



Topic: Called To Partner with God

Prayer:

Gracious God, we come before You with the words of the psalmist:

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." (Psalm 139:23-24)

Search our hearts, O Lord. Know our thoughts and see if there is any wickedness within us. Examine us fully and lead us in Your everlasting way.

As we prepare to receive Your Word, may our hearts be open and receptive. Remove any barriers that hinder us from fully embracing Your truth.

We offer this time to You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Verse: Isaiah 61:1-11

A Call to Bring Good News

As followers of Christ, we have an important mission – to bring the good news of God's love and salvation to a world in need. The prophet Isaiah reminds us of this calling and shows us how to live it out.

Our first task is to share the message of hope and freedom with those who are oppressed, heartbroken, or held captive by sin and despair. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to proclaim the liberating truth of the gospel, offering healing and restoration to those who are hurting.

However, our calling goes beyond just sharing the good news. We are called to actively take part in God's work of renewal by rebuilding and restoring what has been broken or lost. This might involve meeting physical needs, promoting emotional healing, or nurturing spiritual growth in those around us. As representatives of Christ, we have the privilege of bringing positive change and making all things new through the power of God working in us.

Furthermore, our mission is to serve others with humility and compassion, following the example of Jesus, who came not to be served but to serve. Through acts of kindness, generosity, and selfless love, we demonstrate the reality of the good news we proclaim, reflecting the heart of our Savior.

As we faithfully carry out this calling, we can find joy and fulfillment in the results of our labor. God delights in His children experiencing the blessings and satisfaction that come from serving Him wholeheartedly. By finding joy in our daily tasks and relationships, we honor God and bear witness to His goodness.

At the core of all of this is the call to live a life of holiness, reflecting our close relationship with God. Holiness is not merely a set of rules but a way of life that showcases the transformative power of the gospel. As we grow in Christlikeness, our lives become a living testimony to God's grace and truth, drawing others to the One we serve.

Embracing this calling is both a privilege and a responsibility. Let us partner with God in bringing His good news to a broken world, rebuilding and restoring what is lost, serving with humility and love, finding joy in our labor, and striving for holiness that honors our Lord. In doing so, we fulfill our purpose as believers and make a lasting impact for the Kingdom of God.

Discussion Questions:

Students

- What are some specific ways you can bring hope and encouragement to your peers or those in need through acts of kindness and service?

Parents

- How can you support and encourage one another in finding joy and fulfillment in your daily tasks and relationships as you serve the Lord? How can you cultivate an atmosphere of joy and gratitude in your home, even amidst life's challenges?

Professionals

- In your workplace, you may encounter colleagues or clients who are struggling with oppression, brokenheartedness, or captivity to sin and despair. How can you sensitively and appropriately share the good news of God's love and freedom without compromising your professional boundaries? What practical steps can you take to be a positive influence and bring hope to those around you?

