

Hospitality

A practice to help you move from a self-focused life to an others-focused life as you practically extend God's welcome to others.

Hebrews 13:2 – “Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

Hospitality, or extending God's welcome to others, is one of the most encouraged practices of Scripture. Yet little gets in the way of hospitality more than our own self-consciousness. We may fear inviting those who are wealthy into our home because we are conscious that they live in larger, nicer homes than we do. Some of us say we can't invite others into our homes until we get it cleaned up or unless we can prepare an elaborate meal. Such self-consciousness means that we are not focused on communicating the welcoming grace of God as much as we are thinking about our own status, position, and the perception of others. Nothing will alleviate this self-consciousness like focusing on extending the grace of God through simple hospitality.

Here are a few suggestions:

1. Ask God to open your eyes to those whom you can welcome in his name.
2. Invite guests to your home for a meal. Remember that the focus is not on food, nor the quality of your home and furnishings. The focus is on welcoming these guests.
3. Keep it simple. Seek to be a host that puts others at ease. Don't make such elaborate preparation that you cannot relax and be at ease with your guests. A bowl of soup is just as gracious as a four course meal.
4. Pray that you might be God-conscious instead of self-conscious. The focus is not on what people think of you, your house, or your neighborhood. The focus is on the lavish grace that God has for all who are present.