

Title: You Have a Role, Part 2

Grant Hill, Garden Gathering, 7/16/23

Joshua 1:2-3

This is where we will start today. I am emphasizing the role that you have in the Body of Christ. If you know your role, you are dangerous in the eyes of the enemy. If you know who you are in Christ, then you are dangerous in the eyes of the enemy, because you are then an empowered believer of Jesus in the Kingdom of Heaven. You are not a member of a church who is asleep, and just waiting for Jesus to come back. You are in the role and function of being in the Body of Christ Jesus. Jesus is moving. Jesus is going, therefore I am on the move and I am going.

He said, "Go and make disciples of all nations." If I understand that, I am in the Body of Christ and I am moving. I am going. I have a role, a function, and a purpose, then all of a sudden God's Kingdom expands faster than anything. Faster than you coming every Sunday. Faster than how loud I can preach. When the Body of Christ realizes, "I am empowered, I am a minister of reconciliation, I am a saint doing the work of the ministry, and I have a role to play," this is what has changed the ages and rewritten history. This is what has changed the trajectory of people groups. This is what has changed the trajectory of nations. When people laid hold of this gospel and said, "It is for me to do. It is for me to see. It is for me to believe. It is for me and my house. Surely, I will see the goodness of the gospel of the Lord in the land of the living.

I am not going to wait until I am dead to see His goodness in the land that I am living." That is the mindset that religion brings of dead works. A mindset of religion is saying, "I will be here until I see paradise in the Kingdom of Heaven. Do not pray "when I get there." Jesus said, "Pray, Your Kingdom come and Your will be done here as it is in Heaven." That is the mind set of Christ, "Your Kingdom come." Yes.

Joshua 1:3

God is saying, do not exclude yourself, because I said this to Moses. Do not exclude this, because the authority I gave to Moses, I give to you. "All authority has been given to me," Jesus said. "I have the keys, and you are seated with me in heavenly places." In the same way, Joshua had to say, "the authority that God gave to Moses, I am not excluded from. I have a role. I have a purpose. I walk in the same authority. As God said to Moses, I am saying to you." It's the same mandate, "Every place that the sole of your feet tread upon is yours." What does that make you want to do? Go walking. What does that make you want to do? Put your feet on everything you have. Put your feet on everything you see. Put your feet on it. Right?

II Kings 13:18-19

This another story in the *scripture* of a prophet, Elisha, who goes to the King of Israel. and says, "if you strike the ground with this arrow, this will be what you do to your enemies." The king only struck the ground three times and stopped. The prophet gets mad at him asking, "Why did you stop?" If the king had relentlessly pounded the ground with that arrow, his enemies would perish before him. You cannot have an earthly mindset.

God is eternal, spiritual and supernatural. He is always increasing. He is always going. He is always expanding. "Every place the sole of my feet tread upon," what does that mean? Will you go on vacation saying, "Well, I do not live here." This is what He is talking about. Every place that you have influence in. Everywhere you go, you have an influence. Everywhere you go, you are an ambassador of Christ. Everywhere your feet go, you are a minister of the gospel.

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The saints are the ministers. The fivefold serve the house to launch the saints into what they do. The fivefold is the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the teachers and the pastors. They do not carry most of the anointing. The anointing is in the Body of Christ. He is the Head, and we are filled with the oil of God. It runs down over His beard. If I am filled with the oil of God, I am empowered. I am filled with the truth. Then I have to get plugged in through the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Mark 1:8

“He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit,” and others say with “fire or power.” You have to get plugged in. When you are plugged in to a circuit, the power never stops.

Throughout the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit would come “upon” people like David, Saul, Samson, and Samuel. It would be like pop in a bottle. When it is shaken, the top blows off. Holy Spirit had come on them, and it blew off the flesh, because it could not hold the Spirit of the Living God.

Jesus came and now He is in us. Inside the “pop bottle” of you. You were created to be with Him, 24/7. You are created to “house His spirit.” But, your flesh when you were born, separated Him from you. Jesus said, “Okay, what is the price that we have to pay for this? How do I buy My children back home to Me? Because, I am a Father, and I need My children home. They need to be with Me. He sent Emmanuel, Jesus. Emmanuel, God with us. He sent Him and the price to pay was His own blood.

