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Serve - The Ball Is In Your Court

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The message today is referred to as a "pastorial message", it is the "meat and potatoes" of the local church. It will cause the local church to function smoothly, it allows the church to have outreaches so that things will get done. Everyone has a place in the body of Christ and this scripture gives the types of ministries that will be given. All the gifts are supernatural, but we don't always consider the gift of helps as supernatural, but helps are an anointing resting upon believers in the body of Christ, enabling them to function in the local church or the body of Christ, in a supernatural way that causes everything to flow smoothly.

1 Cor 12:28 "And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, *helps, governments, diversities of tongues." KJV

*helps are supernatural gifts as any others that are given,

Grace has been given to each of us to enable us to function in the ability that God has given us. Jesus gave these gifts to men as He ascended to heaven, these are the gifts that were given, the five-fold ministry; apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. Why were these gifts given? They were to perfect the saints, for the work of ministry and edifying of the body. Who is to do the work? Jesus says that the people must be involved, religion does not necessarily teach this concept, some even believe that certain gifts have been done away with but this is not correct.

Eph 4:7-13 "But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. 8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. 9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? 10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) 11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of

the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:" KJV

Eph 4:12-13 "His intention was the perfecting and the full equipping of the saints (His consecrated people), [that they should do] the work of ministering toward building up Christ's body (the church), 13 [That it might develop] until we all attain oneness in the faith and in the comprehension of the [full and accurate] knowledge of the Son of God, that [we might arrive] at really mature manhood (the completeness of personality which is nothing less than the standard height of Christ's own perfection), the measure of the stature of the fullness of the Christ and the completeness found in Him." AMP

Eph 4:12-13 "Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. 13 This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ." NLT

Eph 4:12-13 "He handed out gifts above and below, filled heaven with his gifts, filled earth with his gifts. He handed out gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher to train Christ's followers in skilled servant work, working within Christ's body, the church, until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ." MESSAGE

All the gifts have been set in the church, but not all have the same gifts. Tongues mentioned here are different than what was given on the day of pentecost.

1 Cor 12:28-31 "And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? 30 Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? 31 But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way." KJV

Paul is explaining what the body of Christ is, that it is not just one member but many. It takes all the members to makeup the total body of Christ. An example was used of a person trying to pick something up from the floor using just one part of his body, showing that it takes all the parts to pick up the object on the floor, but that when one part of the body suffers the total body suffers. It takes the total body of believers working together to make the local church function, one person is not able to do everything. There are people with different gifts, that when used properly, the whole church will function together, not everyone has the same gifting, ex: musicians, singers, piano player or guitars, but as each uses the gift they have, they begin to make beautiful sounds together. God sets the different members in the body, all the necessary workers that are in the church. However, if one member decides to not

function in the gift that God has given, it effects all the other members, the body of Christ, causing blessings to be withheld for a season. We must not let the enemy cause division in the body.

1 Cor 12:14-27 "For the body is not one member, but many. 15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 16 And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 17 If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? 18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. 19 And if they were all one member, where were the body? 20 But now are they many members, yet but one body. 21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. 22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: 23 And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. 24 For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked. 25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. 26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. 27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular." KJV

If we are born again believers, then we are all members of the body, making up the whole body and that we all have a measure of grace from God that will allow us to function together. What is your job? Where do we start? Take advantage of the opportunities that come your way. Learn by serving regardless of what the jobs may be, being faithful in the small things. Helps means: Having Enough Loving People Serving. A simple way to explain the definition of helps.

Eph 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner for the Lord, appeal to and beg you to walk (lead a life) worthy of the [divine] calling to which you have been called [with behavior that is a credit to the summons to God's service,"AMP

It may take us awhile to find out where our calling is and who we are serving, not just numbers, because numbers always represents people with needs and needs have to be met, there are so many different kinds of people with talents that are not being used.

