

# Sunday Service

17th December 2023

## Topic: Ministry and Calling (Part 3)

**Text: Ephesians 2: 3- 10** - *among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. [4] But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us. [5] even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved) [6] and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, [7] And so God can always point to us as examples of the incredible wealth of his favour and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us through Christ Jesus. [8] God saved you by his special favour when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. [9] not of works, lest anyone should boast. [10] For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (NKJV)*

## Introduction

Let's start this teaching today by discussing our main text, which will begin from verse 3 to gain a much better understanding. From verse 4, we see that it was love that birthed the mercy we enjoy, and progressively it was highlighted clearly that nobody is saved by works but by grace.

We are packaged in Christ so anywhere He is located is where we belong. Hence, constantly Satan, challenges, and problems are under our feet. This is what verse 6 of our scripture is saying to us: "*... we are sitted in heavenly places with Jesus.*"

*"There is an extending riches in God, packaged in Christ that the only way the world can see this dimension of riches is through us."*

The Bible says that the earnest expectation of creation awaits the manifestation of the Sons of God. I pray for you that you will not fail God. Going further in our Scripture, verse 8 explains the fact that even though there is grace available, minus faith it is nothing because it takes faith to tap into grace. God has disappointed every one of your human energies and made it nothing in the presence of His grace. Never say it is by you because no one receives anything except God has given him. This is the dimension of what was said in verse 9 of our scripture. When you understand this dimension, wherever God takes you in life you will begin to see it as a privilege, not as something you deserve. There is nothing any man deserves so if God has allowed you to give to the church, count it as a privilege and honor. God is not beggar neither is the church. If you don't give, another person will give so don't boast. Are you called to come and serve in the church? Run and collect because no one receives anything from God except He gives.

In Exodus, we were given the ten commandments of what we must do and not do. Then, come Hebrews, it was stated that all the laws have been packaged in Christ such that His presence in your heart begins to minister to you personally to live a free life out of the law. The scripture states that you are God's workmanship. Do you know the meaning of workmanship used in that verse? It means that God is still working on you. If you think you are completed, it is zero. The best version of me, you haven't seen because He is still working on me.

Allow me to speak to you, My Father is still working on you, this is not the best yet. I understand that you are going through a lot, but Father is still working on you because, by the time He is done with His work over your

life, He presents you radiant. Has someone looked down on you because of a mistake you made? I tell you that your best version is coming because you are His workmanship. This is a word of encouragement for someone here, He won't give up on you because He is working.

Now, let's go into the teaching proper.

***"You saved to serve. You are saved for an assignment."***

Every believer is called and there are two types of ministries we are called into: Pulpit Ministry or Ministry of the Saints (Market Ministry). As a matter of fact, as I searched, I came to understand that Pulpit Ministry can also be divided into two: i.) As a full time ii.) Bi-vocational.

But beyond that, we delved into the second dimension of calling upon believers where we concluded that we have a Saint ministry. Every believer can't just sit in church without an assignment. Looking back to verse 10 of our scripture, it states that we are created for His good works. If you have been following this series, in the first teaching I explained that it is only good works that the Lord rewards. God does not reward your salvation because you have an ultimate destination of heaven already. Life is good on Earth because what you do here on Earth determines what will be recorded for you in Heaven. You can't afford to trivialize your presence on Earth.

You have been prepared for good work and an assignment even before you were born here on earth. All you need to do is to wake up. He even used the word, "them", which means it is more than one. Your assignment begins to unfold from one-fold to the other, as you fulfill one good work another one will be opened to you. I am praying for someone; may you not waste away.

***"You are created for an assignment."***

In the last teaching, we looked at one out of the five ministries given to the believers, which is the Ministry of Reconciliation. Let's continue in the remaining ministries we have been called to as believers.

## **2. Ministry of Intercession**

### **Galatians 6:2**

*Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. (NKJV)*

The command is to bear one another's burden, it is not backbiting about others. Get to a point as you walk with God that you develop a dimension of interceding for God's people, the church, and even His ministers. The Ministry of Christ is that He intercedes for us because it is stated in His word that He is our mediator.

***"Every believer is called into the ministry of intercession."***

If you see something that is lacking in someone's life, your duty is not to discuss it but to pray it. You intercede with everything you have got in your life for such a person.

**James 5:16-** *Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. (NKJV)*

The prayer of the church is powerful in healing. I have seen different occasions where someone was kidnapped and the church joins hands together to pray for the release of such individuals which eventually happens without ransom.

***"When the Church prays has intercedes, miracles happen."***

They took James, locked him up, and slaughtered him. The King saw the happiness in people after his death, then he took Peter, the Bishop of the church. But God working, they delayed his death and the church awoke and began to pray. Even though they lacked faith, they were still praying. When comes to intercession, it is not your faith again; it is doing the will of God and God is committed to fulfilling it. The Church continued praying and suddenly in the middle of the night, light shone and Peter got his freedom.

### **Acts 12: 10 - 16**

*When they were past the first and the second guard posts, they came to the iron gate that leads to the city, which opened to them of its own accord; and they went out and went down one street, and immediately the angel departed from him. [11] And when Peter had come to himself, he said, "Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel, and has delivered me from the hand of Herod and from all the expectation of the Jewish people. [12] So, when he had considered this, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose surname was Mark, where many were gathered together praying. [13] And as Peter knocked at the door of the gate, a girl named Rhoda came to answer. [14] When she recognized Peter's voice, because of her gladness she did not open the gate, but ran in and announced that Peter stood before the gate. [15] But they said to her, "You are beside yourself!" Yet she kept insisting that it was so. So they said, "It is his angel." [16] Now Peter continued knocking; and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished. (NKJV)*

See how the church failed to believe Rhoda when she told them that Peter was at the door. But thank God, Peter persisted in knocking till the door was opened for him. In prayer, learn to be persistent; and keep knocking until your joy is full.

