

• **Sunday 12th March 2023.**

• **FLOURISH SERIES**

• **PART 3**

• **Find your Place**

• **Romans 12**

- **Jeremiah 17:7-8 NIV**

- But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him.
- 8 They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green.
- It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”

Introduction:

Finding our place in the Body of Christ

- Last week we looked at the vine and today we are going to look at the body.
- Transformed Kingdom living calls for lives marked by humility and service through giftedness to the body of Christ.
- In discussing the matter of giftedness,

Apostle Paul reminds us that, just as the physical body is made up of many members, each with a different function, the Church is a body of many members, but closely related and constituting a unity in Christ, with each other having individual functions and responsibilities.

- Our different gifts and abilities should make us love and depend more on one another, and therefore should make us more united as one body in Christ.

Romans 12: gives us a picture on how we can Find our place in the body of Christ. In *verses 1 & 2*, Apostle Paul begins by saying this:

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice,

Holy and pleasing to God this is your true and proper worship.

2 Do not conform 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.

- The first step if we are going to move in the gifts of God is to present ourselves as a living sacrifice.
- In His book receiving the ‘*Gifts of the Holy spirit*’ Bill Subritzky, suggests that,

- *“We must yield our bodies as well as our minds to God.”*
- In other words, if we come to Jesus Christ as little children and receive Him as Saviour, we begin to receive a Spiritual mind.

- Our natural minds cannot understand the mind of God.
- Writing to Romans, Apostle Paul said; “6 *For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. (Romans 8:6-7 NKJV)*

- Apostle Paul also says; *“But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”*

(1 Corinthians 2:14 NKJV).

- The world cannot understand why we give and serve the Church, the flesh cannot understand why we fast, but having transformed mind helps us to *‘prove what is good, and acceptable and perfect will of God.’ Romans 12:2b*).

- **Romans 12:4-5 NKJV** talks about members of the body; “For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.”

1) We find our place in the body of Christ when we discover our God's given gifts as we use them.

a) It is imperative for us to find our place in the body of Christ, you cannot be a loner; you must be a member or part of the body of Christ.

b) Those of us who use firewood know that one log cannot keep the fire burning for long.

c) The first place to start is regular attendance at your local Church where Jesus Christ is Lord and where He is worshipped. This is an essential ingredient in moving in the gifts of God.

2)Take your place because your place is unique to you.

(Romans 12:6-8 NIV)

6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith;

7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

3) Our motivation should be 'Love.'

(Romans 12:9-13)

a) 9 Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction,
faithful in prayer. 13 Share with the Lord's
people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

b) 1 Corinthians 13:1-3 (NIV) If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. **2** If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. **3** If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Conclusion:

I am not sure what God called you to do, but I know that we can flourish as a church if each one of us can find our place in the body of Christ. Sometimes it begins by a simple call, for example the story of young **Samuel and Eli** (1 Samuel 3).

- Some of us are waiting for a Moses experience “*Burning Bush. (Exodus 3)*”
- For others, Elijah’s experience: (*1 Kings 19:11-13*) ‘**Still voice.**’
- God is inviting us to a place of Harvest.
“Then Jesus said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.
(Matthew 9:37 NIV)