

## **FINDING AND STAYING IN YOUR PLACE OF MINISTRY**

### **SESSION 4**

#### *I. Finding Your Place of Ministry*

##### **A. Understanding the supernatural call to the Ministry of Helps**

1. What is your gift, your purpose, your passion?
2. God has empowered and anointed each person to do a particular task. He will help you find your place.
3. **Helps ministers are vital to the smooth operation of each local church** and the outreach ministries of the evangelist, traveling teacher and missionary.
  - a. Within the local church there are many areas of administration and outreach which need to be overseen. Also needed are musicians, church office workers, janitors, and people to run errands.
  - b. The traveling evangelists and teachers need people who can help plan meetings, write letters, drive a vehicle, manage the finances, and provide prayer support.
  - c. The missionary needs people who can pray, write letters, teach classes, build buildings, drive vehicles, run errands, and do many other tasks.
  - d. Even though the tasks themselves may not be glamorous, those whom God has called to the Ministry of Helps will find deep satisfaction in being there to serve and meet the need.
4. How **God invites you to join Him in His work**:
  - a. As you read the Bible and as you listen in prayer
  - b. Through circumstances: if you see a need, you could be the candidate to fill that need.
  - c. Someone might ask you for help - God gave both Moses and Elijah specific names of people to ask for help.
  - d. **If you have a willing heart, but no discovered talent, go to your pastor.**
    - 1) He'll find you a place - find skills you never knew you had.

- 2) God can use your pastor and church elders to lay hands on you and impart an anointing to you so you can do it.

**B. To fulfill your assignment, you must learn to rely on God, not on yourself.**

[The following italicized section is taken from *Experiencing God* by Henry Blackaby]

1. *God's invitation for you to work with Him always Leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action.*
  - a. *Our world is not seeing God because we are not attempting anything that only God can do.*
  - b. *Let the world watch God at work, and He will attract people to Himself.*
2. *You must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what He is doing.*
  - a. *Adjustments include your thinking, commitments, actions, and beliefs.*
    - 1) *You can't stay where you are and go on with God.*
    - 2) *No one can sum up all God is able to accomplish through one solitary life that is wholly yielded, adjusted, and obedient to Him!*
  - b. *Obedience requires total dependence on God to work through you.*

*Without me you can do nothing (John 15:5).*
3. *You come to know God by experience as you obey Him and He accomplishes His purposes through you.*
  - a. *You will be blessed when God does a special, God-sized work through you.*
  - b. *You will come to know Him in ever-increasing ways that will bring joy to your life.*

**C. We are partners with God**

1. **In obedience, we do the natural part, the part we can do. Then God does the supernatural part that *only He* can do.**
  - a. Could Moses lift up his rod? Yes. Could Moses part the Red Sea? No. But as Moses, in obedience, lifted up his rod, God parted the Red Sea.

- b. We are told to lay hands on the sick and they will recover. Can we put our hand on someone? Yes. Can we heal them? No! But as we reach out, in faith and obedience, to touch a sick person, God heals them.
2. It is God who makes us sufficient.
- Such is the reliance and confidence that we have through Christ toward and with reference to God. Not that we are fit (qualified and sufficient in ability) of ourselves... or count anything as coming from us, but our power and ability and sufficiency are from God. [It is He] Who has qualified us [making us to be fit and worthy and sufficient] as ministers... of a new covenant... (2 Corinthians 3:4-6 AMP-Classic Edition).*
3. God will never give you an assignment He will not enable you to complete.