***"If you did not grow up to intercede for your local church, you are not a correct church member."***

Receive grace to intercede! This generation is so selfish, always about I's and me's. In those days, we have people who pray together. The ministry of the saints is the ministry of intercession.

It is because we are not asking that why we are not getting.

### **3. Ministry of Stewardship in a local assembly.**

I deliberately added 'local assembly' to it because the Ministry of Stewardship is not jumping from one place to another but sitting in one place and being useful. You must belong to a place and be identified with it through service to God. Every unit serving in the church of God is a ministry on its own and until you know this your attitude and disposition will never change. If you are working for God and you do have the knowledge that is a call, you will handle it anyhow.

**Hebrews 6:10.** *For God is not unjust to forget your work and labour of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister. (NKJV)*

God is a rewarder so each time you come to church early in the morning to carry out your duties as an usher, it is a ministry that God will never forget your labour. Every believer is called into ministry so find a place to serve.

I have to understand that service avert several things in your life.

**Exodus 23:24-26 :** *You shall not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do according to their works, but you shall utterly overthrow them and completely break down their sacred pillars. [25] "So you shall serve the LORD your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you.*

[26] No one shall suffer miscarriage or be barren in your land; I will fulfil the number of your days. (NKJV)

The first benefit of service seen in this scripture is that God will always bless your bread that you will never know lack in your life. There is no prayer to it, it is work towards it. When you also serve God, sickness can't have a place in your body. You will be fruitful when you serve and no miscarriage of anything. The Scripture above them caps off everything by saying you will live long if you give yourself to service. I am talking to you sincerely, this is what the Word of God says and I believe it. Just continue serving with all you have, people won't understand but in your life, you will never miss anything good.

*"If you see anything working in a place, it is not just working, people are underneath it working."*

Nothing works without somebody working. There is a blessing in service. I know this because I am a product of service, so I cannot do without serving. I have understood that, if you don't serve, you can't rise. Wake up! God is calling you. Don't waste your destiny. Serve because it is work and ministry. I decree into your life, I banish procrastination in your life.

Many people end up not serving at all in a local church because of procrastination though they have a mind to serve.

#### **4. The Ministry of Discipleship.**

The only pattern in this kingdom to grow any man into maturity is discipleship. It is what grows, and grooms you into maturity so you don't fall prey to the hands of false prophets. I will forever thank God when He

showed me this revelation and I grew ten times more than my colleagues because I surrendered myself immediately after to discipleship.

*"Discipleship opens you up to uncommon maturity and dimensions of God that make you different in your generation."*

**Matthew 28:19-** *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (NKJV)*

It is a ministry we are called to. You see, anyone who does not give room for discipleship ends up bringing up troubles within the church. Discipleship is what grows to become formed into the image of Christ because He becomes your absolute standard. Now, when you have been discipled, it is your responsibility to disciple other individuals and challenge them to disciple others. This is multiplication. Jesus Christ raised just twelve people and you are a product of those twelve who are you raising? Never say you are not called into ministry! We have been called into the ministry of equipping others.

Many church members are babies because they fail to submit themselves to discipleship. This is part of the things that give us the ability to be spiritual giants. Settle for discipleship.

## **5. Ministry of Provision in the local church**

### **Exodus 35:4- 5**

*And Moses spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, "This is the thing which the LORD commanded, saying. "Take from among you an offering to the LORD. Whoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it as an offering to the LORD: gold, silver, and bronze. (NKJV)*



**Verse 29:** *The children of Israel brought a freewill offering to the LORD, all the men and women whose hearts were willing to bring material for all kinds of work which the LORD, by the hand of Moses, had commanded to be done.*

Whatever God will do in the church, He will not look for people outside but those inside. I told my young pastors across different denominations in one of our meetings that stop looking for help outside, your help is inside. The pattern in God's kingdom for making provision available for His church is always to its members. Please note this, members, each time you are allowed to give, it is an opportunity to receive blessings. Forget those social media trends, you can't abuse the standard of God. It stands forever sure. So whenever we stand and announce a need for God, don't ignore it saying God cannot come down to take it or else you will miss your opportunity to be blessed.

Let me say this, if you are in any congregation or any church they asked you to take a loan to give, they have abused you. God is not in support. Giving is an offering among you and it can be a dimension of taking your only belonging and selling it. This is a dimension you can't get to until you are dead to yourself. It is not something done by coercion but by a willing heart because that is what the Lord blesses.

***"When you are bringing your offering for Kingdom provision, it must be your best."***

Your mindset must shift that whatever you have the opportunity to do for God in His church is not to many men but to Him. See that Scripture in Exodus, all of them came bringing to the Lord in fact a time came when Moses said it was enough. I don't like a congregation or fellowship where individuals say they don't have anything to give whenever a need arises. When it comes to giving, you don't use your small mind to rationalize it. Check the next chapter, the people of Israel were willing but they had to

be restrained. I pray that the Lord makes us like that. In the Kingdom, God doesn't depend on Gentiles to build His house, He depends on you and me.

### **Nehemiah 2:20**

*So I answered them, and said to them, "The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build, but you have no heritage or right or memorial in Jerusalem." (NKJV)*

The meaning of prosperity God is giving to you is to arise and build. The five ministries we have considered today require grace to appropriate and fulfil it.

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#### **Prayer.**

Lord, I receive grace and help to fulfil my ministry.