

Growth Track

Module 4: How Do I Make a Difference *Student's Notes*

Lesson Two – Serving The Body

Key Takeaway

We have resources and gifts to bless others!

Introduction

1. When we are saved, we become a member of a family – the family of God!
2. We join a community of believers, which is the church. Christ is the head of the church and we're all part of the body of Christ.

All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it.
1 Corinthians 12:27

3. There is a healthy interdependence in the body of Christ. Every person in the church family is meant to serve others as well as receive from others.
4. As each of us does so, the whole body grows together. This brings health, fulfilment, maturity and joy to all!

...growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.
Ephesians 4:15,16

I. GREAT BLESSINGS FLOW WHEN WE SERVE ONE ANOTHER IN LOVE

When individual members serve the body, the whole body is healthy.

...As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.
Ephesians 4:16

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Love and unity in the early church as members served one another resulted in miracles, favour and addition of new souls.

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

*A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed **many miraculous signs and wonders**. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had.*

*They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshipped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity all the while praising God and **enjoying the goodwill of all the people**. And **each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved**. Acts 2:42-47*

II. GOD EMPOWERS US TO SERVE AND BLESS THE BODY OF CHRIST

God gives spiritual gifts to each one of us (Ephesians 4:7, 11-13).

God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. 1 Peter 4:10

The purpose of the gifts is for God's body to be built up.

A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. 1 Corinthians 12:7

We should recognise and use our gifts to bless His body.

Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.

In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly. Romans 12:4-8

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III. OUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS GROW AS WE EXERCISE THEM

Look for opportunities to serve others.

Step out in faith and be prepared to take risks.

Be accountable to your leaders.

Don't allow anything to stand in your way.

1. lethargy
2. procrastination
3. fear
4. impatience in wanting to see quick results
5. discouragement and failures

For example, Paul encourages Timothy not to neglect the spiritual gift within him, which was given to him through prophetic words and the laying on of hands (1 Timothy 4:14).

At another time, Paul likewise encourages Timothy to overcome fear and stir up the gift within him:

This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you. For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1:6-7

Conclusion

1. As we commit to serve one another in the body of Christ, we will experience growth, incomparable joy and true fulfilment.
2. Moreover, we move closer towards fulfilling the call of God on our lives as we develop and steward our gifts.