



Apostolic Pentecostal Church of Morgan Park



Theme: Launch! Redefining Our Actions

Using Your Gifts to Glorify God



TOPIC: Giving the Gift That Was Given to You

July 4, 2021

BIBLE MEMORY VERSES: Rom. 12:1; 1Cor. 6:19-20

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.”

“What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own. For you have been bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s”.

BIBLE SUBJECT OF DISCOURSE:

This month’s study is about using our gifts to glorify God. It is important to understand that we receive our gifts by the grace of God, and as good stewards of Jesus Christ, we must use them to serve one another. As one who serves, we acknowledge that we do so only by the strength that God supplies, and our purpose is that “God may be glorified through Jesus Christ and to Him belongs praise and dominion for ever and ever.” (*1 Peter 4:10-11*).

BIBLE PRINCIPLE POINTS:

- We have all received a gift or gifts from God, but before we can successfully give of our gifts to man, we must first *give of* ourselves in worship to God. A giving lifestyle depends on a worshipful lifestyle. Paul defines a Christian’s worshipful lifestyle in **Rom.12:1** when he wrote: “I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, that you present (or give) your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God which is your reasonable service or your *spiritual worship*.” **What is spiritual worship?** When Paul says present your bodies as a sacrifice to God, he is using the language of the Old Testament worshippers. They brought a sheep, a bull, or a pigeon and sacrificed it on the altar as an offering to God.
- Thanks to Christ’s sacrifice on Calvary, the old testament sacrifices are now obsolete. However, Paul admonishes believers to offer spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God **1 Peter 1:2**. Our spiritual sacrifices or worship includes our praise, our possessions

and even our lives. We are not our own, for we are bought with a price, therefore we must glorify God in our bodies and with our gifts. *1 Cor. 6:20, Heb. 13:15-16*

BIBLE LIFE APPLICATIONS:

Giving the Gift That God Has Given to You

A gift is something we are given freely. God given gifts vary from person to person because God made us all different, and together we make up the kingdom. We can identify our gifts by our talents and strengths. Though our gifts are different, our purpose is the same: use them to honor and serve the giver, Christ Jesus, and be good and faithful servants with our talents. We are blessed to be a blessing. (*1 Peter 4:10; Gen. 12:2*)

Let us use our God-given abilities to reach those who don't know Him and give God all the credit for our talents. To use them we must:

Realize that all gift and abilities come from God.

Understand that not everyone has the same gifts.

Know who we are and what we do best.

Dedicate our gifts to God's service and not to our personal success.

Be willing to utilize our gifts wholeheartedly, not holding back anything from God's Service.

God's gifts differ in nature, power and effectiveness according to His wisdom and graciousness, not according to our faith.

Our role is to be faithful and to look for ways to serve others using the gifts God has given us.

Some Ways We Can Give the Gifts God Has Given Us—Rom. 12:6-8

Gift of Prophecy—Speak with as much faith as God has given you

Gift of Serving—Serve others well and with grace

Gift of Teaching—Teach well, happily imparting the knowledge given to you

Gift of Encouraging—Be encouraging and uplifting

Gift of Giving—Give generously in simplicity

Gift of Leadership—Take responsibility seriously and lead with diligence

Gift of Kindness—Do it gladly with tenderness

Gift of Showing Mercy—Do it willingly and forgively

These were just a few of the many God-given gifts. Name as many others as you can and identify your own unique gift.

Once you have identified what your gift is, be grateful for what God has given you and do all you can to use it to the best of your ability. Keep a record of how many times this week you exercised your gift and God was glorified.



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Topic: Physical Movements with a Purpose

July 11, 2021

BIBLE MEMORY VERSES: Ps. 149:3-4; II Sam. 6:14

“Let them praise His name in the dance: let them sing praises unto Him with the timbrel and harp. For the Lord taketh pleasure in His people: He will beautify the meek with salvation.”

“And David danced before the Lord with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod.”

BIBLE SUBJECT OF DISCOURSE:

In this lesson we will be discussing physical movement with a purpose. If you get frustrated when you see people waving their hands, running, jumping, or dancing before the Lord, then you need to understand that they are only fulfilling the requirement of the scriptures, and the Lord takes pleasure in movement when the purpose is praise **Ps. 149:3-4**. From your brain to your joints: it is impossible to not express yourself through some form of physical movement when you *think* of the goodness of Jesus and all He has done for you. Physical movement is simply our expression of love, gratitude, and gratefulness to the great God of our salvation. Our memory verses speak specifically on the physical movement of “**dance**”. Dancing is mentioned often in the Bible and is one of the main physical movements used as a means of worship and praise to God. Today as we will examine the physical movement of dance, we will understand God’s perspective on dance, how it can strengthen our faith, and how it can be a demonstration of God’s grace.