Eph 4:1, 16 "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, 16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." KJV

Moses was so busy trying to take care of all the needs of the children of Israel that he eventually was ready to quit, but his father-in-law gave him instruction on how to distribute the needs of the children to different men who could help him, lighten the load and still meet all the needs that were presented to him. The instructions when set into place allowed Moses to handle the more important claims, freeing him up to do the teaching of ordinances and laws, showing them how they were to walk and the work they must do. He was able to use men closest to him, that could be trusted, who feared God, men of truth to make judgments over the people dealing with the smaller matters. Moses was able to relinquish some of his authority over to the others by changing his priorities. His first job was to pray for them and be an example for the rest of it. Keep in mind that Moses was leading millions of people, it was not a small group of people and probably there was arguments all the time with them.

Exo 18:17-22 "And Moses' father in law said unto him, The thing that thou doest is not good. 18 Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee: for this thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone.19 Hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with thee: Be thou for the people to God-ward, that thou mayest bring the causes unto God: 20 And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do. 21 Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens: 22 And let them judge the people at all seasons: and it shall be, that every great matter they shall bring unto thee, but every small matter they shall judge: so shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear the burden with thee." KJV

We have been learning how to cast our cares, worries and stress over onto Jesus and when we don't do this, it is usually because of pride, thinking that we have control over everything and can handle the problems, circumstances and anything else that might arise, by ourselves. But Jesus wants us to cast those cares over on Him, He wants us to be of good cheer and have peace, not worrying about big or small things, He has overcome the world for us and it is part of our blessing to let go and let God. Many times people will continue to do what they want to do, regardless of the counsel they may receive.

John 16:33 "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." KJV

This scripture is similar to the verses read in Exodus regarding the problems between the different people and was handled in much the same way, dividing the groups into smaller groups but with men who were more qualified than the average men in ministry able to serve, therefore, leaving the leaders of the group free for prayer and ministry of the word.

Acts 6:1-4 "And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations. 2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. 3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. 4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word." KJV

The following scriptures show how the men from different parts of the country came to help David. They came peaceably having the same spirit about them, wanting to join his group and he received them, they were mighty men of valour and captains in the host. Daily there came those to help until there was a great host of them, like the host of God. These men were capable of doing more than just one thing. They were fighters, able to handle different situations, were great in their exploits. They were loyal to David, willing to do anything for him and with him. His kingdom could not grow without helpers, David had three different anointings in his life, by Samuel to be king after Saul, to rule from Hebron and to serve in Jerusalem.

1 Chron 12:1,17-18,21-22 "Now these are they that came to David to Ziklag, while he yet kept himself close because of Saul the son of Kish: and they were among the mighty men, helpers of the war. 17-18 And David went out to meet them, and answered and said unto them, If ye be come peaceably unto me to help me, mine heart shall be knit unto you: but if ye be come to betray me to mine enemies, seeing there is no wrong in mine hands, the God of our fathers look thereon, and rebuke it. 18 Then the spirit came upon Amasai, who was chief of the captains, and he said, Thine are we, David, and on thy side, thou son of Jesse: peace, peace be unto thee, and peace be to thine helpers; for thy God helpeth thee. Then David received them, and made them captains of the band. 21-22 And they helped David against the band of the rovers: for they were all mighty men of valour, and were captains in the host. 22 For at that time day by day there came to David to help him, until it was a great host, like the host of God." KJV

We cannot be true helpers and not support the leader of whatever we are serving, the local church, a job or any other obligation that we have taken on. To be successful there must be helpers, helpers have always been a part of God's plan for everything.

We sometimes think that we need to have an anointing, but until we start functioning with greater responsibility in the gift that we have, we won't be needing another anointing. Most people do not get another anointing because they haven't learned to serve where they are called. Don't draw back but fulfill your gifting, don't be intimidated by others when serving in your gifting, don't let pride get involved. Continue to move forward knowing that God is for you and not against you.

David had prepared everything for Solomon when he turned the kingdom over to him, telling him that there were all kinds of helpers ready to begin work for the kingdom. Every job that needed to be done, there was a skilled worker ready to do it.

God has called all of us to work together, making us able to get the job done.