

# Serving a Purpose

## Exercising Your Set of Skills

March 16, 2025



Today we're learning **how we're supposed to serve, specifically**. Cuz, as we saw last week – serving each other *isn't* an option we choose, it's a *command* we follow! And *that's* because serving *others* actually humbles *our heart* and reveals *our identity* – which allows *God* to sanctify and satisfy us. And as we grow *into* who we were created to be, we also transform the misguided misery of a *helpless human* into the *fulfilling faith* of a soul made whole! But, to assume our *identity*, we have to make sure we're *playing our part* the way it was written, so: **Are you serving your purpose?**



Cuz once we understand *why* serving is our *common command* – all we need to *feel fulfilled* is our *specific assignment*.

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



And since God prepared *specific tasks* for each of us so we could make our *unique contributions*, **we feel complete when we fulfil His will**. Ever see the movie *Chariots of Fire*? It's the true story of Eric Liddell, a devout *Christian* and Olympic *sprinter* who miraculously won a gold medal for Britain and in the film he famously said **"I believe God made me for a purpose, but He also made me fast. And when I run, I feel His pleasure."**



Cuz whether it's *cooking a meal*, *writing a song*, or *doing taxes* – there's a *million* moments where *our abilities* are perfectly suited to meet *someone else's need*; and finding that fit *simultaneously* strengthens our *identity* and our *community*. Which is why *God's* goal is for everyone to find their *individual fit* in the *collective community* of Christ:



For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form *one body* ... **[But]** the body is *not* made up of *one part* but of *many*. ... **[And]** God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as He wanted them to be ... If one part *suffers*, every part suffers with it; if one part is *honored*, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. – 1 Corinthians 12:13-14, 18, 26-27 NIV



We become *like Christ* when we become a *part* of Him. And **we become a part of Christ when we take our place in His plan**. And we *discover* our place when we start *using* our specific skills to serve the *rest* of His *body*. Because **our natural-born talents are pre-planned clues that lead to our God-given purpose**. And once we *accept* the role that God *specifically* prepared *us* to play, the constant *confusion* of *this* life is *replaced* with the perpetual *power* of a life lived with *purpose*!

And since serving is central to the body of Christ, **we can assess our fit by the quality of our service**. Because, if playing *our part* means serving *God's purpose* – **our serving should have the same confidence, faith, humility, gratitude, excitement, joy, and love that defined Jesus' service**.

So, **are you serving with confidence?** If you've found your purpose, you shouldn't be worried that you're in the *wrong* place. Because **you should feel the full power of your abilities.**



Kinda like Liam Neeson in the movie *Taken*. Cuz when the bad guys kidnap his daughter he calmly tells them, **"I don't have money, but what I do have are a very particular set of skills ... Skills that make me a nightmare for people like you ... and I will look for you, I will find you and I will kill you."** Chilling isn't it?! That's the kind of *confidence* we should have when we're serving our purpose! Cuz once we trust that our uniqueness was designed to serve God's specific purpose, we can say, **"I don't have all the answers, but what I do have are a very particular set of skills, skills that make me a blessing to certain people, so I will look for them, I will find them, and I will help them."**

[Like Peter says:] Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. – 1 Peter 4:10 NIV

Y'see, **confidence grows as our actions align with God's design**, cuz we get to see our efforts bear the biggest *fruit* when we play the *part* we were *born* to play! And *that* should build our *faith*!



So, **are you serving with faith?** If you're serving the *purpose* of your *placement*, nothing should shake your *confidence*. Because **you should trust God's plan over your feelings.** Remember, you're just a *part* of the body and your *skills* are meant for a *specific* purpose, but Jesus is the *Head* so we must *believe* only *He* sees where the *body* needs to *be*! Like Paul:

If I were still trying to please *people*, I would *not* be a servant of *Christ*. – Galatians 1:10 NIV

Serving with *faith* means *God's* role is our *goal* because we know **our purpose only reaches its full potential when it's under His control.** And *that* faith is how we temper our *confidence* with *humility*.



