



Topic: Fall Discipleship Series “Discipleship that Leads to Service”

Part 5: Equipped to Serve

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Dates: 12/17/2025

Outline

1. God’s word equips us for service

Reference Scriptures: 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Acts 1:8; Ephesians 2:10; Hebrews 13:20-21; Luke 9:23; Romans 12:1-2; John 15:5; Psalm 119:105; James 1:22

- a. Denying yourself
- b. Taking up your cross
- c. Following Christ
- d. Service comes after surrender; Discipleship is formed before ministry is assigned.
- e. **Biblical examples:**
 - (Romans 12:1-2)- Surrender is an offering, not an accident. Transformation comes before assignment; God transforms before He sends.
 - (John 15:5)- Productivity without presence is emptiness. Serving without surrender produces activity without anointing.
 - (Psalm 119:105)- God’s Word gives direction, correction, and clarity. You can’t serve well if you can’t see well.
 - (James 1:22) – Surrendering to God requires that we hearer and doer of the word. By not being a doer of the word, we deceive ourselves.

f. Why discipleship starts with surrender:

- Surrender breaks self-will: a disciple cannot be effective until their will is laid down.
- Surrender produces teachability: God cannot equip a closed heart.
- Surrender prepares character: character built through surrender creates faithful servants.
- Surrender opens spiritual ears: only a surrendered disciple can hear God clearly.

2. The Holy Ghost Empowers Us for Service

Reference Scriptures: Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7; Galatians 5:22-23; Isaiah 61:1

- a. The Holy Ghost gives power, not personality.
- b. The Holy Ghost produces fruit, not flesh.
- c. The Holy Ghost unifies the body across differences.
- d. The Holy Ghost turns servants into witnesses.
- e. **Biblical examples:**
 - (Acts 1:8)- Power is not optional equipment for the believer, it is necessary.
 - (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)- Service becomes a competition when the Spirit is ignored. Service becomes unity when the Spirit is honored.
 - (Galatians 5:22-23)- Service requires more than gifting, it requires fruit. Gifts make service possible, but fruit makes service believable.
 - (Isaiah 61:1)- Jesus anchors His ministry in the anointing of the Spirit. The Spirit doesn't just give power; He gives purpose.

f. Why We Need the Holy Ghost to Serve:

- The Spirit gives power beyond human limitations.
- The Spirit gives boldness to do what fear resists.
- The Spirit unifies gifts, personalities, and callings.
- The Spirit keeps the servant grounded, humble, and fruitful.
- The Spirit protects service from becoming self-driven or flesh led.

3. God places Us in the Body, Where We Are Needed

Reference Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 12:18; Ephesians 4:11-12; Romans 12:4-6; Colossians 3:23-24

- a. Ministry is not about trying harder but leaning deeper.
- b. The Spirit provides endurance, boldness, and effectiveness.
- c. If you feel “not enough,” that is exactly why God gave His Spirit.
- d. **Biblical examples:**
 - (1 Corinthians 12:18)- God never equips you for a place He did not intend to place you.
 - (Ephesians 4:11-12)- The ministry belongs to the whole body, not just a chosen few.
 - (Romans 12:4-6)- Diversity of service is intentional. Frustration in ministry often reveals misalignment, not failure.
 - (Colossians 3:23-24)- Placement is about service to God, not approval from people.

4. Reflection Questions

a. God’s Word Equips Us for Service:

- i. What must the believer do first before serving?
- ii. In what ways/areas do you need to deny yourself to fully surrender to God?

b. The Holy Ghost Empowers Us for Service:

- i. How do you know if the believer has the Holy Ghost?
- ii. In what ways has the Holy Spirit empowered you?

c. God Places Us in the Body Where We Are Needed:

- i. What ministry do you believe God has equipped you with to serve?
- ii. How can you maximize all that God has intended for you to get from serving?

5. Application

- a. Pray and ask God to equip you through His Spirit.
- b. Write down ways you can encourage someone else to serve.
- c. Complete a biblical study on the topic of serving.