BIBLE PRINCIPLE POINTS:

- **Physical Movement of Dance from God’s Perspective**
Our bodies are not our own, they are God’s. They have been loaned to us. When we borrow something from someone, we take special care to keep it in good condition. That is the same with our bodies. Dancing is usually thought of as a secular activity, but it is a gift in the body that God is well pleased with. The physical movement of dance keeps us

well physically, mentally, and spiritually. Dancing can drive out sorrow, make the heart merry, and build you up (*Jer. 31:4; Ps. 30:11-12*). Many churches have dance ministries now, but there is nothing like the unchoreographed dance of the believer. The believer's physical movement of dance may take on many forms: running, jumping, skipping, leaping, or just shaking. It is when one becomes so enriched in God's presence that the Holy Spirit takes control of your physical motions as well as your spiritual and emotional being (*II Sam. 6:14*). God delights in us when we use the physical movement of dance properly for worship (*Ps. 149:3-4*).

- **Physical Movement of Dance Strengthens Our Faith:**

“According to historical and anthropological research, people dance to express an awareness that is often difficult to express in words.” Most of the time when we see people dancing before the Lord, it is not because they already have the victory, but rather they are believing God and praising in faith for the victory. Think of the times we have used the phrase “Don't wait till the battle is over, shout now”. Through the physical movement of dance, our faith is strengthened as we experience a *personal* encounter with God though we are in a corporate setting (*Ps. 30:11-12*). Dancing engages the mind, the body, and the spirit, and allows us to express ourselves without words. Not only is God glorified but our spirits are uplifted, and through faith we gain inner hope and peace. *Jer. 31:13*

- **Physical Movement of Dance, a Demonstration of Grace**

When we set our minds on the demonstration of God's grace to mankind, and on the actual experience of His grace in our lives, physical movement becomes an automatic expression of our gratitude. Having the undeniable *presence* of God's grace with us in our daily activities and knowing that His grace is sufficient (*II Cor. 12:9*), without hesitation we press in on His grace in times of weakness and infirmities. Relying on God's grace becomes our goal, and every victory through His grace becomes the fuel that ignites our praise and worship. As a result, like David (*II Sam. 6:14*), we dance before the Lord with all our might at the demonstration of His grace. We rejoice in knowing that we are counted righteous by faith, not works. (*Rom. 4:5*)

BIBLE LIFE APPLICATION:

We have established in this lesson physical movement with a purpose (praise) is acceptable and pleasing to God. This week as we focus on the goodness of God's grace, we want to allow the Holy Spirit to take control of our physical bodies and engage us in movement. Do not be afraid to *Dance before the Lord with All Our Might* like King David in our lesson!!! Who knows, we may win some lost soul with our praise.



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TOPIC: Melodious Expressions to Glorify God

July 18, 2021

BIBLE MEMORY VERSES: Ps. 10:33; 96:1-2

“I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live: I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.”

“O sing unto the Lord a new song: Sing unto the Lord, all the earth.

Sing unto the Lord, bless His name: Show forth His salvation from day to day”.

BIBLE SUBJECT OF DISCOURSE:

Every born-again Christian has a responsibility to sing unto the Lord. Listening to the melody of others is not obeying the directive given in *Psalm 96:1-2*.

Remember as we sing, God is listening. When our singing is sincere and coming from the heart, God is moved, for we are “making melody in our heart to the Lord”. We must also sing with thanksgiving. A thankful, joyful heart that means the words being sung, are pleasing to God. (*Col. 3:16*) The goal of our worship should be to follow God’s commands and show Him the love He deserves. (*1Jn. 5:3*) What better way to do so than through our *melodious expressions in song*.

BIBLE PRINCIPLE POINTS:

1. SINGING IN THE BIBLE:

- Melody is a sequence of single notes that are musically satisfying. Singing is more a matter of our hearts than our voices. We sing and make melody in our hearts to the Lord. The sounds we make affect those around us for better or worse. God hears what no one else can. It is the song of the redeemed for our great redeemer. (*Eph. 5:19*)

- Those who led the songs in the temple were trained and skilled in music for the Lord. (*1Chron.25:7*) Throughout scripture, God reminds His people of their tendency to forget His promises, commands, and warnings. Thus, singing was important because it helps us remember words. As Israel was about to enter the promised land, God tells Moses that His people will turn to idols after they enter Canaan. He then tells Moses to teach the Israelites a song, so that “when many evils and troubles come upon them this song shall comfort them”. (*Duet. 31:21*)

2. *SINGING EXPRESSES AND ENGAGES OUR EMOTIONS*

- In every culture music is a language of emotion that helps express what we feel. David writes “my lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to you: my soul also, which you have redeemed. (*Ps.71:23*).
- Jesus implies that music can lead to either dance or mourn. It can draw out a variety of feelings including romance, peace, joy, fear, playfulness, or sadness. Singing helps us feel the truth more deeply. (*Matt. 11:17*).

3. *SINGING REFLECTS THE NATURE OF GOD*

Our Father *sings* over His redeemed people. (*Zeph. 3:17*).

