

## Empowered to Serve

September 24, 2017

John 15:1-8

**As Believers, we have been empowered to serve, therefore:**

### 1) We must be reminded we have no power of our own.

*For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!*  
**Romans 7:22-24**

*Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

**Philippians 4:11-13**

On my own I have nothing to give the Lord.

### 2) We must be reminded that God's power is in us.

*But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*  
**Acts 1:8**

*I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the **hope of glory**.*

**Colossians 1:24-27**

### 3) We must yield to the power (abide) moment by moment.

**Think of an envelope.**

*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

**Philippians 2:5-11**

*But all their works they do to be seen by men...*

**Matthew 23:5a**

**Attitude + motivation = condition of my heart.**

If one is off, both are off (attitude or motivation) then we will be off.

When we fail to yield to God and His power we bring forth sin and selfishness. Our desire should be to always abide in Christ. However, when we fail, what should our next step be? Repentance and get back at it.

Conviction is a good thing. Don't get down when conviction comes, rather deal with it and be thankful you feel such conviction.

To whom or what are you abiding in?

**4) We must realize Jesus didn't come to be served, but to serve; what about us?**

Are we serving ourselves and our own selfish desires or are we serving our spouse, kids, coworkers, and other church members?

Why is it easy for us to talk about football, hunting, shopping, and the like? It's something we enjoy, something we like to do, it brings us pleasure. Does God bring us such pleasure? Does knowing and walking with Him with matter to us? Do we spend more time with the Lord and serving others or on our selfish desires?

**Flow of John 15:**

**-Jesus is the vine.**

**-We are to abide.**

**-Pruning happens with good fruit and its sometimes ugly, painful and isn't pretty.**

**-The question is will we abide, what will we do?**

**Prayer Focus:**

- **I would realize I have no power on my own.**
- **I would yield (abide) in Christ.**
- **I would be a server. (spouse, kids, classmates, teacher, coworkers, and church)**
- **I would commit to fast from now till Christmas (14 weeks) for:**
  - **Personal revival**
  - **Asking how I can serve those around me**
  - **Revival in our Church**