

# Fulfilling Ministry: A Heart and Spirit for Service

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New Living Translation

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- Ministry, the service into which you've been called and equipped.
- A devoted servant/slave/ambassador to Christ
- A go-between, a carrier of God's life and will to humanity.
- Sons/Daughters, Kings, Priests
- In the coming weeks recognition for our own ministers.

## A Heart & Spirit for Service

- Why Clean Hands & Pure Heart Series?

Psalms 51:1-13 New Living Translation

1 Have mercy on me, O God,  
because of your unfailing love.

Because of your great compassion,  
blot out the stain of my sins.  
2 Wash me clean from my guilt.  
Purify me from my sin.  
3 For I recognize my rebellion;  
it haunts me day and night.  
4 Against you, and you alone, have I sinned;  
I have done what is evil in your sight.  
You will be proved right in what you say,  
and your judgment against me is just.[a]  
5 For I was born a sinner—  
yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.  
6 But you desire honesty from the womb,[b]  
teaching me wisdom even there.

7 Purify me from my sins,[c] and I will be clean;  
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.  
8 Oh, give me back my joy again;  
you have broken me—  
now let me rejoice.  
9 Don't keep looking at my sins.  
Remove the stain of my guilt.  
10 Create in me a clean heart, O God.  
Renew a loyal spirit within me.  
11 Do not banish me from your presence,  
and don't take your Holy Spirit[d] from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and make me willing to obey you.  
13 Then I will teach your ways to rebels,  
and they will return to you.

- A clean heart and right spirit produces a willingness to minister.
- A passionate response to duty and service.

## Chosen People

1 Peter 2:4-9

New Living Translation

Living Stones for God's House

4 You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God's temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honor.

5 And you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are his holy priests.[a] Through the mediation of Jesus Christ, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God. 6 As the Scriptures say,

"I am placing a cornerstone in Jerusalem,[b]  
chosen for great honor,  
and anyone who trusts in him  
will never be disgraced."[c]

7 Yes, you who trust him recognize the honor God has given him.[d] But for those who reject him,

"The stone that the builders rejected  
has now become the cornerstone."[e]

8 And,

"He is the stone that makes people stumble,  
the rock that makes them fall."[f]

They stumble because they do not obey God's word, and so they meet the fate that was planned for them.

9 But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests,[g] a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

Genesis 2:7

New Living Translation

7 Then the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground. He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils, and the man became a living person.

- Dirt is the lowest thing, God is the highest.

1 Corinthians 1:25-27

New Living Translation

25 This foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest of human plans, and God's weakness is stronger than the greatest of human strength.

26 Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy[a] when God called you. 27 Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful.

## The Ministry of Life

John 3:16

New Living Translation

16 "For this is how God loved the world: He gave[a] his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

- God's ministry to us is LIFE
- All ministry flows out of love God's desire to save His people.

John 20:19-22

New Living Translation

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

19 That Sunday evening[a] the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! "Peace be with you," he said. 20 As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! 21 Again he said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." 22 Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

- We serve because His spirit is now in our bodies, just as the Father’s breath/life in Adam’s lungs.

1 Corinthians 6:17

New Living Translation

17 But the person who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.

Romans 8:15-16

New Living Translation

15 So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God’s Spirit when he adopted you as his own children.[a] Now we call him, “Abba, Father.”[b] 16 For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God’s children.

Romans 12:1

New Living Translation

A Living Sacrifice to God

12 And so, dear brothers and sisters,[a] 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.[b]

- Like the brain sending signals to the body, we must be obedient to serve His spirit with our bodies. **#Illustration**

## I & You

Matthew 25:31-46

New Living Translation

The Final Judgment

31 “But when the Son of Man[a] comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne. 32 All the nations[b] will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left.

34 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. 36 I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.’

37 “Then these righteous ones will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? 39 When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?’

40 “And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters,[c] you were doing it to me!’

41 “Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, ‘Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons.[d] 42 For I was hungry, and you didn’t feed me. I was thirsty, and you didn’t give me a drink. 43 I was a stranger, and you didn’t invite me into your home. I was naked, and you didn’t give me clothing. I was sick and in prison, and you didn’t visit me.’

44 “Then they will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not help you?’

45 “And he will answer, ‘I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.’

46 “And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life.”

Matthew 7:21-23

New Living Translation

True Disciples

21 “Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. 22 On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name

and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’  
23 But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.’

- Why didn't you fulfill ministry (do the will of my Father)?
- I never knew you, servant of sin (One who opposes the will of God)

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