that we were created to serve them. We must never be discouraged. We must ask God to change their hearts since only He can do it. Examine your relations with those committed to your care and for whom you are responsible before God.

*The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.*—PSALM 23[22]:1

ARE we not ashamed to wish for anything but God? We have the source of all good and still we think we are poor. Even in religion we seek temporal comforts and consolations, regarding our religion as a means of softening our troubles rather than as a way of renunciation and sacrifice; hence all our discouragements. Let us begin to give ourselves to God. In serving Him, never try to bargain about what He will do for you. To suffer a little more or a little less in this short life is no great thing.

What can I lack when I have God? Yes, God Himself is the infinite and only good. The false blessings of the earth only serve to make men unhappy. Nothing is good but the God of my heart Whom I shall carry within me always. Let Him take from me pleasures, riches, honours, friends, health, even life—as long as He does not rob my heart of Himself I shall always be rich. I shall lose nothing; I shall have all. The Lord has sought me in my wanderings. He has loved me when I did not love Him. He has gazed upon me tenderly in spite of my ungratefulness. I am in His hands. He leads me as He pleases. I feel my weakness and His strength; with such a Stay I shall not want.

—François de Salignac de la Mothe-Fénelon (1651–1715),  
Archbishop of Cambrai, in his *Meditations and Devotions*, sel.,  
trans. Elizabeth C. Fenn (London: A. R. Mowbray, 1954), 10, 17–  
18. First published by Morehouse-Gorham, New York, in 1952.

[www.sp-gg.com](http://www.sp-gg.com)

[www.sp-ms.com](http://www.sp-ms.com)

[www.sp-hs.com](http://www.sp-hs.com)

[www.sp-dh.com](http://www.sp-dh.com)