



Heart

for His

House

Ephesians 2:8-10

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

John 3:16

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Galatians 6:10

So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and **especially to those who are of the household of faith.**

Romans 12:1-8

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. 3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you...

4 For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

“To be a “living sacrifice” is to be fully at God’s disposal. It means, actively, to be willing to obey God in anything he says in any area of life; and, passively, to be willing to thank God for anything he sends in any area of life.”

-Timothy Keller

“The same principle holds true for any one of us. Television “church” is not church; just because thousands of people watch the same service and listen to the same sermon does not make it so. Why not? In verses 3–8 Paul suggests two reasons. (1) As we have seen, the implication of the relationship between verses 1–2 and verses 3–8 is that I cannot fully “renew my mind” without the active help of other believers. I cannot understand what Scripture teaches apart from dialog with others who are reading that same Scripture...”

“...I cannot live the life of a disciple of Christ apart from the nurturing context of a community of believers who encourage me, pray for me, and set an example for me. I cannot discern the blind spots in my obedience to Christ without other believers to point them out to me. Here is where the attitude of arrogance that Paul rebukes in verse 3 can get in the way. We think of ourselves “more highly than [we] ought” and so conclude that we do not need the help of others.”

-Douglas J. Moo

“The Western individualistic tradition can create problems for us at this point. A “Lone Ranger” mentality in our faith can easily set in. I am perhaps as prone to such an attitude as anyone. Naturally shy, loving books more than people, I tend to withdraw from society in general. My status as a seminary professor makes it easy for me to find excuses not to be involved in my local church. I can always claim that I am too busy ministering to others in my writings and in various speaking forums to commit to local church involvement...”

“...Yet I do not think I have good biblical grounds for such an attitude. I believe that I, like all believers, am called to live my faith in the context of a local church. Thus, I have always identified with a local church, tried to keep up my participation in it, and served it in a variety of ways.”

-Douglas J. Moo

1. Prophecy

“The gift of prophecy in the New Testament involves aiding the church by relaying to it truth gained from a “revelation” (see 1 Cor. 14:26, 30). **That truth might be something in the future (e.g., Acts 11:27–28; 21:10–11), but more often denotes an insight into present circumstances.**”

-Douglas J. Moo

1 Corinthians 14:1

Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.

1 Thessalonians 5:20-21

Do not despise prophecies, 21 but test everything;
hold fast what is good.

Revelation 19:10

For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Acts 2:17-18

“And in the last days it shall be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams;
18 even on my male servants and female servants
in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall
prophesy.



CHARLES SPURGEON

1834-1892

Acts 21:8-11

On the next day we departed and came to Caesarea, and we entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. 9 He had four unmarried daughters, who prophesied. 10 While we were staying for many days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. 11 And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'This is how the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'"

Eusebius speaks of this in the same passage that he speaks about Papias:

Polycrates testifies (AD 190) to existence of these daughters and their burial and their father's burial at Hierapolis, "Philip, also one of the twelve apostles, died in Hierapolis, and so did two of his daughters, who had grown old in virginity. And another of his daughters after having passed her life under the influence of the Holy Spirit, was buried in Ephesus."

“Prophecy was treasured in the early church (1 Cor. 12:28; 14; Eph. 2:20; 4:11). The prophets spoke spontaneously to the gathered congregation as the Spirit gave them utterance. The church was then supposed to evaluate that prophecy to see if it squared with apostolic teaching (1 Thess. 5:19–22).”

-Marvin Pate

2. Serving

2 Timothy 1:15-18

You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, among whom are Phygelus and Hermogenes. 16 May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, for he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains, 17 but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me earnestly and found me— 18 may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that day!—and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesus...

2 Timothy 4:19

Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus.

2 Samuel 9:4-5

The king said to him, "Where is he?" And Ziba said to the king, "He is in the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar." 5 Then King David sent and brought him from the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, at Lo-debar...

Machir the son of Ammiel - Machir means "selling, sold".
Ammiel means "the people of God."

Lo-debar - Nowhere, ghetto

2 Samuel 17:27-29

When David came to Mahanaim, Shobi son of Nahash from Rabbah of the Ammonites, and Makir son of Ammiel from Lo Debar, and Barzillai the Gileadite from Rogelim 28 brought bedding and bowls and articles of pottery. They also brought wheat and barley, flour and roasted grain, beans and lentils,[g] 29 honey and curds, sheep, and cheese from cows' milk for David and his people to eat. For they said, "The people have become exhausted and hungry and thirsty in the wilderness."

Proverbs 11:25

The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.

3. Teaching

4. Encouraging

"This ministry of consolation and encouragement is not to be regarded as inferior and of secondary importance. Did we but discern it, we are daily surrounded by lonely aching and sometimes broken hearts."

- J. Oswald Sanders

Isaiah 50:4 (ESV)

The Lord God has given me
the tongue of those who are taught,
that I may know how to sustain with a word
him who is weary.

Morning by morning he awakens;
he awakens my ear
to hear as those who are taught.

Ephesians 6:21-22

So that you also may know how I am and what I am doing, Tychicus the beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord will tell you everything. 22 I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage your hearts.

Colossians 4:7-9

Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. 8 I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, 9 and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you of everything that has taken place here.

Job 4:1-4

1 Then Eliphaz from Teman spoke up: 2 "Would you mind if I said something to you? Under the circumstances it's hard to keep quiet. 3 You yourself have done this plenty of times, spoken words that clarify, encouraged those who were about to quit. 4 Your words have put stumbling people on their feet, put fresh hope in people about to collapse.

5. Giving

2 Corinthians 8:7

“Since you excel in so many ways—you have so much faith, such gifted speakers, such knowledge, such enthusiasm, and such love for us—now I want you to excel also in this gracious ministry of giving”

2 Corinthians 9:10-11

For God is the one who gives seed to the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will give you many opportunities to do good, and he will produce a great harvest of generosity in you.

Yes, you will be enriched so that you can give even more generously. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will break out in thanksgiving to God.

6. Leadership

Nehemiah 7:2

I gave my brother Hanani and Hananiah the governor of the castle charge over Jerusalem, for he was a more faithful and God-fearing man than many.

7. Mercy

Luke 14:12-14

Then he turned to his host. "When you put on a luncheon or a banquet," he said, "don't invite your friends, brothers, relatives, and rich neighbors. For they will invite you back, and that will be your only reward. 13 Instead, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. 14 Then at the resurrection of the righteous, God will reward you for inviting those who could not repay you."

Romans 12:8 (The Message)

“...if you work with the disadvantaged, don't let yourself get irritated with them or depressed by them. Keep a smile on your face.”



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