

MOVING FROM A BECOMER TO A BLESSER

MOVE: Part Four

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“Christ has given each of us special abilities—whatever he wants us to have out of his rich storehouse of gifts...¹¹ Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers.¹² Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.¹³ This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.¹⁴ Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won’t be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth.¹⁵ Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church.¹⁶ He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. (Ephesians 4:7,11–16, TLB/NLT)

THREE KEY CONCEPTS OF CHRISTIANITY

1. Every Person Has a PURPOSE.

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:10, NIV)

2. Every Person Has a PASSION.

Spiritual Gift (Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Cor. 12:8-10, 28-30; Eph. 4:11, 1 Pet. 4:9-11)

Hearth (Deut. 10:12)

Abilities (1 Cor. 12:6)

Personality (Psalm 139:14-16)

Experiences (2 Cor. 1:4)

“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.” (1 Peter 4:10, NLT)

3. Every Person Has a POSITION.

“I planted, and Apollos watered, but God made it grow.” (1 Corinthians 3:6, GW)

“Apollos and I are working as a team, with the same aim, though each of us will be rewarded for his own hard work.” (1 Corinthians 3:8, The Living Bible)

WHY EVERY CHRISTIAN NEEDS TO SERVE

1. *SERVING IS AN ACT OF* WORSHIP.

“And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him.” (Romans 12:1, NLT)

2. *SERVING* BUILDS *THE CHURCH.*

“The Holy Spirit displays God’s power through each of us as a means of helping the entire church.” (1 Corinthians 12:7, The Living Bible)

3. *SERVING* UNIFIES *THE BODY.*

“Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.” (Philippians 2:2, NLT)

4. *SERVING MAKES ME* LIKE JESUS.

“Your attitude must be like my own, for I, the Messiah, did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give my life as a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:28, The Living Bible)

“The greatest among you must be a servant. But those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” (Matthew 23:11–12, NLT)

5. *SERVING* ANCHORS *MY FAITH.*

“But anyone who hears and doesn’t obey is like a person who builds a house without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins.” (Luke 6:49, NLT)

“So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.” (1 Corinthians 15:58, NLT)

“And let us not get tired of doing what is right, for after a while we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don’t get discouraged and give up.” (Galatians 6:9, The Living Bible)

ACTION:
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