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Theme: "Waiting to be *LED*"

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 8:5 *"And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God."*

A Thought: On a given Sunday stand in the middle of the parking lot and survey the grounds and campus of your church. Chances are you will see the same folks Sunday after Sunday including midweek services serving as lay ministers e.g., manning the parking lot, welcoming you, ushering, working in children ministries, worship team participants, serving coffee/pastries, office volunteers and or teaching a Bible study. Behold and listen to the word and grasp the meaning of (Ephesians 2:10 NIV) *"We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."* Sadly, we do not adhere to Paul's aforementioned declaration. I recently came across a Gallup survey stating that only 10 percent of the American church members are active in any kind of personal ministry and that 50 percent of all church members have no interest in serving in any ministry. To put it bluntly we have a whole bunch of "hands off" folks and spectators. In addition, each church has a group of members who have an interest in service they just don't go to the starting line. Others hide in the shadows of the confines of the church and wait to be *led*. A large percentage do not want to be involved...period. The fact is that your church is only as strong as the core lay ministers who serve without hesitation. Yes, each of us in accordance with the word (Romans 12:1-13 are ministers. (Romans 12:11 NIV) reminds us to *"Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord."* Also to *"Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality:"* Like it or not gents....we are to be the role models and not waiting *to be led*.

Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

Talk to yourself:

- What verse in the Bible that leads you to be *led*? How many months/years have you been on the sidelines dallying around to be *led*?
- You have a talent, you are resourceful...take action and talk to a church leader.
- Pray and have the Lord lead you to the next step to serve Him?
- God will reveal Himself to you. You will be blessed with His love.

Scriptures to read: Exodus 31:3; Deut. 8:18; Psalm 37:4, 131:1, 139: 13-16; 1

- Samuel 12:20; Proverbs 4:23; Matthew 12:34, 20:26-28, 28:18-20; Mark 10:45;
- Romans 8; 1 Cor. 12, 13; Ephesians 2:8-10; Col. 3:23-24, 2Tim 1:9; 1Peter 2:9-10, 4:10.

Quote: Rick Warren, Senior Pastor and author, The Purpose Driven Church, *“I believe the church is a sleeping giant. Each Sunday, church pews are filled with members who are doing nothing with their faith except ‘keeping’ it.”*

Bottom Line: Can you imagine what would happen if every person of the congregation became a truly “active” member of their respective churches? If the talents, resources and creativity were unleashed not only would your church benefit (1 Peter 4:10 NIV) *“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”* but the community that surrounds your campus would be covered with the Holy Spirit and much love.

Gents, prepare yourself to fill the gap (Ephesian 4:11-12 NIV) *“It was he who gave some to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, to prepare god’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.”* A.W. Tozer in his acerbic fashion wrote *“before the judgment seat of Christ my service will be judged NOT by how much I have done but by how much I could have done.”* Too many men are waiting to be asked instead of asking. Take the *lead* off and be *led* by the Holy Spirit. Remember, *“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men....”* (Colossians 3:23 NIV)

NOW.....THAT’S THE BOTTOM LINE.

Spiritual Dabbler,

Your bro, Ray

