

# 1 DNA 11 – Get Involved

## 1.1 Intro

What I have loved about the DNA series is how bright the colours God is using, through the word, to describe His plan, His promise, His strategy and His will towards Whitstable Community Church. What do we do with this vibrant expression of His plan and purpose for us as a family and a community – well today's sermon will hopefully go some way to answer the question of what comes next?

Clearly state what – we are uniquely gifted don't want to sit on the side-lines but get involved

- Spectator
- Bench
- Pitch

We are all made for the pitch – some are spectating, or on bench tentative wanting to be called in, and some getting stuck in.

We have spent weeks now looking at what we could Get Involved with – we can get involved in Following Jesus, Growing Together, Sharing our hope, Loving God, Loving Others, Listening and Doing, Being Generous, Being Real, Giving Second chances, and Praying first. As we already know what we can Get Involved with – this morning we will look at the factors that influence our choice whether to get involved or not.

## 1.2 Scripture

**Romans 12:3-8** <sup>3</sup>For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: **Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.** <sup>4</sup>For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup>We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; <sup>7</sup>if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; <sup>8</sup>if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

We are going to look at

- Our Attitude towards getting Involved
- Our Availability to get involved
- Our Ability to get involved
- Our Assurance to get involved.

## 1.3 Attitude to ourselves

- Our scripture is a famous scripture, a goto scripture on the gifts of the Holy Spirit but it starts with what seems to be a rebuke – like this is your potential but don't get ahead of yourself
- **Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you.**

- This points at the importance of thinking about ourselves with sober judgement – its like before you do anything check yourself – Be Real before you Listen and Do
- This morning I want you to think about your attitude to the prospect of Getting Involved – and I want you to consider it with sober judgement in accordance with the faith God has distributed to you.
- We are called hear to check how we think about ourselves but what does that mean ?
  - **Do Not think too highly of yourself** – this first instruction sounds like there is a danger of us having the wrong attitude about our self-importance. But I believe this is a warning not to be super-spiritual, not to go round saying God told me this, not to Lord it over people. Frankly I don't know anybody like that in our family – do you ?
  - We may not think too highly of our selves – but I am pretty sure there is always a danger **not to think highly enough of ourselves**. We can have a very low opinion of our ability, our availability and our need to affirm others. We can in fact have a very poor sense of our worth – reenforced by our past years of life in a hard world. Our attitude can be greatly influenced by our sense of worth.
- Why mention can fall into comparison and division – this is what he wants to talk about sober
- That is why we need to make a sober judgement about ourselves in accordance to the level of faith we have been given. The wrong attitude about ourselves can lead to a wrong conclusion about our aptitude. Our attitude may be I have no availability, I have no ability and I have no assurance that if I do get involved it will go well for me. We may say, quite soberly, that we are too hard pressed with life and too insecure in our abilities to venture much in Get Involved. We may even say well I don't have a lot of faith.
- What does the word of God say about us ?
  - We are created in the image of God
  - We have a loving Father
  - We have the Son of God as a shepherd
  - We have the Holy Spirit as a counsellor, mentor, teacher, and advocate
  - We are a royal priesthood
  - We are a living temple
  - We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
  - We have been marked with the seal of the Holy Spirit
  - We are the vine – and we can abide in Christ
  - We can hear the shepherds voice guiding us
  - We have an intercessor
  - We have a mediator
  - We are blessed with very spiritual blessing
  - We have a calling
  - We have a gifting
  - We have a family
  - We have a new self made to be like God in righteousness
  - If your faith is as small as a mustard seed you can move mountains
  - The list is endless – are we prepared to think soberly about how AMAZING we are in Christ !

- How we think about ourselves – thin three times – is very important – once you have done this the spring board to get involved is thinking rightly about yourself and not bade about others
- Or are we just going to be stuck with the useless attitude of worldly you ?

## 1.4 Availability

Our scripture continues <sup>4</sup>For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

What has that to do with availability – well look at the word here – EACH MEMBER BELONGS TO ALL THE OTHERS. Are you available to fulfil your UNIQUE function within the body. Yes you do have a function, you do have a role, you do have gifting and it is different to everybody else s– it is unique and it is designed to be a blessing to your brothers and sisters.

IF you do not move in your FUNCTION you are denying the whole body the benefits and blessing of you. And yes you are a great blessing and a great benefit to the body.

Are you available to be used by God ?

Are you available to be serve other people?

## 1.5 Ability

Are you gifted ? My daughter Jessica was once invited to be part of an academy of gifted children. It reminds me of X-Men the film where people with special abilities have to live in a special school . Do you know God has appointed your to His own Academy of Gifted children – its called the church – or the family – or the way – or the body of Christ – or the bride of Christ.

You are gifted our scripture says so:

<sup>6</sup>We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; <sup>7</sup>if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; <sup>8</sup>if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

IF we have the wrong attitude about how Gifted we are then we will be denying someone somewhere the blessing of our function. What is your gift ?

- Prophecy ?
- Serving ?
- Teaching ?
- Encouragement ?
- Giving ?
- Leading ?
- Showing mercy ?
- Not an exhaustive list a sample
- What is it we learn about our function form this passage
  - All different gifts
  - All given by Gods grace exact what you need not boast -not fearful or ambivalent
  - All others focused – not building a platform – we have a responsibility to develop them
  - This is other focus filled about stirre fthinking about encouragement – can we grow
- One of the gifts that are mentioned in our scripture – is the gift of encouragement – and I want you to soberly judge how much of an encourager you are , I want you to ask the Holy

Spirit to get alongside you and advise you on who you can practise this gift on – who can you bless in the body – I want you to be open to the Holy Spirit affirming you in this – that you do have the gift of encouragement – you do have this ability to encourage your brothers and sisters - and I want you to have the peace and joy of your assurance that the Holy Spirit will guide you in this – identifying who and what you can say to be an encouragement.

- Why ? Listen and Do ? Be Real ? Do you remember we can boast in our weakness – love others, love God, it is such a practical and accessible gift to practice.
- How are we communicating ? Do we start every communication with some form of encouragement ? Our emails, our texts, our conversations, do they at least start with an encouragement – do they assure people that they are esteemed and valued.

○

## 1.6 Assurance

My last point is to do with assurance – the Holy Spirit wants to assure you that He is in this with you.

*“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.” (1 Corinthians 12:7-11)*

You can and you will Get Involved – why do I say so – because I know you . I have witnessed you and the Holy Spirit and the word of God working together over the past years – and you and the Holy Spirit are wonderful – you are perfect for each other – you work so well.

He is willing to strengthen you, to sustain you, to help you overcome your fears, to help sort out the messes in your life , to deal with everything that would stop you being effective in who you are in Jesus Christ.

Now from a practical point of view do you want to put this to the test ? That if you are prepared to think about yourself spiritually, and biblically then you will find a much more positive outcome in terms of your availability, your ability and your assurance that the Holy Spirit want to get along side you.

Gospel link is emphasis is about the Holy Spirit – we get involved because of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit – assurance of our salvation – getting involved is out being filled with the Holy Spirit – we will outlook – encourage people to pray afresh to be filled by The Holy Spirit – to empower you for Holy living. None of these are linked to the Holy Spirit - Gift of Holy Spirits itself – gospel and we don’t wear out. Get filled first.

## 1.7 Conclusion

We will all Get Involved – because you are a people who love the word, are open to the council, gift and power of the Holy Spirit – because we will make sober spiritual and bible based judgements about our worth, our availability, our ability and our assurance that we have a destiny – a set of good spiritual outcomes as we grow together.

