

### **Week 3: Discovering Your Place (Pastor Theresa)**

September 27-28

Have you ever stopped to think about why you're here - really here? No just on this earth, but in this very season of your life? Last week, we learned that each of us was created for a unique purpose. We also learned that God doesn't create accidents - He creates assignments. Turn to your neighbor and say, "You have an not an accident you're an assignment." Turn to your other neighbor and say, "You're more than a masterpiece - you're on a mission!"

As a review let's read again Ephesians 2:10 ,

***"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago" (Ephesians 2:10 NLT).***

Today, we will examine the fine details of this masterpiece. Not only were we created on purpose as God's masterpiece, we were created with purpose for His plan!

Our gifts, passions, and personality were given to us on purpose and with purpose to be used by God for HIS plan! So to better understand ourselves we should ask a very significant question. What is God's masterpiece plan?

#### **The Transforming power of the Gospel!**

One of our main passages of scripture for today's message can be found in Romans 12. What struck me most was when I looked in my Bible and read our main scripture in context, starting with Romans 12:1. The heading in for this chapter was "The Heart of the Matter: Total Transformation"

So what is God's master plan? Turn to your neighbor and say, "Total transformation!"

Romans 12:1 says we are to become living sacrifices wholly and pleasing to God. When we present our selves to him in this manner, this is a our true and acceptable worship unto the Lord. Verse 2 goes on to instruct us to NOT conform to the world but to be TRANSFORMED by the renewing of our minds. This is how we will learn God's perfect will for our lives which is good and pleasant.

And just before the Apostle Paul gets into our theme verse, he gives us an important word that I dare not skip found in verse 3,

***“Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don’t think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us” (Romans 12:3 NLT).***

Why is this so important? Yes, we are a masterpiece and yes, we've been gifted - but if we don't stay humble, pride can creep in and we can become big-headed. We can become narcissistic and make the focus all about our gifting. So before Paul even starts talking about the gifts, he brings a warning. I, too, want us to take heed to this warning. Don't loose focus on what it's all about - God's masterplan - Total Transformation!

Turn to your neighbor and say,

**“Don’t focus on the gift - focus on the goal!”**

Before we learn about the gifts, I want to take a brief moment to talk about an acronym we use to help people understand themselves and Discover their place. And that's S.H.A.P.E. which was founded by Rick Warren at Saddleback Church. This morning I am merely going to mention them. In the future we will be offering a full DCAT class which will help you to dig deeper into discovering your fit.

S - Spiritual Gifts (God-given abilities for all believers to serve effectively both inside the church and as the church; spiritual gifts assessment)

H - **Heart** (your passions and desires, this is what motivates you and what you love to do)

A - **Abilities** (Natural talents and skills that you possess or have acquired, which prepare you for specific tasks)

P - **Personalities** (your unique mental and emotional makeup, including your instinctive behaviors and responses that fit God's purposes; there are various assessments you can take ie Myers Briggs, DISC, Eneagram, Working Genius)

E - **Experiences** (Life experiences, both spiritual, educational, and professional, that have shaped you and prepared you for ministry)

So now let's break down what the Bible says about the spiritual gifts. Romans 12:4-5 says,

***“Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's Body. We are many parts of the one body, and we all belong to each other” (Romans 12: 4-5 NLT).***

WE ARE EACH A UNIQUE PART OF CHRIST'S BODY - AND WE BELONG TO EACH OTHER

***“In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the***

***responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly” (Romans 12:6-8 NLT).***

WHATEVER GIFTS YOU’VE BEEN GIVEN IT’S TO BE USED TO **DO THINGS WELL.**

(notice its plural; you are not limited to one)

Not only are you to use your gifts to do things well, we must realize that our gifts were never meant for us but to serve others. Let’s read 1 Peter 4:10-11

***“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Ament” (1 Peter 4:10-11 NLT)***

Our abilities should be faithfully used in serving others; none of the gifts were for our own exclusive enjoyment. Paul is speaking to two possible groups of people in this passage, the first being those who feel that they have no special talents at all. To you, Paul is saying everyone one has been given a gift, and you are not exempt. To the other extreme, he is speaking to those who are well aware of their abilities and believe that they have the right to use their abilities as they please according to their desires or preferences. To this group, Paul is saying NOPE - it isn’t for you and for your pleasure; its for others to serve and help them.

