



“What is My Purpose?”

A Message on Spiritual Gifts & Serving

Pastor Ron Carpenter Jr. | Redemption Church

MESSAGE SUMMARY

In this message, Pastor Ron Carpenter Jr. explores one of the most fundamental questions every believer faces: What is my purpose? Using Scripture as his foundation, Pastor Ron teaches that every member of the body of Christ has been uniquely gifted and anointed — and that the church is only truly effective when every person operates in their God-given role. He distinguishes between the priestly anointing (serving the church) and the kingly anointing (serving the world), and challenges believers to stop comparing gifts and start activating them. The conclusion is clear: a fully aligned body of Christ, with each member functioning in their gifts, is unstoppable.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. Every Gift Has a Role

Scripture: Exodus 17:8-13

- Moses held the rod of God, Joshua led the army, and Aaron and Hur held Moses' arms up — each with a distinct gift and a distinct function.
- No role was more important than another — the victory depended on all of them working together.
- We often fall into the trap of ranking gifts, seeing the “Moses” of ministry as more valuable than the “Aaron’s and Hur’s.” But God designed the body to need every part.

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever viewed certain gifts or roles in the church as more important than others? What shaped that belief?
2. What does the story of Moses, Aaron, Hur, and Joshua teach us about the danger of comparing gifts?

2. Discerning the Body Correctly

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 11:29-30

- 1 Corinthians 11:29-30 warns that failing to properly discern the body leads to weakness, sickness, and even spiritual death.
- For too long, church leadership had been “discerning the body after title” rather than after anointing — placing people in roles based on position or prestige rather than their actual gift.
- God discerns the body after anointing. It takes ALL gifts and anointings to build God’s house — misplacement has consequences for both the individual and the whole church.

Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between discerning the body “after title” versus “after anointing”? Why does this distinction matter?
2. What are the spiritual dangers of a person operating outside of their true gifting?

3. Priestly vs. Kingly Anointing

Scripture: Revelation 1:5-6

- God has made us both kings and priests — two distinct anointings with two distinct callings.
- The priestly anointing is focused inward — equipping and serving the church. The kingly anointing is focused outward — equipping and serving the world
- John the Baptist operated in the priestly — announcing the revival. Jesus operated in the kingly — bringing the revival. Both were essential.

Discussion Questions

1. In your own words, what is the difference between the priestly and kingly anointings?
2. How did John the Baptist and Jesus each operate within their unique anointings? What inspires you about the way they embraced their specific calling?

4. Order the Natural so that the Spirit Can Flow

Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 12:12, 27; 1 Corinthians 15:46

- We serve to bring our anointings from the world into the church and to activate our God-given gifts.
- 1 Corinthians 15:46 reminds us that the natural always precedes the spiritual — when we faithfully steward our natural responsibilities, we create the conditions for God to move supernaturally.
- Serving is not just an act of obedience; it is the on-ramp to walking fully in your purpose.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do we serve? What motivates or should motivate our service in the church?
2. What does it mean to “order the natural so the spiritual can flow” in your own life? What practical changes might that require?

CONCLUSION & CHALLENGE

What is our purpose? To bring the kingdom to every corner of our sphere of influence — and to operate in and grow our gifts within the body of Christ. We are not in competition; we are in coordination. Imagine what happens when the body of Christ is properly aligned — hands up, hands under, hands on — and every member is functioning in their gifts effectively. We would be unstoppable

Group Challenge

As a group, go around and take turns sharing one gift you believe God has placed in each person. Speak it over them. Then pray specifically for each person to step into that gift more fully this week. Commit to checking back in with one another to celebrate the steps of obedience and the ways God shows up when you activate your purpose.

Personal Challenge

- Reflect honestly: Are you currently serving in a role that aligns with your gifts and anointing? If you're unsure, commit to taking a spiritual gifts assessment this week.
- If you work outside the church, consider how your workplace is your mission field. Identify one way to bring your kingly anointing to your job this week.
- Identify one area of your natural life (schedule, habits, finances, relationships) that needs more order to make space for God to move.

Personal Action Plan:

- **Step 1 — Discover Your Gifts:** If you are unsure of your gifts, take a Spiritual Gifts Assessment this week. Knowledge of your gifts is the first step toward walking in your purpose.
- **Step 2 — Activate Your Gifts:** If you know your gifts, it's time to put them to work. Explore the serve teams at your campus and take your next step toward joining a dream team.
- **Step 3 — Order Your Natural World:** Identify one area of your life where you need more order so the Spirit can flow more freely. Make one practical change this week.
- **Step 4 — Bring Your Anointing:** Whether you carry a priestly or kingly anointing (or both), intentionally bring it into your church and your workplace this week. You are the kingdom in your sphere of influence.

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You that You did not make us all the same. You have placed unique gifts and anointings within each of us for a reason. Forgive us for the times we have sat on our gifts, compared ourselves to others, or failed to discern the body rightly. Today we surrender our limitations to You and ask for the courage to step fully into our purpose. Whether our calling is in the church or in the marketplace, let us carry Your kingdom faithfully. Align us, Lord — hands up, hands under, hands on — and make us unstoppable together. In Jesus' name, Amen.