

## **The Sweet Spot of Serving**

### **Ready:**

“Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters. Take the lead in honoring one another. Do not lack diligence in zeal; be fervent in the Spirit; serve the Lord.”-- Romans 12:10-11

### **Set**

When I was a teenager, I played a match I'll never forget. I'd drawn a top seed at a national tennis tournament. My opponent and I battled the purest match I've ever played before or since with points won on effort, not errors. Back and forth were the deuce-ads, neither of us willing to give up. When it was over, I was elated. I had never played that well. She and I hugged, drenched in perspiration. The score? 6-1, 6-1. (For her!) According to the score I had been crushed. It was strange to feel simultaneously exhilarated and embarrassed.

Yet, God taught me a valuable lesson on serving – not aces, not others, but Him. God showed me that while I played, I respected her and her play (love and honor), and I intensely fought for every point (with diligence and fervent in spirit). Because of that, I served Him in that match. And on His scoreboard, I won.

In serving Him, I was in effect also serving my opponent, my teammates and the spectators. And just like the exhilarating feel of hitting the “sweet spot” for a blistering ace, perfectly disguised drop shot or winning point, I had discovered the sweet spot of serving my God. And no win could replace my elation.

### **Go**

1. How does serving Him in your sport serve your opponent, your team and the spectators?

### **Workout**

[Romans 12:9-18](#)

[Mark 12:28-31](#)

### **Overtime**

Lord, even in the midst of competition when it can be the most difficult, help me to be in the sweet spot of serving; Serving You first by displaying love, honor, diligence and fervency in spirit.



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