

Fulfilling Every Phase of God's Plan

Every believer has a divine calling and purpose that extends far beyond simply getting saved and going to heaven. God has a specific plan for your life that unfolds in phases, and understanding this truth can transform how you approach your faith journey.

What Does It Mean to Fulfill Your Ministry?

Many Christians think ministry only applies to pastors or full-time church workers, but Scripture reveals a different truth. The fivefold ministry gifts mentioned in Ephesians - apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers - exist to equip the saints for the work of ministry. If you're doing the work of ministry, then you are a minister.

This calling doesn't require spectacular public displays. God values faithfulness in small things just as much as grand gestures. The key is being a good steward of everything God has placed in your life and recognizing that your significance comes from serving Him, not yourself.

Why Do Many Never Enter Their First Phase?

A sobering truth emerges from the life of Kenneth Hagin, the renowned faith teacher. After years of ministry, God told him he was just entering the first phase of what He had called him to do. Even more striking was God's revelation that "many of my ministers live and die and never enter into the first phase of the ministry I have for them."

This happens because people often focus so intensely on their ultimate calling that they neglect the daily tasks and responsibilities God has placed before them. Others become completely off course because they're not keeping their eyes on Him or abiding under His shadow.

How Do You Progress from Phase to Phase?

The example of Barnabas and Saul in Acts 12-13 provides a powerful blueprint. Acts 12:25 states: "And Barnabas and Saul returned from Jerusalem when they had fulfilled their ministry." They had completed their current phase - serving in the church, running errands, bringing offerings.

Only after fulfilling these seemingly mundane responsibilities did the Holy Spirit say in Acts 13:2: "Now separate to me, Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called

them." Their faithfulness in small things qualified them for their ultimate calling as apostles.

The principle is clear: you'll be ruler over much only when you're faithful in little. Don't despise the daily tasks God has given you while waiting for something more spectacular.

What Are the Basic Requirements for Ministry?

Acts 6 reveals the qualifications the early church looked for when selecting people for ministry roles. They needed to find "seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom" (Acts 6:3).

Building a Good Reputation

Your reputation matters in God's kingdom. This means being someone people can count on, speaking words that build respect, and conducting yourself as a dignitary in God's kingdom. A good reputation isn't about being perfect - it's about being reliable, trustworthy, and growing in godly character.

Being Full of the Holy Spirit

Being full of the Holy Spirit means being intoxicated with God's presence rather than the things of this world. When you're truly filled with the Spirit, it shows in your speech, your wisdom, and your approach to life. This isn't about occasional spiritual highs but a consistent lifestyle of communion with God.

Operating in Wisdom

Wisdom comes from spending time in God's Word and learning to hear His voice. When people come to you with problems, you should be carrying their answers - not just your opinions, but God's solutions. This requires discipline in prayer and Bible study.

What Keeps People from Their Destiny?

Several obstacles can derail believers from fulfilling God's plan:

Wrong Associations

The company you keep significantly impacts your spiritual progress. Avoid murmurers and complainers who will pull you into their negative mindset. Instead, surround yourself with people who are serious about serving God and growing in faith.

Lack of Commitment to Local Church

Many believers try to grow spiritually while remaining disconnected from a local church body. However, abiding "under the shadow of the Almighty" includes coming under the divine order God has established, which includes accountability to spiritual leadership and commitment to God's house.

Focusing Only on Personal Needs

When your prayers and concerns revolve entirely around yourself, you miss the bigger picture of God's kingdom. Part of spiritual maturity involves caring for others, supporting ministry, and being ready to serve wherever needed.

How Do You Take Your Life Seriously?

Recognizing the significance of your calling should motivate you to fight for your spiritual growth. This means:

- Disciplining your body and bringing it into subjection
- Refusing to expose yourself to ungodly influences
- Being willing to leave relationships that hinder your spiritual progress
- Bringing your tithes and offerings faithfully
- Looking for opportunities to exercise faith rather than defaulting to natural solutions

You are worth fighting for because you've been washed in the blood of Jesus and made a child of God. The Spirit of God lives within you, making you something significant in His kingdom.

Life Application

This week, commit to taking your spiritual life seriously by focusing on the fundamentals. Stop waiting for some spectacular calling and start being faithful in the daily responsibilities God has already given you. Examine your reputation in your local church - are you known as someone reliable and full of the Holy Spirit?

Begin building the foundation for your next phase by excelling in your current one. Whether that's serving in your church, growing in prayer and Bible study, or simply being more faithful in the small things, God is watching your stewardship of what He's already entrusted to you.

Ask yourself these questions:

- What kind of reputation am I building in my local church?
- Am I truly full of the Holy Spirit, and does it show in my daily life?
- What "small things" has God given me that I might be taking for granted?
- Am I more focused on my ultimate calling than on being faithful in my current responsibilities?
- What changes do I need to make to position myself for the next phase of God's plan?

Remember, God's plan for your life is huge, and you're called to be part of something that will change lives for eternity. The question isn't whether God has a plan for you - it's whether you'll be faithful enough to see it unfold phase by phase.

Quotes

1. God's desire is not that we start His plan, but that we fulfill every phase of it.
2. Many ministers live and die without ever stepping into the first phase of God's call for their lives.
3. Those who obsess over the destination often miss the daily steps that lead there.
4. Great ministries are built by people who are faithful in the mundane before they are trusted with the miraculous.
5. A life on cruise control will never reach God's full purpose.

6. Don't let your first response be the flesh; let your first response be faith.
7. We don't visit God's Word occasionally—we live by it daily.
8. Satan knows that if he can strike the shepherd, he can scatter the sheep.
9. No amount of success can fill the void created by an unfulfilled calling.
10. Treat every act of worship with reverence—it's holy, not casual.
11. If you walk with murmurers long enough, you'll become one yourself.
12. Choose relationships that strengthen God's call on your life, not compete with it.
13. God's plan for your life is bigger than you think and greater than you imagine.
14. You are worth the fight—fight for freedom, fight for holiness, and fight the good fight of faith.
15. Your reputation is writing a sermon long before you ever preach one.
16. Don't look for the easy road; pursue the path that fulfills God's purpose.
17. A Spirit-filled life should be so evident that people can see it before you say it.
18. The shadow of the Almighty is not a place to visit—it's a place to abide.
19. Every believer should be carrying an answer for someone else's need.
20. We are ambassadors of Christ—sent into this world to bring Heaven's influence to earth.

Verses

1. Psalm 91
2. Acts 13

3. Acts 12:25
4. Acts 13:1-2
5. Acts 6:1-3
6. Psalm 119

Summary

Every believer has a divine calling that unfolds in phases, but many never enter their first phase because they focus on ultimate destiny while neglecting daily faithfulness. The key to progressing from phase to phase is being faithful in small things, just as Barnabas and Saul completed their current ministry before being called to greater works. Building a good reputation, being full of the Holy Spirit, and operating in wisdom are essential qualifications for ministry. Wrong associations, lack of church commitment, and self-focused prayers can derail spiritual progress. Taking your spiritual life seriously means disciplining yourself, being faithful in current responsibilities, and recognizing that God's plan unfolds through consistent stewardship of what He has already entrusted to you.