

SERVICE MASTERS

Our service is to be masters of blessing.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ In defining the gifts of the Spirit, Peter Wagner describes the one for service as "[i]dentifying] the unmet needs involved in a task related to God's work, and to make use of available resources to meet those needs and help accomplish the desired results."
- ❖ The greatest act of service in creation is when God became human. He did this as the ultimate service, which was the culmination of a covenant promise made explicitly to Abraham, the father of our faith in the Bible.

God separated Abram for service according to His calling.

- ❖ In Genesis 12:1, "The Lord had said to Abram, 'Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.'"
- ❖ In ancient history, after humanity had fallen away from relationship with God, people worshipped idols, lifeless things believed to have supernatural power.
- ❖ Abram was under that bondage when God called him. The first instruction given was for Abram to separate himself from where he was. Yet God's separation is more than just geographic. If he was going to receive the service gifting set aside for him by God's anointing, Abram had to separate himself from his family and from the idols they worshipped.
- ❖ The calling is not without a plan. This is our confidence during the times of God's separation for service. So, while God may not show you exactly where He's taking you when He calls you, you can be sure that He'll get you the information when you need it, like He did with Abram (see Gen. 13:14-15).

Abram's separation for service would allow him to become a master of blessing.

- ❖ "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you" (Gen. 12:2). The story becomes counterintuitive at this point. It seems that Abram must be reduced in order to grow.
- ❖ Separating Abram from his family was a prerequisite to him becoming a great nation. It's difficult to grow fully in the place you come from because people naturally tend to define you based on where you come from rather than where you're called to go. But progress brings blessings!
- ❖ When Abram became separated from the expectations of familiarity, God placed the imprint of His own spiritual DNA in him. God not only increased Abram into being a nation, but He also blessed him so that he would be a *great* nation. God's greatness is more than just numbers, it's character too.

Abram becoming a master of blessing through his service set the stage for Jesus to come and save the world.

- ❖ "I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse" (Gen. 12:3).
- ❖ Abram served God by serving others. He didn't hold on to his blessing of favour with the Lord but used it to bless those who looked favourably upon him, like when he gave Lot the first choice of where to settle when the land couldn't support the growth of their wealth, or when he interceded with God to spare the sinful cities of Sodom and Gomorrah because his nephew lived there (see Gen. 13:8-11, 18:16-33).

KEY SCRIPTURE: Genesis 12:1-3

(all scripture in NIV unless otherwise noted)

- ❖ There isn't a direct scripture that shows people cursing Abram, but there are cases of sometimes unknowing mistreatment, like when the Pharaoh of Egypt and Abimelech king of the Philistines on separate occasions took Abram's wife to make her their own wife.
- ❖ The Lord worked on Abram's behalf, inflicting serious diseases on Pharaoh's household in that situation and, in the case of Abimelech's household, preventing all the women from conceiving and only restoring them when Abram prayed (Gen. 20:16-18).
- ❖ Reading through the pages of scripture, we see that the blessing of Abraham carried on through his descendants and into the nation of Israel. Yet they didn't achieve global and multigenerational impact until Jesus came.
- ❖ Even as a baby, Jesus impacted prophets (Luke 2:25-38), wise men and kings (Matthew 2:1-12, 16-18). As a man, He impacted Roman soldiers (Lk. 7:1-10), religious leaders (John 3), and the pious wealthy (Matt. 19:16-22). But as the risen Saviour, Jesus impacted foreign government leaders (Acts 8:26-40), bright young academics like Saul (Acts. 9:1-19), and military empires such as Rome (Acts 27:24, Philippians 4:22).
- ❖ And He is still reaching the uttermost parts of the world as the risen Lord by His Spirit through missionaries, global conferences, and online services like 24/7 prayer. Indeed, all the nations of the world are being blessed because of Abram's mastery of his blessing.
- ❖ This set the trajectory for what we celebrate today as Christmas. God Himself was born as a human, and in this act of the great I AM becoming flesh, Jesus' service was to be a master of blessing.
- ❖ This Christmas, find time to separate yourself to hear from Jesus. Centre in on the true reason for the season: Emmanuel, God with us, Jesus.
- ❖ Our service is to be masters of blessing. In a roundabout way, by using this Christmas season well, we can return to the spiritual gift of service. Let God's Spirit use you for His glory in this way.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. In addition to Abram, name two or three other examples of biblical figures God had called to "separate" themselves (e.g., Paul and Barnabas). How were these people called and for what purpose?
2. Jesus, as both a baby and as a man, had great impact on others. Referring to the examples in the text (e.g., the wise men, Saul, etc.), how exactly did His presence affect those people?
3. Looking at Peter Wagner's definition of "service", in what way(s) can we be masters of blessing?

PRAYER TIME

Speak, my Lord, for I want to hear from You.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🗨️ (Think about)
! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ➡️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

Start-up: "Jack of all trades, master of none." Which of the two do you fall into? If you could master one thing, what would it be?

PRAYER FOCUS: Salvation for our unsaved family and friends.

24-hour Prayer: Daily;

Daily Devotions: Monday - Friday @ 6:30 a.m. & 9:00 p.m.;

Departmental Prayer: Every Thursday (please check schedule)

Corporate Prayer: Every Friday @ 7:00 p.m. (and in person every second Friday @ 9:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m.).

Zoom ID: 898 3191 5909 **Phone Access:** 647-374-4685

FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

To donate online, please go to www.faithsanctuary.com/give

For email transfers, please use donate@faithsanctuary.com



ANNOUNCEMENTS

2025 CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN

This Christmas, we're inviting everyone in our church family to be part of a special video celebrating the theme "Believe Again." Come be part of something beautiful as we capture the heart of Christmas together and remind our world to Believe Again.

Contact: Sis. Andrea Peel

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Date: Thursday, December 25th

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Place: Faith Sanctuary

Contact: Pastor Adrian Peel

WATCHNIGHT SERVICE

Date: Wednesday, December 31st

Time: 10:00 p.m.

Place: Faith Sanctuary

Contact: Pastor Adrian Peel

PRODIGAL SONS & DAUGHTERS' PRAYER

Please join us as we pray for our sons and daughters.

Date/Time: Every Sunday @ 1:15 p.m.

Location: Prayer Room

Contact: Sis. Suzanne Allen

FS PRAYER HOSTS AND LEADERS' MEETING

Starting January 2026, there will be monthly update meetings. Access is through the FS "Departmental Meetings"

zoom link on www.faithsanctuary.com.

Date: Every 2nd Sunday

Time: 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Contact: Bro. Mike Allen

FAITH SANCTUARY WEEKLY SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service @ 11:00 a.m.

(Listen via phone: 1-844-268-4848)

Monday Berean Bible Study @ 6:30 p.m.

(Zoom, Facebook, YouTube)

Wednesday Bible Study @ 7:30 p.m.

(In person and via Zoom)

Friday Evening Service @ 8:00 p.m.

(In person and via Zoom)

Life Group Meetings – individually scheduled

(see ushers for information)

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

DECEMBER 21, 2025



Feed Canada to Feed the World

Building People, Building Resources

~ 2025 ~

Pastor:
Rev. Adrian W. Peel

"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."
Genesis 12:2-3 (NIV)

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