



IT'S A TEAM EFFORT - YOU'RE THE RIGHT FIT - PT. 4

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Bible Study – 2/26/2026

John 15:16 NKJV - You did not choose Me, but I chose you (to pick out) and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, (produce results or evidence of a life aligned with God's purpose) and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

The impact of our actions should be felt over time. We should live impactful lives.

An impact player is one who, when they step on the field, on the court, or in the arena, they make a difference in the outcome of the game.

There are plays and players in sports that are remembered through the ages because of the results they had in the game.

What you say and what you do should be monumental in someone's life.

Jesus informed His disciples that they were chosen to be on His team.

He then shared that their mission was to bear fruit.

Salvation drafted you onto God's team, but your success on the team is determined by how you allow God to work in you and through you.

Philippians 2:13 NIV - for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

Salvation is not simply divine life insurance, nor is it your fire escape plan. In fact, the reason God saved you is not just to give you a ticket to Heaven. God's plan for your salvation encompasses much more.

If we are only focused on getting to Heaven, we have a selfish mindset regarding the purpose of salvation that's not Christlike. **Philippians 2:4-8**

Salvation includes you, but it's not all about you. Salvation is about what God wants to do through you.

God chose you for a specific purpose with the expectation that you would succeed in the purpose He designed for you.

Philippians 1:6 NIV - 6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

God gave us a mission - the Great Commission (**Matthew 28:18-20**) - to go into all the world, preach the gospel, and make disciples.



This is our assignment. Don't be caught doing the wrong assignment! *A college student who was completing a major paper in order to graduate. He completed his paper and turned it in to the professor. The paper was returned with these words written on it in red. "Good research, Great illustrations, wonderful bibliography. Grade: F ... Wrong assignment."*

We don't want to stand before God and have Him say: Nice house. Great job. Nice vacation. Wonderful salary. Grade F Wrong assignment. Grade churches: Great building program. Nice social events. Exciting church services. Grade F ... Wrong assignment.

The Father will ask one question when we stand before Him - How many people did you bring with you?

The drafting process of the NFL is how the owner, manager, and coaches come together to decide who would best fit their team.

God decided before the foundation of the world that you would fit His team and just where you would fit, and when you would best fit the team, He placed you on.

Psalm 139:13-16 NLT - 13 You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. 15 You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. 16 You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.

Jeremiah 1:5 NLT - "I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations."

God doesn't do things randomly, but He always has a plan for what He does.

God never makes mistakes. You will never find in the Word of God where He had an "oops" moment.

What He does is always intentional and purposeful.

He chose you and created you just the way He divinely designed you to be. He then placed you on His divine time continuum to be born to the right parents, at the right place, at the right time.

Acts 17:26 NIRV - 26 From one man he made all the people of the world. Now they live all over the earth. He decided exactly when they should live. And he decided exactly where they should live.

God decided the precise generation you would be born in, and He preselected the area you were to live in.

You were chosen to be the parent of the child(ren) you are raising. Parent them in faith - Romans 4:17 - "call those things that be not as though they were - II Corinthians 4:18 - look not at the things that are seen but at the things that are not seen - Isaiah 54:13 - Declare my children shall be taught of the Lord and great shall be the peace of my children.

Furthermore, of all the churches He could have placed you in, He put you in this one. Now, it is your responsibility to be planted and stay planted.



Psalm 92:13-14 NKJV - 13 Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. 14 They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing,

When God places you in a church, you want to make sure you're planted in that church.

The imagery in these verses suggests that just as a tree needs fertile soil to grow, believers need to be rooted in a supportive spiritual environment to thrive. Being planted means that we establish ourselves in a faith-filled community of believers where we can receive guidance, encouragement, and accountability.

God placed you in a specific ministry because the gifting He has given you is needed to be a blessing to the ministry.

He also placed you in a specific ministry because of the giftings in the ministry that will aid you in your spiritual development.

Ephesians 4:7 NLT - 7 However, he has given each one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ. 8 That is why the Scriptures say, “When he ascended to the heights, he led a crowd of captives and gave gifts to his people.”

I Peter 4:10 NIV - Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.

Our gifts are meant to benefit others and reflect God’s grace.

Romans 12:6 NIV – We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us...

Our gifts vary and should be exercised faithfully. The gift given to you is not for you to keep, but it's for you to give.

Spiritual covering aids in the development of the gifts we have. A spiritual covering is a godly leadership role in a ministry, church, or Kingdom-focused organization intended to point us to Jesus, help us grow in our faith, and give us guidance and instruction based on the Word of God to protect us and help fulfill our Kingdom assignments.

Ephesians 4:11-13 NLT - 11 Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. 12 Their responsibility is to equip *(Greek word for equip was used to describe setting broken bones or mending nets. These ministries work together to produce strong, mended, fit Christians.)* **God’s people to do his work** *(Five-fold ministry equips people to serve and to direct their service as God leads.)* **and build up the church, the body of Christ. 13 This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord,** *(When the gifted offices work right and the saints are properly equipped, Christian maturity increases)* **measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.** *(As a corporate body of believers, people should experience Jesus as they worship with us.)*



Spiritual Covering - Being under a spiritual covering is accepting God as your covering, accepting the leadership covering God has given you, and accepting the instruction with responsibility provided by the covering.

Hebrews 13:17 NLT - 17 Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit.

Satan will use any number of tactics to try to get you to uproot from the fertile soil you're planted in - offense, schisms, burnout, lies and rumors, jealousy, strife.

Putting a ministry team together is like building a puzzle. Each of us at JLAL is like a piece of a jigsaw puzzle, and each of us has our place in God's plan for the ministry. No piece is optional.

Ministry is exciting when you have the right people serving in the right places.

Ephesians 4:16 NLT - He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. *(When your body is disjointed, injured, or misaligned, it may function, but it will not function properly, and there will be discomfort as it tries to function.)* **As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, (as you faithfully serve, others in the church glean and grow) so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.**

This is why it is important to become a part of a local church.

The reason you need to become a part of a local church is twofold: the church has what you need, and you have what the local church needs.

1. The local church will be a blessing to you. It will be vital in helping your spiritual growth and development, as well as providing a place to express your gift.
2. You will be a blessing to the local church. Your God-given gift will meet a need in the local church and be a blessing to others.

Each piece of the puzzle is important, although some pieces may be more strategic in the initial formation. Normally, people will find the corner pieces and then the pieces that make up the frame. The fivefold ministry is the framework of the church and strategic in the development of the other gifts in the Body of Christ. But the other gifts in the church are important.

Sometimes you have to turn pieces in various directions in order to get them to fit *(serve any other areas of ministry)* or come to the understanding that the piece does not fit at all where you thought it would.

People in ministry have to find their fit and then be fitted.

(You try on a suit or dress to make sure it's the right fit. We have to try people in various ministries to make sure they are the right fit.)

It's time to break through our limitations and reach for our potential.



Philippians 3:12-14 NLT - 12 I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. 13 No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

Our potential is like an iceberg - 10% of its mass is floating above the water while the other 90% hides beneath the surface. We have the potential to use the whole iceberg, but many of us only use the 10%.

Potential can be defined as all we can become but haven't become yet. It's all we can do, but we haven't done it yet. It's everywhere we can go, but we haven't gone yet.

It is time to press on and tap into the latent gifts within us. Our gift is the answer to somebody's need.

Philippians 3:12-14 MSG - 12-14 I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back.