



BE THE BODY

MINISTRY

Spiritual Outcome Defined:

Know and engage one's calling with the passions, spiritual gifts, experience, and resources God has provided

Spiritual Outcome Described:

Knowing one's spiritual gifts is a starting place. We must know the gifts God has given us, the way his Spirit has empowered us, so we can maximize our efforts by leaning into God's strength and power. A spiritual gift is a tool, though, that can be used in a great many ways and a great many circumstances. The carpenter may be skilled in using a whole array of tools, but this does not mean the carpenter knows what he will build. He could build a house, a hospital, a restaurant, or a business.

Likewise, the follower of Christ must be thoughtful and prayerful about their optimal place of impact. James, Peter, John, Paul, and Barnabas were all leaders in the early church. Galatians records, though, how they all recognized the

*"God did not direct His call to Isaiah— Isaiah overheard God saying, "...who will go for Us?" The call of God is not just for a select few but for everyone. Whether I hear God's call or not depends on the condition of my ears, and exactly what I hear depends upon my spiritual attitude."
-- Oswald Chambers*

unique contributions they were called upon to make: *"James, Peter and John, those reputed to be pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the Jews."* (Galatians 2:9). Knowing our ministry is critical.

A person may be a gifted teacher, but the spiritual gift of teaching can be exercised in countless formats. Likewise, the spiritual gift of administration can be used to organize oversight for a church or be used to organize the inner-workings of a relief effort to those impacted by a hurricane. To be sure, a person's ministry may change over the years. God may best utilize a person in one season by directing them to one ministry and then later direct them to another. It's also true that the way we often find our best ministry is by getting involved and trying things. At some point, though, the follower of Christ will have increased clarity and commitment to what he or she is called to do in that particular season. Scripture tells us *"we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."* (Ephesians 2:10). These good works may or may not be formal roles and responsibilities, but they will be known and embraced by those who do them. The authentic follower of Christ will take joy in focus and will make the most of the opportunity God has given to make a lasting and critical difference in the lives of others.

Evidence of this Spiritual Outcome in a Person's Life:

- Consistently asks God for guidance toward maximum impact for his kingdom.
- Can articulate one's calling.
- Has one's calling affirmed by their community.
- Makes sacrifices of time, energy and resources for the ministry God has given them.

Guidance

Read each passage multiple times. Then write your observations about the passage and any thoughts you have from the discernment question. What do you notice in the passage, and what does this reveal about your life?

Isaiah 6:8

Observations:

Discernment Question: How willing and excited are you to do whatever God asks you to do?



Matthew 5:14-16

Observations:

Discernment Question: How do you best shine for Christ?

Matthew 9:35-38

Observations:

Discernment Question: How moved are you by those who do not have God as their shepherd? Why a lot? Why a little?



Luke 22:24-27

Observations:

Discernment Question: Is your life characterized by trying to be great in the world's eyes are by being great in God's kingdom?

John 4:34

Observations:

Discernment Question: What kind of service in the kingdom of God most feeds you?



Acts 1:8

Observations:

Discernment Question: Where are you currently a witness for Christ? How is it going?

Galatians 2:8

Observations:

Discernment Question: Who do you believe you are called to serve?



Ephesians 2:10

Observations:

Discernment Question: To date, what have been some of the good works God has prepared for you? What do you suspect will be good works he has you do in the future?

Ephesians 4:3-16

Observations:

Discernment Question: What is your role in the body of Christ? Be as specific as you can.



Philippians 1:27-28

Observations:

Discernment Question: How are you currently working to advance the gospel in the world? How could you be most effective in doing so?

I Timothy 3:1-7

Observations:

Discernment Question: Are there any current character issues that will limit your ability to serve? If so, what are they? What could you do about them?



I Timothy 4:12-16

Observations:

Discernment Question: How are you developing your giftedness? What are you doing in this season that will make you more effective in the next season?

Next Steps

What are practical next steps you will do from what you have discovered in this survey of Scripture on ministry? Include insights offered from others in your group that could be applied in your own life as well.



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