

Message from November 17, 2013

MAKING YOUR LIFE COUNT

Engaging In Ministry

Romans 12:1-12

The words from **Romans 12:1-12** remind us that God has called us to a life of purpose, a life of holiness, formed to be like Jesus. God expects us to grow and mature in our relationship with Him. We must forge a real faith that brings us to a life of maturity and Christlikeness. That means we must be ready and willing for God to use our lives for His purpose and plan. Let's discover what it means to be engaged in ministry for the Lord.

1. **We minister because we belong to God.**

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship." **Romans 12:1 (NIV)**

"You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body." **1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV)**

"Or didn't you realize that your body is a sacred place, the place of the Holy Spirit? Don't you see that you can't live however you please, squandering what God paid such a high price for? The physical part of you is not some piece of property belonging to the spiritual part of you. God owns the whole works. So let people see God in and through your body." **1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (Msg)**

2. **We minister to fulfill God's purpose and will for our lives.**

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--His good, pleasing and perfect will." **Romans 12:2 (NIV)**

"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 (NIV)**

3. **We minister just like Jesus because we are His body.**

"So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." **Romans 12:5 (NIV)**

"Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant... just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many." **Matthew 20:26-28 (NIV)**

4. We minister in the unique way God made and gifted us.

“We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.”

Romans 12:6-8 (NIV)

“Your hands shaped me and made me.” **Job 10:8 (NIV)**

“Each one should use whatever gift he’s received to serve others.”

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

5. We minister out of love and never for selfish gain.

“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.” **Romans 12:9-10 (NIV)**

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV)

6. We minister in faithful devotion with our eyes on eternity.

“Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” **Romans 12:9-12 (NIV)**

“I have brought You glory on earth by completing the work You gave me to do.” **John 17:4 (NIV)**

“The one thing required of servants is that they be faithful...”

1 Corinthians 4:2 (TEV)

“Well done, good and faithful servant! ...Come and share your master’s happiness!”

Matthew 25:21 (NIV)