

CALLED TO CONTRIBUTE



5 Day Devotional – [Watch: Called To Contribute](#)

Day 1: Freedom to Serve

Devotional

When we hear the word 'freedom,' we often think about the ability to do whatever we want. But God's definition of freedom is beautifully different. In Christ, we aren't freed to indulge ourselves but to serve others with love. This paradox is at the heart of Christian living—our greatest freedom is found in giving ourselves away.

Think about a bird soaring through the sky. It appears completely free, yet it's tethered to natural laws that allow it to fly. Similarly, we experience true freedom when we remain connected to Christ and use our liberty to love others. Without this tether to Christ's love, we don't soar—we crash.

Many of us wake up each day focused entirely on our own needs and desires. We move through life asking, 'How can I take care of me and mine?' But this self-focused existence becomes exhausting. God invites us into something more fulfilling—a life where we're free from self-obsession and free to serve others with joy.

This week, we'll explore how shifting from consumer to contributor transforms not just our church experience but our entire understanding of Christian living. Today, consider: Are you using your freedom in Christ to serve yourself or to serve others?

Bible Verse

"For you were called to be free, brothers and sisters; only don't use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but serve one another through love." - Galatians 5:13

Reflection Question

In what areas of your life might you be using your freedom primarily for yourself rather than to serve others with love?

Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for the freedom you've given me through your sacrifice. Help me understand that true freedom isn't about serving myself but about loving others. Show me how to use my liberty to serve those around me today. Amen.

Notes

Day 2: Designed for Connection

Devotional

Have you ever seen a beautiful stained glass window? Each piece by itself might seem ordinary, but when joined together and illuminated by light, they create something breathtaking. This is exactly how God designed His church to function.

In Ephesians, Paul describes the church as a body with Christ as the head. Every part—every person—has a specific function that contributes to the health of the whole. When even one part doesn't function as designed, the entire body suffers.

This means you are not replaceable! Your unique contribution matters deeply to God's plan for His church. The church isn't meant to be like a restaurant where we sit down, get fed, leave a tip, and walk out. It's a family meal where everyone brings something to share.

God has intentionally designed His church with diversity of gifts and functions. Just as your physical body needs every organ and limb to function properly, the church needs each member actively participating. When we understand this truth, we move from being mere consumers to becoming vital contributors. Today, consider your connection to the body of Christ. Are you functioning as the unique part God designed you to be?

Bible Verse

"From him the whole body, fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament, promotes the growth of the body for building itself up in love by the proper working of each individual part." - Ephesians 4:16

Reflection Question

How might the church be 'limping' because you haven't yet found your place of service within the body?

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank you for creating me with purpose and for a specific role in your church. Help me see myself as a vital part of your body. Show me where I can contribute and help me move from being a consumer to being a contributor. Amen.

Notes

Day 3: Uniquely Gifted

Devotional

God is incredibly creative. Look around at the diversity in nature—no two snowflakes, fingerprints, or sunsets are exactly alike. This same creative God has gifted you in ways that are uniquely yours. Peter reminds us that each one of us has received a gift from God. Notice the inclusive language—not just the pastor, not just the worship leader, not just the obviously talented people—but each one. You have been given specific gifts by God to use in serving others.

These gifts aren't meant to be hidden or hoarded. They're not even primarily for your benefit. God has gifted you so that you can give to others. Your abilities, talents, experiences, and spiritual gifts were designed to be channels through which God's grace flows to those around you.

Imagine a symphony where only one instrument plays while the others remain silent. The music would be incomplete. Similarly, when we don't use our gifts to serve, the church misses out on the fullness God intended.

Your gifts might seem ordinary to you—perhaps hospitality, encouragement, organization, or practical help—but when used to serve others, they become extraordinary expressions of God's grace. Today, consider what gifts God has given you and how you might use them to serve others.

Bible Verse

"Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God." - 1 Peter 4:10

Reflection Question

What specific gifts has God given you that you might be keeping to yourself rather than using to serve others in the church family?

Prayer

God, thank you for the unique gifts you've given me. Help me recognize them clearly and use them generously. Remove any fear or hesitation that keeps me from serving others with what you've entrusted to me. May your grace flow through me to bless others. Amen.

Notes

Day 4: Finding Your Sweet Spot

Devotional

Have you ever tried to force a puzzle piece where it doesn't belong? It might almost fit, but something feels off. Similarly, finding where to serve in the church can sometimes feel like searching for that perfect fit. God has designed a sweet spot for your service—that place where your gifts, God's priorities, and available opportunities overlap. When you find this intersection, serving doesn't feel like a burden but a joy. It energizes rather than depletes you.

Your gifts are the unique abilities, talents, and passions God has given you. God's priorities are revealed in Scripture—caring for the vulnerable, making disciples, building up the church, and more. Opportunities are the specific needs and openings in your local church and community. Finding your sweet spot might require some exploration. You might try serving in the nursery, joining the greeting team, helping with youth, or supporting missions. Some roles will feel more natural than others as you discover where your gifts best align with needs.

Remember, serving isn't just for "super Christians"—it's for every believer. When we all bring our gifts to the table, the family meal becomes a feast that nourishes everyone and glorifies God.

Bible Verse

"And he himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ." - Ephesians 4:11-12

Reflection Question

What steps could you take this week to explore where your gifts, God's priorities, and current opportunities might intersect in your church community?

Prayer

Lord, guide me to the place where you've designed me to serve. Help me see clearly the gifts you've given me and show me where they're most needed in your church. Give me courage to step out and try serving, trusting that you'll lead me to my sweet spot. Amen.

Notes

Day 5: From Consumer to Contributor

Devotional

Imagine attending a potluck dinner where you arrive empty-handed, fill your plate with others' contributions, eat your fill, and leave without helping clean up. Now imagine doing this week after week. This is essentially what happens when we approach church as consumers rather than contributors. The shift from consumer to contributor transforms not just our church experience but our entire spiritual life. When we serve others, three powerful things happen: the body of Christ grows stronger, we fight selfishness in our own hearts, and God receives glory.

Serving others isn't always convenient or comfortable. It requires sacrifice, commitment, and sometimes stepping outside our comfort zones. But the rewards far outweigh the costs. As we serve, we experience the joy of fulfilling our design, the satisfaction of making a difference, and the delight of seeing God work through us.

Like pieces of stained glass, we're each uniquely shaped and colored. Alone, we might seem ordinary, but when joined together with others and illuminated by God's light, we create something beautiful that reflects His glory to the world.

Today, make the decision to move from being merely a consumer to becoming a contributor in God's family. Bring your dish to the table, offer your gifts in service, and help clean up afterward. This is the life of freedom and purpose God has called you to.

Bible Verse

"If anyone speaks, let it be as one who speaks God's words; if anyone serves, let it be from the strength God provides, so that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ in everything. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen." - 1 Peter 4:11

Reflection Question

What specific step will you take this week to move from being primarily a consumer to becoming an active contributor in your church family?

Prayer

Father, forgive me for the times I've approached church with a consumer mindset. Thank you for the privilege of being part of your family. Help me contribute my gifts joyfully and faithfully. Use my service to strengthen your church, fight selfishness in my heart, and bring glory to your name. Amen.

Notes
