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Sermon Notes

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## **Every Member Ministry**

What is the greatest investment ever made?

Some would point to the real estate purchase in 1626 of an island by a Dutch fur trader named Peter Minuit and his fellow Dutch from a group of Lenape Indians for a collection of trade goods (including beads and perhaps some farm implements) with 60 Dutch guilders... an amount of between \$100 and \$1000... of course that island was Manhattan, and the total value of that real estate today would be close to \$200 billion.

The essence of a great investment is that it grows and gives far greater value than what was originally invested.

Recent experience has shown that there are no certain investments in the financial world... some estimates place the total loss in retirement savings from the stock market turmoil at roughly \$2 TRILLION!!!

And frankly, even if that money hadn't been lost, one incontrovertible fact stands over every financial investment: **YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU**

Or, as Job put it:

***Job 1:21 "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart***

God is calling on us to invest ourselves for His Kingdom... to give our time and effort in service to see Him build His church

In this way we are making the greatest investment we possibly could... one that will last for eternity

***1 Corinthians 3:8 The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor.***

Defeating the "80-20 Rule"

80% of the work is done by 20% of the people

## I. Discover Spiritual Gifts

### A. God Calls Us to Invest Our Lives in Eternity

***John 15:16*** *You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit-- fruit that will last.*

***1 Corinthians 3:10-15*** *By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. <sup>11</sup> For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup> If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, <sup>13</sup> his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. <sup>14</sup> If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. <sup>15</sup> If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.*

### B. Life is About Good Works... and No One Can Do Our Good Works for Us

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

### C. God Has Equipped Every Christian for a Pattern of Ministry... Not Just Random Good Works

#### 1. Spiritual gifts passages

##### a. Ephesians 4:7-13

***Ephesians 4:7-13*** *But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. <sup>8</sup> This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men." <sup>9</sup> (What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? <sup>10</sup> He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) <sup>11</sup> It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

***Ephesians 4:16*** *From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*

##### b. Romans 12:1-8

***Romans 12:1-8*** *Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of*

worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will. <sup>3</sup> ¶ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. <sup>4</sup> Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup> We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. <sup>7</sup> If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; <sup>8</sup> if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

c. 1 Corinthians 12

*1 Corinthians 12:4-12 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup> There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. <sup>7</sup> Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. <sup>8</sup> To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. <sup>12</sup> ¶ The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ.*

d. 1 Peter 4:10-11

*1 Peter 4:10-11 Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. <sup>11</sup> If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.*

2. Doctrinal summary

- a. Spiritual gifts are special abilities given by God through Christ by the Spirit to Christians
- b. Each Christian has some spiritual gift package—arrangement of gifts—that enable him/her to play a role in the Body of Christ

- c. Spiritual gifts are essential to the growth of the Body of Christ from immaturity to maturity
- d. Spiritual gifts must be used by Christians or they are of no benefit to the Body
- e. Each of us will be held accountable for the way we use our gifts

#### D. Discover Your Own Gifts

1. Study the variety of gifts described in the NT

**Administration:** the gift that enables a believer to formulate, direct, and carry out plans necessary to fulfill a purpose. Biblical References: I Corinthians 12:28, Acts 14:23.

**Artistry:** the gift that gives the believer the skill of creating artistic expressions that produce a spiritual response of strength and inspiration. Biblical References: Exodus 31:1-11, Psalm 149:3a.

**Discernment:** the gift that motivates a believer to seek God's will and purpose and apply that understanding to individual and congregational situations. Biblical References: John 16:6-15, Romans 9:1, I Corinthians 2:9-16.

**Evangelism:** the gift that moves believers to reach nonbelievers in such a way that they are baptized and become active members of the Christian community. Biblical References: Matthew 28:16-20, Ephesians 4:11-16, Acts 2:36-40.

**Exhortation:** the gift that moves the believer to reach out with Christian love and presence to people in personal conflict or facing a spiritual void. Biblical References: John 14:1, II Timothy 1:16-18, III John 5-8.

**Faith:** the gift that gives a believer the eyes to see the Spirit at work and the ability to trust the Spirit's leading without indication of where it all might lead. Biblical References: Genesis 12:1-4a, Mark 5:25-34, I Thessalonians 1:8-10.

**Giving:** the gift that enables a believer to recognize God's blessings and to respond to those blessings by generously and sacrificially giving of one's resources (time, talent, and treasure). Biblical References: II Corinthians 9:6-15, Luke 21:1-4.

**Hospitality:** the gift that causes a believer to joyfully welcome and receive guests and those in need of food and lodging. Biblical References: Romans 12:13, Romans 16:23a, Luke 10:38.

**Intercession:** the gift that enables a believer to pray with the certainty that prayer is heard and when requests are made, answers will come. Biblical References: Matthew 6:6-15, Luke 11:1-10, Ephesians 6:18.

**Knowledge:** the gift that drives a person to learn, analyze and uncover new insights with regard to the Bible and faith. Biblical References: I Corinthians 12:8; I Corinthians 14:6, Romans 12:2.