God never promised we would connect with Him through singing but through the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ, that paid for our sins and reconciled us to God. (*Heb 10:19-22; 1 Pe. 3:18*). However, He has appointed singing to be one way we deepen our relationship with Him and others.

BIBLE LIFE APPLICATIONS:

Let us join together and sing unto the Lord a new song of praise and thanksgiving as we proclaim to the earth His wonderful salvation. Let us sing the wonder of His name, for Jesus is great and greatly to be praised for all the things He has done. As we make melodious expressions unto God, let us seek the Lord earnestly and pray that we be filled with the Holy Spirit and that our worship would be from the heart.



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Topic: Limbs Can Help Show Gratitude

July 25, 2021

BIBLE MEMORY VERSES: Ps. 134:2; 1Tim. 2:8; 1Ki. 8:54

“Behold, bless ye the Lord, all ye servants of the Lord, which by night stand in the house of the Lord.”

“I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.”

“And it was so, that when Solomon had made an end of praying all this prayer and supplication unto the Lord, He arose from before the altar of the Lord, from kneeling on His knees with His hands spread up to heaven.”

BIBLE SUBJECT OF DISCOURSE:

According to *Psalm 134:2*, it blesses and honors God when His creatures show gratitude by praising and thanking Him appropriately. As regular church goers we are accustomed to using the phrase “I thank God for the *activity of my limbs*”. Today we want to stop and meditate on that phrase, for truly it is a blessing, and we are so fortunate to have legs to stand, walk, and move about and arms to raise, lift, and carry. Because God has graced us with muscles and mobility, we should speak good of Him, tell the wonders He has wrought, and exalt His name forever. Lifting-up holy hands and kneeling before God was not only the posture for prayer in ancient times, but it was also appropriate for praise, worship and expressing gratitude. As Solomon prayed and interceded for His people He was kneeled before the Lord, and Timothy admonished the New Testament saints to lift-up holy hands in prayer. Thus, we can and should use our limbs to show gratitude to God.

BIBLE PRINCIPLE POINTS:

- What is Gratitude?

Gratitude is pausing to notice and appreciate the things that we often take for granted. Gratitude glorifies God as we exalt not the gift but the giver. It helps us realize that all we have comes not because of us, but from God. Gratitude is taking a moment to reflect on how fortunate we are just to have our limbs. We could have ALS, better known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, or some other neuromuscular disease that would cause progressive weakness and loss of muscle and mobility. Gratitude helps us see God's grace. It opens our spiritual eyes, and we are compelled to use our limbs to offer praise and thanks. Through our expressions of gratitude, we reach more and more people and God receives more and more glory. (*II Cor. 4:15*).

- **Using Our Limbs to Show Gratitude Puts Us in God's Will**

There is a beautiful cycle in giving God thanks: the more we thank Him, the more we see Him working in us and around us. It helps us sense His presence, His personal care, and His perfect timing. Every good and perfect gift comes from God (*James 1:16-17*).

Gratitude puts us squarely in God's will. We often make God's will out to be some big mystical plan when sometimes it is simply obedience and thanksgiving. Part of God's will for us is to be thankful. When Peter and John prayed for the lame man and his feet and ankles received strength, the first thing he did was use his limbs to show gratitude. "And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God." (*Acts 3:8*) Remember to always be grateful (*1Thess.5:18*). Imagine what would happen if we just leaped up right now and praised God for "the activity of our limbs"!

- **Using Our Limbs to Show Gratitude Brings Peace**

Get rid of the worrying and count your blessings. Gratitude helps us see that the hand of God is over our circumstances. When we allow our limbs to take us into the temple and we kneel before the Lord with extended our arms in prayer and praise, He gives us supernatural peace. "Do not be anxious for anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your heart and mind in Christ Jesus" (*Phil. 4:6-7*).

- **Using Our Limbs to Show Gratitude Deepens Faith and Leads to Joy.**

Keeping a record of God's past faithfulness is a faith boost when we face new difficulties (*Romans 1:20; Ps. 119:16*). The overflow of gratitude is joy. Realizing God's abundant goodness, even in hard times is a gateway for joy (*Ps. 126:1-3*). Using our limbs to praise God defies Satan's lies. Satan's schemes are as old as the garden of Eden when he questioned Eve. Satan focused on Eve's lack of true gratitude for all the abundance God had provided. It is up to us to use our limbs to show our appreciation to God for what He has already done in our lives. Gratitude makes us realize God has given us far more than we deserve. A heart that is truly, grateful is full of joy. (*Ps. 138*).

BIBLE LIFE APPLICATIONS:

Gratitude helps us live in the present and it is our testimony. It opens our eyes to the simple beauty of ordinary days. It lets us see each day and each moment as a gift. (*Eccl. 7:10*). Let us use our limbs to thank God openly and acknowledge what He has done for us, so we can show a personal, caring God to the world around us. Let us show our gratitude for what we have based on who we know (*Ps. 105:1*).

References: goexplorethebible.com, biblestudytools.com, couldn'tkeepit.wordpress.com