Equipped For Ministry

Ephesians 4:11-12.

Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors, and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. <u>Acts 1:13-16</u>

These verses teach that all of God's people are ministers. 2 Corinthians 6:4

These ministers are to be equipped by pastors and other church leaders for their ministry. So, no matter who you are, if you have received God's grace through faith in Christ, then you are a minister of Jesus Christ. <u>2 Timothy 3:16-17</u>

This truth points to an obvious question. What is your ministry? One aspect of your ministry is what you do in the life of your church.

We have often failed to see that the ministry of God's people not only includes what they do within the organization of the church but what they do outside of the church Matthew 28:19-20 Matthew 9:37-38

What is your ministry? It is offering your whole life in service to God. It is devoting all that you are to serving people in God's name. It is using all of your talents, gifts, training, and opportunities for God's work of building his church and uniting all things in Christ. It is living every moment for God, for his purposes and glory.

In the Old Testament, priests did two things:

They had the right, privilege, and responsibility to go directly to God. They could pray and talk to God, worship, and fellowship with God. Everybody else had to go through a priest.

The priest had the privilege and responsibility of representing God to the people and ministering to the needs of other people (serving).

Those are the very two things that are true of you and me when you become a believer.

1 peter 2:9-10, Matthew 27:51, 2 Timothy 1:9

Making yourself available

The story of Deborah in the Bible shows us that the Lord calls ordinary people to do extraordinary things that can only be accomplished through the Spirit. <u>Judges 5:6-7</u>

The Lord prepared Deborah in the secret place of her worship, which helped her grow in confidence in hearing God's voice. Ruth 1:17 Esther 4:16, Mark 16:7, Luke 7:38,

God will use whosoever He pleases to use. Luke 24:1-4, Luke 9:54, John 6:70

Women and men of God, it's time for you to be bold and courageous and do the unique and amazing things God is calling you to do. Wherever the Lord has placed you, will you accept the challenge to be a light in the darkness for the Kingdom of God?

Will you encourage others to do it, too? Wake up and rise to shine the glory of God everywhere you go! Matthew 25:23