**Leadership:** the gift that gives a believer the confidence to step forward, give direction and provide motivation to fulfill a dream or complete a task. Biblical References: Romans 12:8, John 21:15-17, II Timothy 4:1-5.

**Mercy:** the gift that motivates a believer to feel deeply for those in physical, spiritual, or emotional need and then act to meet that need. Biblical References: Luke 7:12-15, Luke 10:30-37, Matthew 25:34-36.

**Music--Vocal:** the gift that gives a believer the capability and opportunity to present personal witness and inspiration to others through singing. Biblical References: Psalm 96:1-9, Psalm 100:1-2, Psalm 149:1-2.

**Music--Instrumental:** the gift that inspires a believer to express personal faith and provide inspiration and comfort through the playing of a musical instrument. Biblical References: Psalm 33:1-5, Psalm 150, I Samuel 16:14-23.

**Pastoring** (Shepherding): the gift that gives a believer the confidence, capability and compassion to provide spiritual leadership and direction for individuals or groups of believers. Biblical References: I Timothy 4:12-16, I Timothy 3:1-13, II Timothy 4:1-2.

**Service** (Helps): the gift that enables a believer to work gladly behind the scenes in order that God's work is fulfilled. Biblical References: Luke 23:50-54, Romans 16:1-16, Philippians 2:19-23.

**Skilled Craft:** the gift that enables a believer to create, build, maintain or repair items used within the church. Biblical References: Exodus 30:1-6, Exodus 31:3-5, Ezekiel 27:4-11.

**Teaching:** the gift that enables a believer to communicate a personal understanding of the Bible and faith in such a way that it becomes clear and understood by others. Biblical References: I Corinthians 12:28, Matthew 5:1-12, Acts 18:24-48.

**Wisdom:** the gift that allows the believer to sort through opinions, facts and thoughts in order to determine what solution would be best for the individual believer or the community of believers. Biblical References: I Corinthians 2:6-13, James 3:13-18, II Chronicles 1:7-11.

**Writing:** the gift that gives a believer the ability to express truth in a written form; a form that can edify, instruct and strengthen the community of believers. Biblical References: I John 2:1-6, 12-14, I Timothy 3:14-15, Jude 3.

## 2. Take a spiritual gift test

3. MOST IMPORTANTLY: Get involved in a variety of ministries; observe both your own reactions and those of the body of Christ

## II. Develop Spiritual Gifts

### A. Spiritual Gifts Need to be Developed

1. God intends that we grow in the use of our spiritual gifts
2. Like all living things grow, so also these are to grow
3. Key passage:

***1 Timothy 4:13-16 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. <sup>14</sup> Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you. <sup>15</sup> Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. <sup>16</sup> Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.***

***2 Timothy 1:6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.***

### B. We Develop Our Gifts by Using them... and desiring growth

### C. Develop a Variety of Ways

1. More skill
2. More biblical understanding
3. More time devoted to gift
4. Done more for the glory of God and the good of others

## III. Use Spiritual Gifts: A Pattern of Ministry

### A. The Gift HAS TO BE USED

***Matthew 25:24-27 "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. <sup>25</sup> So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' <sup>26</sup> "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? <sup>27</sup> Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.***

***Romans 12:6-8 We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. <sup>7</sup> If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; <sup>8</sup> if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.***

#### B. A Pattern of Ministry

1. Like much in the Christian life, this has to be a matter of developed habit
2. We desire to see each member in a regular pattern of ministry, so they can develop their spiritual gifts more and more fully
3. Also this enables the Body of Christ to know you, to rely on you, to build on you
4. Temptation: a FORAY into ministry

#### C. Two MAJOR Avenues

##### 1. Deacon Ministry Teams

- a. Missions
- b. Urban
- c. International Student
- d. Host
- e. Family and Youth
- f. College
- g. Corporate Worship
- h. Counseling
- i. Women's
- j. Encouragement
- k. Senior Adult
- l. Facilities
- m. Church Planting

## 2. Home Fellowships

- a. Hospitality: open your home
- b. Teaching: teach the study
- c. Worship: plan and lead a worship time every week
- d. Prayer: organize prayer time of home fellowship; keep track of prayer needs and organize the follow-up throughout the week
- e. Encouragement: come to each home fellowship with a plan to encourage certain members as the Lord leads; OR be aware of birthdays in the group and organize cakes, cards, gifts, etc.
- f. Service: be aware of service needs in the church (e.g. senior adult, parents of newborns) or outside the church, and organize the home fellowship group to take an active role
- g. Missions: organize your home fellowship to adopt and support one of our missionary units overseas

## IV. Specific Questions for FBC

- A. How Should I fit into the Deacon Ministry Teams?
- B. How much time should I give to spiritual ministry?
- C. Do I have to do all my ministry through FBC? What about parachurch ministries?
- D. What if I'm a mom with growing kids? Should I still look for a ministry?
- E. What will happen at FBC if we use our gifts fully?