



GIFTS – COMMISSIONED BY GOD

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27 November 2022

Church Alive

We are on our journey in our series Church Alive. We're trusting that each one of us will be awakened in our God-given gifts and callings in a fresh way and begin to serve one another and make a difference in our city.

Commissioned by God

Introduction

Where did this Church Alive journey start?

What is the dream? What was on God's heart?

We studied Ephesians together – great themes / great promises / so rich, but we needed to revisit some of the practical application.

Key scriptures:

Ephesians 2:10 We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

What are the good works He has prepared for you to walk in? (Next week)

Ephesians 4:15,16 Christ is the head and we are the whole body – joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, which causes growth of the body so that it builds itself up in love.

What part is supposed to be your share?

Ephesians 4:7 Grace **was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.**

Each one – none are excluded! (Possibly different measures, but all gifted!)

How are you using your gifts to contribute to the effective working of the whole body?

The dream is to have every single person in the body using the gifts that God has given them to actively pursue the call that God has placed on their lives.

(Some will serve in the church; some will serve outside the church - in the community or marketplace; some will even serve **in both places. It doesn't matter. All will be embraced, supported, celebrated** as we become His deployed people.)

1. How did we move forward? (The four phases – culmination today)

Phase 1 - Identity – to know we're loved and created by God for a purpose

Created by God; Called by God; Loved by God; Destined by God – for a unique purpose

I am loved by God. God had relationship / sonship in mind / men and women living as His children.

Why was identity the starting point? (Sonship is so key for fruitfulness – Corne made this clear last Sunday).

Confidence in God is important; as a son of God / daughter of God, you have something to offer.

We are created for relationship; and created for a purpose. In relationship I hear His instruction and I do His will. I fulfill my purpose as part of His body.

Phase 2 – The Body – The importance of being connected relationally in the body of Christ

Walking together across generations; the value of mentoring and discipleship

Why was this idea of the body so important? Because God gives gifts in the context of the body, for the building up of the body and because none of us have been given all that everyone needs. You are not a one stop shop. We need others to complement us and to complete the body. We need others to complement us and to complete the assignment. I am part of a team. This keeps us humble and dependent. Gifts are given for the building up and the encouragement of others.

This is not about me. He gets the glory - as we together represent Him well; as we together represent His fullness.

Phase 3 – The Spirit – **Discovering our gifts and being released into God’s call on our lives** was never going to be a mental exercise / something I just needed to figure out. I need to hear from the Holy Spirit.

God fills me with His Spirit; I can hear His voice; He instructs me.

Walking with Him is a privilege; listening to Him is what I want as my lifestyle; (Letting Him show us what He wants to do through us is our approach.)

You can hear His voice; you can be led by Him...

Let Him give me gifts; let Him show me what gifts I have; let Him speak His instructions and His call to me.

My prayer is: Lord, give me a heart to hear and a heart to do!

Phase 4 – Gifts – The Holy Spirit gives me gifts so that I can fulfill His purposes; He gives me gifts so that I can fulfill my purpose.

We are all gifted by God! Grace gifts / motivational gifts (Romans 12) / gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12) / five fold ministry gifts (Ephesians 4).

We want to understand and discover our gifts and use them well. We please Him when we don’t neglect the gifts that He has given, but rather activate and increase and multiply them.

God’s gifts are not given for my personal benefit – they are active in my life for the benefit of others.

Gifts discovery tool – My personal journey card:

My personal journey card questions:

What are your natural talents and strengths?

What are your passions (or special interests)?

What are the key experiences that have shaped you?

What are your spiritual gifts?

What has God spoken to you (through scripture / prophecy / words or pictures)?

How would you describe your life's calling?

(What does that look like? Hebrews 11 – Great variety – heroes of the faith – they all received a good testimony because they believed God and did what He called them to.)

2. Where are we today? (Consecration)

Today we complete the formal process of discovery that we have been on together. But aspects of this are the journey of a lifetime.

Today we choose God first / Kingdom first / His destiny / His design / His call / His purpose – above all else! (Matthew 6:33) (Romans 12:1-2)

Every child of God is an ambassador. Some are more willing than others. Some are reluctant. But today we can choose God's purposes first.

We consecrate ourselves to God for His purposes. I am Yours Lord! I am willing to be deployed in Your Kingdom!

Are you willing to use everything that God has given you, for the sake of His Kingdom?

No excuses / no reservations. This is what consecration is all about.

Go anywhere / go anytime / do anything.

3. What is needed next? (Commissioning)

Commissioning / activation / unlocking / release!

(This is NOT a place of arrival, of mission accomplished)

Definitely a new phase.

This commissioning could be the final phase as you step into your call, BUT commissioning is very often the start of something – saying yes to an idea that still needs a lot of work.

Definition of commissioning: to authorize the production of something; to choose someone to do a specific piece of work

Launch day: NASA launch: What happens on that day? Overcome resistance and get going.

I am available. I am ready. I want to get going. **Isaiah's confession:** Here am I – send me! (Isaiah 6:8)

Remember our mission statement here at CCA – we are deployed everywhere!

CCA Mission Statement:

We are a diverse people, united in Christ; deployed everywhere advancing God's Kingdom by living the way Jesus showed us to live and influencing others to do the same.

There may be something in the body that God is challenging you to participate in. This is just one aspect of activating your gift.

If so, please complete a We Serve form (available at the Info Desk); a ministry leader will get in touch with you. This could be a great starting point as God develops you for a next level of **deployment, but it can't be used as an excuse / or an easy way out of a more challenging assignment** in the community.

Today is a day of commissioning – a key launch moment for the journey ahead!

This was the dream 6 months ago – **a people discovering their gifts and being activated in God's call**, serving His purposes for their lives.

Practical steps today:

Worship; present yourself to God; give yourself to Him (completely); consecrate yourself to Him; ask Him to speak / show you next steps; you can complete the slip of paper on your seat. [This is what I sense God calling me to do...]

We will conclude this time with a prayer of consecration that I will lead us in.

We will then be ready for a release and a commissioning. Wynand, as the leader of the team of elders, will pray a prayer of commissioning over us all. After that we will encourage all of you to come forward to receive specific prayer. You can place your paper in the boxes provided as you come forward. The elders and their wives and the pastoral team will be available to pray.

This prayer activation is for all of us.

You may want prayer for

- **Clarity regarding God's call**
- Empowerment for a task you want to engage in (courage / boldness)
- Agreement, to bring to pass something you sense God calling you into
- Release into a specific ministry or assignment that you are ready to step into
- Surrendering your old selfish life and giving yourself to God, to do things His way, as you surrender your life to Christ

When we have completed this time of prayer & commissioning, we will then draw the service to a close.

God wants to do something significant here this morning. **Don't disqualify yourself; give yourself.**

Don't hang back; step in. Don't be in a hurry. Let's trust God to move and to do the releasing / unlocking / activating / commissioning that He wants to do.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What are the good works God has prepared for you to walk in?
2. Are you dependent on others in the body or a "one stop shop"? How do you use your gift in the Body – do you work together with others/in a team?
3. Are there any gifts God has given you that you are neglecting? If so, how can you become fruitfully engaged in them in the church or other environments?
4. What do you sense God is calling you to do?