



## **“Serving God With Your Experiences”**

**August 7, 2022**  
**Pastor Bear Clifton**

In this series on Fruitfulness, we’re learning that each one of us has a work to do, a race to run, a calling to pursue.

To serve God with our *experiences* means that the Lord can take any experience we’ve gone through – good or bad – and use it for his purposes. There are at least 5 areas of experience we should explore:

### ***Spiritual Experiences***

1. Every follower of Christ has had spiritual experiences. Even though these may not be sensory, what did Jesus promise?
2. Jesus says we will experience him:
  - Through the \_\_\_\_\_ we do in his name. (John 14:12-14)
  - When the Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ us and brings things to our \_\_\_\_\_. (John 14:26)
  - When he gives us his \_\_\_\_\_ even in a time of difficulty. (John 14:27)
  - Through growing \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives. (John 15:5)
  - Through an increase in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. (John 15:11-12)
  - Through the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit. (John 16:8)
  - When we \_\_\_\_\_ him with others. (John 15:26-27)

*So with these examples in mind, what are some ways that you’ve experienced Christ? These may point to ways you can serve him.*

### ***Ministry Experiences***

1. Do we have to run off to seminary to be “trained” for ministry? Where is the best place for this to happen?
2. One of the best ways to learn where God wants me to serve is simply to start \_\_\_\_\_.

*So with this in mind, what are some areas where you have served in ministry before? These may point to ways you can serve Christ.*

### ***Vocational Experiences***

1. While our jobs and work experiences might provide insight in deciding paths for future ministry, it’s also possible that your work life is a dry well, offering little more than a paycheck. What things should we remember in that case that should be of encouragement?

*Thinking back to your teen years till now, what are some jobs you've had where you felt a sense of accomplishment?*

## ***Educational Experiences***

1. On the one hand, education is not a prerequisite for serving God. In fact, sometimes it can be a hindrance. How so?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. On the other hand, our pursuit and love of knowledge can be of great usefulness to God. How do we know this?

*With this in mind, summarize your educational journey. What schools did you attend? What were some of your favorite subjects? What degrees do you have? What ongoing training and learning do you enjoy receiving?*

## ***Painful Experiences***

1. What does the Bible teach us about the way God can work through our trials, troubles, and failures?

*Though it may hurt to do so, take some time to think through some of the significant times of trial, testing, and suffering that you have gone through. Reflect on how you think the Lord might use these painful experiences to help others.*

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## ***An Exercise After This Teaching:***

God wants us to use our experiences as a way to serve others, and share our hope in Jesus with them. We invite you to take just one of these experiences you've thought of today, and write out a 60-Second Story that describes 1) what you experienced, and 2) what the Lord taught you through the experience. (Your "Spiritual" and "Painful" experiences can be especially powerful if shared in this way.)

Next Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup> we're opening up our worship service for another "Testimony Slam" opportunity, where anyone who would like to share will be able to. Let Deborah know in the office, or use the sign up portal we've made available if you'd like to share. And we hope you will. It will be a blessing to others!

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