Imagine a relay race. If one runner keeps the baton and never passes it, the team wouldn’t win, right? Well, your gift is similar. it’s meant to be passed on to help others, not held onto for one’s self. In other words, your gift is meant to be passed not possessed.

If it's YOUR passion, it's YOUR worship, it's YOUR gift and it's your purpose, what is yours, or what you possess can quickly become an idol and begin to possess you!

Remember what Romans taught us, we are one body and belong to one another! It's about God's master plan, and now Ephesians is taking it a step further. It's about God's gift operating and moving through you! God speaks through you, God serves through you, God heals through you.

Now watch this, if each of us is a part of one body, our gifts must work together to reveal HIM, to reveal GOD'S GLORY!

Think of a symphony orchestra. If every musician played a solo at the same time, it would be chaos. But when each plays their part in harmony, the music becomes powerful and beautiful. In the same way, when we align our gifts under the leading of the Holy Spirit, we create a melody of God's love that the world can not ignore. They illustrate know him by our unity. They will know him by our love.

We are many parts that make up one body to REVEAL the glory of God! This is his master plan of evangelism, this is his master plan of total transformation! AND YOU are needed! You may be sitting here today or watching online and you are the missing piece of the puzzle! It's time to stand up and be counted, it is time to discover your place, and more importantly, it's time to take your place as HIS MASTERPIECE in HIS MASTERPLAN!

It all begins with Jesus' example. He was born into this world for a purpose. And ultimately, that purpose was to die on behalf of many. And today we celebrate and remember His sacrifice on the cross.

Before our closing prayer, we felt it appropriate to enter a time of communion with Christ! For without him, now of what we have been discussing would be possible. [INVITE USHERS TO COME FORWARD]

He willingly laid down His life in service and sacrifice. He came to fulfill his purpose, and demonstrated walking in the power of the Holy Spirit to exercise his gifts. How do we know that? He says it himself that he has fulfilled the prophecy in Isaiah 61:1,

**“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, for the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed” (Isaiah 61:1 NLT).**

You and I have been set free to be of service and it is only through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ!

Heavenly Father, thank you for your Son, Jesus. Thank you for his body, broken for us. Thank you for your sacrificial love. As I eat this bread, I remember my savior Jesus Christ and I receive your resurrection life, health, and strength.

[You may eat the bread]

And now, thank you, Jesus, for Your precious blood that was shed for us on that day, cleansing us and making us whole. Thank you for the new covenant of everlasting life You established with us through your sacrifice and obedience on the cross.

[You may drink the cup]

Heavenly Father, as we leave here, send us into the world in peace. Give us the strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness of heart, through the power of your Spirit.

[Transition into prayer for those responding to message]

[Thank all for coming, communicate with us through connection card, discuss in small groups and at in the refreshments area, ushers will be collecting cups as you leave]

### **Ohana Group Discussions:**

1. Total Transformation – Romans 12 talks about being a “living sacrifice” and letting God renew our minds. What’s one area in your life where you sense God is inviting you to think differently or be transformed right now?
2. Gifts with a Goal – We heard, “Don’t focus on the gift, focus on the goal.” Why do you think it’s easy to get more excited about our gifts than about serving God’s bigger plan? How can we keep our hearts humble as we use our gifts?
3. Your S.H.A.P.E. – Spiritual gifts, Heart (passion), Abilities, Personality, Experiences all help us discover our place. Which one of these stands out to you the most right now, and why? How have you seen God use one of these in your life to bless someone else?
4. Part of the Body – Romans 12 reminds us that we all belong to each other like different parts of one body. What’s one way you can use your gifts this week to encourage or serve someone else in the “body of Christ”?