## II. *Staying in Your Place of Ministry*

- A. Your current job is not a stepping stone to better things. Be willing to do it for the rest of your life - if that is what God wants!
- B. If God has called you, you cannot leave. If God hasn't called you, you cannot stay. You must be faithful to do your last project before He'll give you more.
- C. A commitment to God's will
  - 1. Make a firm commitment in your heart to find out God's plan for your life - and fulfill it, no matter what!
  - 2. Jesus made such a commitment to discover and to fulfill God's plan:

*<sup>7</sup> In the days of His earthly life, Jesus offered up both [specific] petitions and [urgent] supplications [for that which He needed] with fervent crying and tears to the One who was [always] able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverent submission toward God [His sinlessness and His unfailing determination to do the Father's will]. <sup>8</sup> Although He was a Son [who had never been disobedient to the Father], He learned [active, special] obedience through what He suffered. (Hebrews 5:7,8 Amp).*

- a. We see Jesus in “strong crying and tears” before the Father, yet choosing to remain in God's will for His life and praying to fulfill the divine call that was upon Him.
- b. Jesus' secret: Keep your eyes on the Resurrection, and you can endure the Cross:

*<sup>1</sup> Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

*<sup>3</sup> For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. <sup>4</sup> You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. (Hebrews 12:1-4 NKJV).*

**D. Intro: Getting along with difficult people**

1. This can be one of the main difficulties to overcome when staying in your place of ministry.
2. Some define a difficult person as "someone who is not exactly like me"!
3. There are four basic temperament types which blend together to form your unique personality.
  - a. Temperament is God-created.
  - b. Every temperament has its unique strengths and weaknesses.
4. A study of temperaments will help you understand why you - and others - often feel, think, and act the way you do.

We will continue from here next week. Next week we will study these 4 temperaments...

## Additional Scriptures & Points *(In case I have time left)*

### WE NEED THE GRACE OF GOD TO BE IN THE MINISTRY OF HELPS

#### 1. Every blessing and gift we have is from the Lord

*James 1:17 (NKJV)*

*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.*

#### 2. How freely God's abundant grace abounds toward us because of our Lord's finished work.

*John 1:16 (Amp)*

*For out of His fullness [the superabundance of His grace and truth] we have all received grace upon grace [spiritual blessing upon spiritual blessing, favor upon favor, and gift heaped upon gift].*

#### 3. There is never a time in your life when God's grace stops flowing to you!

In every aspect of your life—in your successes and failures, in your strengths and weaknesses, in your obedience and even your shortcomings—there is always a fresh supply of God's grace available to you. When you use up one measure of grace, there's more coming to replace it.

Remember, this grace isn't just about forgiveness. It's also about God's power strengthening us and equipping us to live righteously, to overcome challenges, and to become more like Christ. It's the very essence of God's love and power working in and through us.

When we come to Him, we will discover the abundant life He came to give us. This abundant life isn't just about material prosperity but is a rich, full life overflowing with His peace, joy, love, and provision in every area.

*John 10:10 (Amp)*

*The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows].*

**This is the beauty of operating in God's grace—you can accomplish much more without the stress and strain that comes with exercising your own efforts.**

**So keep on doing what God has given you the grace to do, what He has given you a special anointing for!** Whether it is working in finance, or running a business, or working with children, when you operate in your grace gift, you will flow with a supernatural ease and effectiveness that surpasses your natural abilities, and there will also be a rest for your soul.

In His infinite love and wisdom, the Father first bestows upon us His unmerited favor—His grace, which comes with specific gifts, abilities, and callings tailored specifically for each of us. As we receive, embrace, and use our grace gifts in our careers, ministries, and personal lives, God blesses the work of our hands and He rewards us for using the very grace He first gave us.

**This is how our Father sets us up for success!** He delights in seeing us operate in the areas where He's specially equipped us. So when we step out in faith and flow in that supernatural enabling that comes from

Him, He celebrates and imparts even more of His grace to us.

**No matter what your grace gift is (whether you think it's awesome or small and insignificant), it comes from the Father, is unique to you, and could be the very thing He uses to bring about His divine purposes in your sphere of influence!** Just as Joseph was called to serve Pharaoh, **God has positioned you right where you are for a purpose.** Are you a teacher, an accountant, a businessman, or a student? God has given you the grace to be a good success in the specific season you find yourself in.

