

Sermon Title: Empower (Servanthood)

Date and Speaker: 10 March 2024 Louis du Piesanie

Content:

The sermon delves into the concept of empowerment within the church context, focusing specifically on servanthood. It emphasizes the importance of understanding one's role within the church family and how serving others is a crucial aspect of partnership in the church's vision and mission.

Key Verses:

1. 1 Corinthians 12:7 (NLT) - "A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other."
2. Ephesians 4:11-13 (NLT) - "He gave gifts to men... to equip God's people to do His work and build up the church, the body of Christ."

Key Points with Explanation:

1. **Understanding Spiritual Gifts:** The sermon highlights the diversity of spiritual gifts and emphasizes that everyone has a gift to contribute to the church's ministry.
2. **Purpose of Spiritual Gifts:** Spiritual gifts are given not for personal benefit but for the benefit of others and to produce maturity and stability within the church.
3. **Cautions About Spiritual Gifts:** Various cautions are outlined, including not confusing gifts with natural talents or the fruit of the Spirit and avoiding the projection of one's gifts onto others.
4. **Three Categories of Gifts:** The sermon categorizes spiritual gifts into manifestation, motivational, and ministerial gifts, each serving a specific purpose in the church's ministry.

Discussion Points or Questions:

1. How do you discern your spiritual gifts? Share any experiences or insights.
2. In what ways have you seen spiritual gifts being used effectively within our church community?
3. What challenges have you faced in understanding or using your spiritual gifts? How did you overcome them?
4. How can we encourage one another to discover and utilize our spiritual gifts for the benefit of the church?
5. Reflect on the difference between natural talents and spiritual gifts. How can we distinguish between the two?

Conclusion:

The sermon underscores the significance of recognizing and utilizing spiritual gifts for the edification of the church and the fulfillment of its mission. It emphasizes the need for humility, love, and cooperation among believers in serving one another.

Practical Exercise:

Reflect on your own spiritual gifts and consider how you can actively use them to serve others in the church community. Share your insights with a trusted friend or mentor for feedback and encouragement.

Application:

Ask members of the group to share examples of how they have used their spiritual gifts in the past week or month. Encourage them to continue seeking opportunities to serve others and grow in their gifts.

Prayer and Encouragement:

Close the discussion with a time of prayer, asking God for wisdom and guidance in discovering and using spiritual gifts effectively. Encourage one another to remain faithful in serving and supporting each other in the church's ministry.