

SERVE GOD

Feb. 24, 2008

The FBCW DNA is comprised by the “Fourfold Purpose of our Church”

1. **Worship God**
2. **Love Others**
3. **Serve God**
4. **Invite Others**

This session is to further develop and enhance our understanding of and obedience to *Serving God!*

The Goal of Session Four: That you will *Serve God* by **serving** the body of Christ through **personal involvement** in a ministry.

Born with a God-Given Purpose

1. Each person is **uniquely** made and gifted by God.

“So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” (Genesis 1:27)

“What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor.” (Psalm 8:4-5)

2. Every person is created by God with a **specific design** to fulfill God’s purpose for their lives.

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

3. Every born-again believer is **called** by God for the purpose of service.

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10)

Why People Don’t Fulfill Their Purpose

1. Excuse #1: Lack of **ability**

- This excuse is used most often, but it simply is **not true**. Everyone can do **something!**

2. Excuse #2: Lack of **time**

- The way you spend your money and your time reflect your **priorities**.

You spend your time where you spend your money – on your priorities! When it comes to money we are not all created equal. But when it comes to time, we are equal. We all have 24 hours a day to spend.

- Understand this: Time management is not really time management; time management is **priority** management!

Is serving God and others a priority? If it is, you will find the time!

3. Excuse #3: Lack of **concern**

- This is the most bothersome of all excuses because it is a **heart** problem. It reveals our **apathy**.
- Can we say we are committed to Christ when we are devoid of the **compassion** of Christ?

Serving Through Your Giftedness

“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant.” (1 Corinthians 12:1)

A Spiritual Gift is a special ability, given by the Holy Spirit to every believer at their conversion, to be used to minister to others and therefore build up the Body of Christ. (Eph. 4; Rom. 12; 1 Cor. 12-14.)

1. Only **believers** have spiritual gifts.

“But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.” (1 Corinthians 2:14)

2. Every Christian has at least **one gift**.

“For I wish that all men were even as I myself. But each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that.” (1 Corinthians 7:7)

3. No one receives **all** the gifts.

“Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?” (1 Corinthians 12:27-30)

4. No single gift is given to **everyone**. (1 Corinthians 12:29-30)

5. You can't **earn** a spiritual gift.

“But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift.” (Ephesians 4:7)

God gifts you according to His grace, not your merit. Spiritual giftedness is like salvation – it comes by way of God’s grace.

6. The Holy Spirit **decides** what gifts I get.

“But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.” (1 Corinthians 12:11)

7. The gifts I'm given are **permanent**.

“For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.” (Romans 11:29)

8. I am to **develop** the gifts God gives me.

“Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.” (1 Timothy 4:14)

What God graciously gives you is His gift to you. What you do with that it is your gift back to Him.

9. It's a sin to **waste** the gifts God gave me.

“Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.” (1 Corinthians 4:1-2; See also Matthew 25:14-30)

10. Using my gifts glorifies God.

“By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.”(John 15:8)

Christians are supposed to produce spiritual fruit. God’s giftedness to you is your invitation and obligation to join Him in His kingdom’s work!

The Purpose of Spiritual Gifts

1. Spiritual gifts are not for my benefit, but for others.

“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.” (1 Peter 4:10)

2. Spiritual gifts help produce maturity in our church family.

“But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased...but that the members should have the same care for one another.” (1 Corinthians 12:18, 25)

The Christian and Spiritual Work

1. Jesus came to earth to work.

“Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.” (John 4:34)

2. God the Father is at work.

“But Jesus answered them, My Father has been working until now, and I have been working.” (John 5:17)

3. We are saved to work.

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. *For we are his workmanship*, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:8-10, *emphasis mine*)

4. We are joined together with God for the purpose of doing His work.

“We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.” (2 Corinthians 6:1)

5. God’s kingdom needs more workers and we are to pray for them.

“Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest.” (Luke 10:2)

6. We are to work **until Jesus comes**.

“For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.” (Mark 13:34-36)

FACT: God expects us to **produce** spiritual fruit.

“Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear *more fruit*...I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears *much fruit*; for without Me you can do nothing...By this My Father is glorified, that you bear *much fruit*; so you will be My disciples.” (John 15:2, 5, 8, *emphasis mine*)

PRINCIPLE: Our spiritual **blessings** are a result of our spiritual **blisters!**