**Let your works be a testament of His amazing grace!**

Living by grace is not all about feeling good alone without any works. On the contrary, it produces supernatural results in us and through us! This divine empowerment doesn't mean we become passive or idle. Rather, it's the opposite. **When we operate in our grace gifts, we tap into God's supernatural power and strength, allowing us to accomplish far more than we ever could in our own might.**

*1 Corinthians 15:10 (Amp)*

*But by the [remarkable] grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not without effect. In fact, I worked harder than all of the apostles, though it was not I, but the grace of God [His unmerited favor and blessing which was] with me.*

**Another Bible example of how God's grace produces results in our lives is in Daniel 6:3:** "Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because **an excellent spirit was in him;** and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm."

This excellent spirit made Daniel stand out among his peers and caught the attention of those in authority. King Nebuchadnezzar, King Belshazzar, and King Darius all recognized something special in Daniel. And here's **the key: Daniel's excellent spirit was a result of God's grace working mightily in his life!**

Today, **God's grace is available to all believers,** and we, too, can develop an excellent spirit that produces supernatural results in our lives. If you are a business owner, you can use this same principle to assess and reward your employees. Just as how a happy employee produces positive results, an employee filled with God's grace will produce supernatural results!

**God calls those who are already operating in His grace**

**Remember, it's not about the position you hold but about operating in your grace gift.** When we are faithful to use the grace that God has given us, we not only allow ourselves to receive more grace, but we also position ourselves to be used mightily by Him.

When our Lord Jesus called His disciples, He didn't go to the religious schools or the halls of power. Instead, He went to ordinary places where **people were faithfully working** in their everyday lives. He called fishermen while they were fishing, tax collectors while they were collecting taxes, and farmers while they were plowing their fields. Why? Because **these individuals were already engaged with the gifts and abilities God had given them.**

Peter, James, and John were casting their nets when Jesus called them. Matthew was at his tax booth. **They were diligent in their work, using their skills and talents. And it was in that place of faithfulness that Jesus found them and said, "Follow Me."**

Even in the Old Testament, we see this principle at work. Look at Joseph's life. When he was serving in Potiphar's house and later in Pharaoh's court, **his attitude was, "My job is to serve and do my best."** He recognized that where he was at that moment in his life, God had placed Potiphar or Pharaoh as his boss.

This didn't mean Joseph accepted their religion or compromised his faith in God. No, Joseph knew his God, and he faithfully exercised the grace gifts that God had given him. **Through his faithful service, God used Joseph to save not only Egypt but also the nation of Israel!**

*2 Corinthians 5:10 (Amp)*

*For we [believers will be called to account and] must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be repaid for what has been done in the body, whether good or bad [that is, each will be held responsible for his actions, purposes, goals, motives—the use or misuse of his time, opportunities and abilities].*

In the end, at the judgment seat of Christ (2 Cor. 5:10), the criterion is not a person's salvation or sin, but whether you have faithfully used the grace gifts that the Father has given you. **It's about stewardship of the abilities and giftings that He has entrusted to you.**

For instance, if you're an entrepreneur or business owner, your business acumen, leadership skills, and innovative ideas are all gifts from your Father in heaven. When you use these gifts in the marketplace, you see results and feel a sense of fulfillment. But imagine if you also use these gifts for the Lord and His house in your ministry, to further the kingdom or to mentor young believers in godly business practices? That is when your grace gift multiplies its impact and has eternal effect!

If you are at a place where you are not sure what your grace gift is, or if you're doing something at work that you don't find fulfilling, speak to the Lord. Bring your concern to Him and let Him light the way for you. In the meantime, **continue to be diligent and faithful with what is in your hands.** Trust that as you do, **the Lord will honor your faith and open doors of opportunity for you at the right time.**

**SO ACTIVATE YOUR GRACE GIFTS**