So, **are you serving with humility?** If you're *fulfilling* your *specific* assignment to serve, your unique gifts should be accomplishing things you *thought* were *out of your reach*. Cuz **you should recognize God amplifies your impact beyond your abilities.** Remember, they're *gifts* – so using them *effectively* just proves the power of *the Giver*. Because,

Neither the one who *plants* nor the one who *waters* is anything, but *only God*, who makes things grow. – 1 Corinthians 3:7 NIV

**We wield our maximum power when we serve our created purpose** – but when we see that our *effect* is *boosted* by being *in the body*, we should feel *humbled*, and after *that*, *grateful as well*!



So, **are you serving with gratitude?** If you're *using* your abilities to their *full extent*, your *experience* should be a *blessing* – because **you should feel honored that your part is important.** Remember, the *fulfilment* of finding your *place* and *purpose* is only *due* to *God* giving you the *capacity* to seize your big *opportunity* – so *thank the Lord*!

[The same way Paul acknowledges the blessing of his role] I became a servant of this Gospel by the *gift of God's grace* given me through the working of *His power*. – Ephesians 3:7 NIV

Ever been frustrated cuz you *gave* someone a present and they *thank* you but they *don't use it*? Well, **using our gifts shows we value them!** If we're grateful for *our gifts* we should be *eager* to use them!



So, **are you serving with excitement?** If you're *living* the life you were *designed* to lead, your *satisfaction* should *energize* your *actions*. Because **you should be thrilled to participate in perfection!** Remember, *plenty* of people live their *whole* lives *discouraged* by the feeling of *squandered* skills, but in *Christ*, we get to feel *our abilities* come to *full fruition*! So

Never be *lacking* in *zeal*, but *keep your spiritual fervor*, serving the Lord. – Romans 12:11 NIV

It's *exciting* for the *purpose* that reveals *why* you are *who* you are – but it's *more exciting* to see how *your service* fulfills *God's plan*! Cuz bringing *others* hope *isn't* just *energizing*, it's *enjoyable*!



So, **are you serving with joy?** If you can see how *your skills* can play a part in leading *others* to *their purpose*, you *should* be *happy* to do it. Because **you should see your responsibility as your heart's desire.** Remember, when we serve others with our *purpose*, we're *not* just helping *them*, we're letting the Lord *lead us* to the *satisfaction* of *our* true identity. So

Blessed are those ... who *find great delight* in [the Lord's] commands. – Psalms 112:1 NIV

The same way that Eric Liddel said *he* felt *God's pleasure* when he *ran*, *we too*, get to feel *that joy* when **God transforms our ordinary tasks into meaningful service by connecting it to our purpose.** And when we see there's *someone behind* that *joy* we can't help but respond with *love*.



So, **are you serving with love?** If what *you* do for *others* agrees with who *God* created you *to be*, *love* should *motivate* you to serve. Because **you should want to reproduce what you received.** Remember, what's good for *one part* is good for the *whole body*, and because *God's love* is what gave *you* purpose and power, *loving others helps us all*:

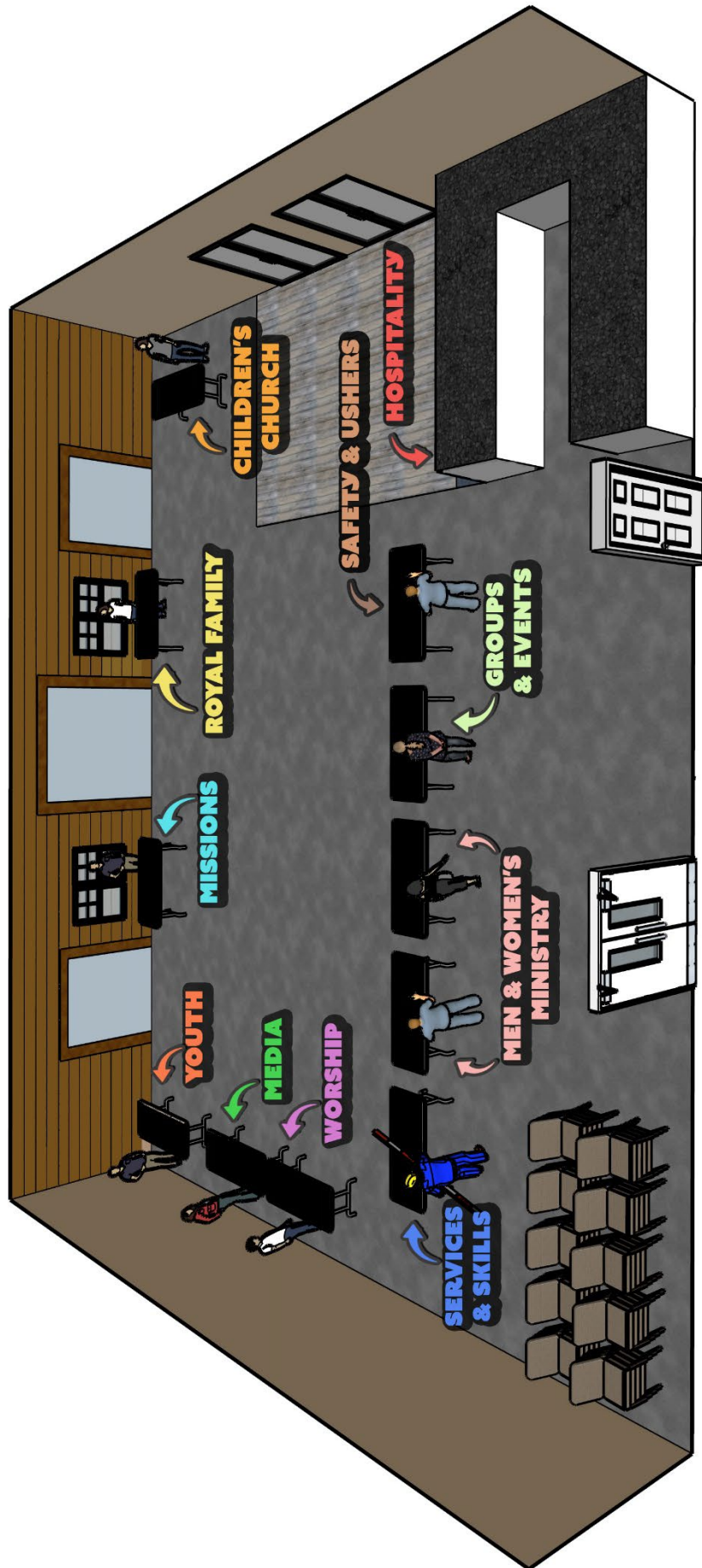
Serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." – Galatians 5:13-14 NIV

When we serve purely for the *benefit* of *others*, expecting nothing *in return*, **we embody the purpose God created us for—and we become the body of Christ that God can reunite with!**

Cuz **genuine service comes from a heart confident in God, filled with faith and gratitude, carried out in humility and joy, marked by eager excitement, and above all, driven by love.** So, even if you're serving, if you *aren't* experiencing *these dimensions* – *expand your efforts!* Ask *yourself* and others what skills *God* has *specifically given* you and then *explore* the opportunities that might *maximize your impact!* Cuz we're gonna end things early again today so *you* can *peruse* all the *ministries* here at His Place – to take a *step* toward *finding your fit* with *God's created purpose*.



# FIND YOUR FIT TO SERVE YOUR PURPOSE



Father God, thank You for loving me in spite of my sin; forgive me and cleanse me by the sacrifice of Your Son, my Savior; and free me and lead me by Your Spirit and Word, as I seek to trust and follow Jesus Christ, as the Lord of my life. Amen.