

## Living Beyond Myself

For David served the purpose of God in his own generation. Acts 13:36

### This is What Life is All About

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.” Ephesians 2:10

### Hearing and Following the Shepherd – John 15:5

In September we focused on Prayer and Fasting as spiritual disciplines, as gifts, God has given us so that we can develop a deeper relationship with Him. As we draw closer to God and develop a deeper walk with Christ we will begin to sense His passion for the world and where He wants us to serve Him. We need to continuously remind ourselves: It's not about me it's all about Jesus!

In John 15:5 Jesus said, “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” In saying this Jesus was making it clear that we must remain close to Him so that He can live His life through us and grow His Kingdom.

Russell Elliot wrote, “There is a divine principal in regard to prayer which runs all through the Scriptures. It is that God is pleased to unite His people with Himself in whatever He is about to do. He first of all leads them to pray, and then does what He intends in answer to their prayers.”

The question we need to ask ourselves is: Along with prayer and fasting how can I hear God and know how He wants me to serve Him?

### The Circle of Life

#### Know

It's important to continuously remind ourselves that we exist to know, love and enjoy our heavenly Father. To know God means first to know about Him, to search the Scriptures and let God tell us who He is. The phrase “I am the Lord” appears over 165 times in the Bible in verses such as Numbers 15:41, Isaiah 41:13, 43:11, 45:7, Jeremiah 9:24, 32:27.

As we begin to know more about God we understand, through Scripture and experience, that we have a personal God who intimately knows us. The song *He Knows My Name* tells us that God is our Father, He knows our every thought, every tear that falls, He knows our name and hears us when we call; we have a personal God! We begin to hear His voice and develop that personal relationship with Him. We know this is possible because in John 10:27 Jesus says, “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”

#### Love

The more we know about God, and the more we know Him we come to ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind’ Matthew 22:37. When this happens we begin to approach God more intimately and call Him Abba which means Daddy or Papa (Romans 8:15, Galatians 4:6).

#### Trust

As we come to know God better and to love Him we discover deep within that we truly can trust Him and the desire to follow Him wherever He leads grows stronger. We come to understand that we must trust God and not ourselves when it comes to serving Him (Proverbs 3:5).

Following the example of the twenty-four elders in Revelation 4:10-11 we develop a desire to bow down before Him and surrender out entire life to Him for His glory and honor.

### **Obey**

As we come to know, love and trust the Lord we sense God working in us and understand deep within the words of Ephesians 2:10, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."

It's exciting to know that God created us for a purpose; He has a mission for us that will glorify Him and help build His Kingdom! We sense the deep truth in Jim Elliott's words, "He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."

### **Follow the Circle of Life and Rise Up!**

God is calling us to be Acts 13:36 Christians who like David did serve the purposes of God in our own generation. As we begin to serve God we will understand how much we must depend on Him and will throughout life follow the circle of life as we continuously seek to know Him, love Him, trust Him and obey Him in an ever-increasing life of devotion and love to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**Memory verse** - Ephesians 2:10 "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."

### **Core Practices Associated With**

4. We encourage every attendee to become a member of a ministry team and promote the "every member a minister" concept. Acts 2:42, 46
8. We believe all believers are gifted by God to serve others to build up the Body of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-13



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