

The purpose of life - Empower

“It is **in Christ** that we find out who we are and **what we are living for**... part of the overall purpose He is working out in everything and everyone.” Eph. 1:11 (Mes)

“Everything, absolutely everything... got started in Him and finds its purpose in Him.” Col. 1:16 (Mes)

Encounter

Engage

Equip

Empower

Export

Our Ideas of what is Ministry?

PRE CROSS MINISTRY

POST CROSS MINISTRY

1 Peter 2:9-10 The Message (MSG)

“9-10 But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God’s instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you—from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted.”

1 Peter 2:9 Amplified Bible (AMP)

“9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a [special] people for God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies [the wonderful deeds and virtues and perfections] of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

What is Spiritual Gifts?

1 Corinthians 12 (TLB)

⁴ Now God gives us many kinds of **special abilities**, but it is the same Holy Spirit who is the **source** of them all. ⁵ There are different kinds of service to God, but it is the same Lord we are serving. ⁶ There are **many ways** in which God works in our lives, but it is the same God who does the **work in and through all of us** who are his. ⁷ The Holy Spirit displays God's power through each of us as a means of **helping the entire church**.

Ephesians 4:11-12 (NKJV)

*“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the **work of ministry**, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”*

We all have spiritual gifts

3 Categories:

Ministry Gifts: Ephesians 4:11-12

Manifestation Gifts: 1 Corinthians 12:7-11

Motivational Gifts: Romans 12:6-8

Why do we not serve in Ministry?

Colossians 2:19 New King James Version (NKJV)

“19 and not holding fast to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God.”

Ephesians 4:3-6 Amplified Bible (AMP)

“3 Make every effort to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the bond of peace [each individual working together to make the whole successful]. 4 There is one body [of believers] and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when called [to salvation]— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of us all who is [sovereign] over all and [working] through all and [living] in all.”

Common Statement: “I’m too busy.”

God’s Reminder: “Seek God’s Agenda First”

“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” Matthew 6:33 (NASB)

Common Statement: “I’m Not Qualified”

God’s Reminder: “Rely on God’s Power”

“My power is strongest when you are weak.’ So I will brag even more about my weaknesses in order that Christ’ power will live in me.” 2 Corinthians 12:9 (GWT)

“And now, may the God of peace... equip you with all you need for doing His will. May He produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, all that is pleasing to Him...” Hebrews 13:20-21 (NLT)

Common Statement: “I Am Afraid.”

God’s Reminder: “Trust God’s Plan For Your Life”

“God has made us what we are. In Christ Jesus, God made us new people so that we would do good works. God has planned in advance those good works for us. He had planned for us to live our lives doing them.” Ephesians 2:10 (ICB)

Common Statement: Fear of failure

Common Statement: Fear of rejection

Why must the “Spiritual Gifts” work?

1 Corinthians 9:22-23 (PH)

*“I have, in short, been **all things to all sorts of men** (people) that by every possible means I might **win some to God**. I do all this for the **sake of the Gospel**; I want to **play my part** in it properly.”*

A Win is a changed life

1 Corinthians 9:22 (TLB)

*“Yes, whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so that he will let me tell him about Christ and **let Christ save him.**”*

Church is Family

Conviction versus Obligation

When Am I Rewarded?

“So each of us will have to answer to God for what he has done.”

Romans 14:12 (ICB)

Matthew 16:27

“For the Son of Man will come in His Father's glory with His angels, and then He will repay each one according to what he has done.”

“So don't get tired of doing what is good. Don't get discouraged and give up, for we will reap a harvest of blessing at the appropriate time.”

Galatians 6:9 (NLT)

How Do I Get Started?

“Whoever is a believer in Christ is a new creation. The old way of living has disappeared. A new way of living has come into existence.” 2 Corinthians 5:17 (GWT)

Give in to God's agenda for your life.

Give up some things that you really don't need to be doing.

Give out in service to others.

S – Spiritual Gifts

H – Heart

A – Ability

P – Personality

E – Experience