How did He pay with His own blood? He let somebody whip Him, beat Him, nail Him to the cross, and crucify Him until it was done. They punctured His side and it spilled out even more. He paid a severe price for our sin. He paid a severe price for your sin, so that you could be a part of the Body of Christ. He bought you back and said, “You are in My house and you have My inheritance. Now, I want to put My hands on you, and to baptize you, not just in water. The baptism in water is the prophetic example of what happened in the grave. You saw your grave, when you gave your life to Jesus. He raised you up in Christ.

But, there is another baptism. It's the Holy Spirit's empowerment baptism, that He wants to fill you with. That Spirit that never leaves you, is plugging you in. Giving you an empowerment for the role of the ministry that you have been given. The role of your ministry we talked about last week. You choose to believe. You are a believer of Jesus. You are a believer in greater works. We have to start doing the works that Jesus did.

We are the Bride of Christ. Jesus' wife is going to do the things He does. His wife is going to do greater works than He does. Husbands understand their wives do greater works than them. They do. They are the glory of men. It says in Corinthians, man is the glory of God. Women are the glory of man they are in the image and likeness of God, yet they are the glory of mankind. Woman is the pinnacle of creation because Eve was the last thing ever created. There is an honor there. There is a glory there.

As the Bride of Christ this is the image of what we are supposed to be. We have been glorified in Christ Jesus. He has exalted us. He has crowned us. He has clothed us. He has purified us. We are going to be the glorious Bride of Christ. At the end of the book of Revelation, it was exciting to see the Bride. It had finally been done. The most exciting thing was to see the Church made ready to be with the Husband, the Bridegroom King Jesus. You have been made and you are being made. You are being perfected. You are being justified by His blood. You are being glorified by His power. You are being sanctified daily by the working and the molding of the Potter's hands, to be the Wife of Jesus, and to do the works that He has done. Even greater works, because that is what wives do. That is what wives do. They serve their

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husbands with a greater glory. Wow, you say, "Well, how can this be? Let it be done, Lord according to your word." It's the grace. It's the favor. It's the mercy of God, on mankind, that He would call us, the Bride of Christ.

You are called His children. You feel convicted, because of that sin that says, "I cannot be cleansed and clean enough to be that Bride. I am not pure enough to be the Bride." He says, "Yes, but let Me put My hands on you. Let Me wash you in the water of My Word. Let Me wash you in the water of My spirit. Let Me wash you in the presence and make you clean. Never remember those sins again. That is the gospel. That is the good news of this Bible. If you have not ever encountered the Lord like this, this is your day. This is the day of the Lord. This is the day of the Bridegroom King. Saying, "Come, I am knocking on your door. I need you to open it and let Me come in. Let Me eat with you. Let Me dine with you. He who overcomes has an ear to hear."

1 King 19:18

God says, "Go and do my work. There are 7000 of the remnant of Israel that are praying, and have not bowed their knee and not kissed the feet of an idol or Baal or any false god. I have seen them and I know them. They are nameless and they are faceless. But, they are doing my bidding. They are doing my work. They are decreeing and declaring in the night and in the day. They have not turned their heart away from me. You are not the only one Elijah. I see them."

This is what our house is called to be. You might be nameless, or you might be faceless, but you are the saints. You are the ministers of the gospel. God sees and hears what you are saying. God sees what you are believing for. God sees what you are standing for in righteousness. He sees it. He is writing it down. He says, "I am taking note. Yes, this is My people. I have 500 people in San Angelo. That is more than enough for me." I hope it is more than that. But, you see what I am saying? I had to be a part of that number. "Oh, when the saints go marching in, how I long to be in that number," of believers who believed and were steadfast believers.

Hebrews 11:6

It is impossible to please God unless you have faith.

1 Kings 19:15-17

I mentioned this, and I want to make sure that we understand you have a role to play. You have a purpose now. "You have been born for such a time as this," it says in the book of Esther. But, you have to have the childlike faith that today is the day, but also the wisdom to realize that you are on the eternal spectrum for tomorrow. What you do today matters for your children's children. But, what you do today matters with faith that it is the day of the Lord today. You have to be of the Kingdom of Heaven. Children have the faith that today is the day. Right?

If you are a parent like me, you have learned to not tell your kids, "Grandma is coming," until the day of, because if you tell them a week ahead, they ask every day, "is this the day Grandma is coming?" If you wait until it's the actual day, then there are no tears or crying. That should be us. That when God gives you a promise, you say, "Yes, it is today. Oh, yes, it is today. He is coming today. He is coming today." You have to have that *mindset* the next day, and the next day, and the next day. That is childlike faith, and not being discouraged. You have to have the wisdom of the Ancient of Days to realize that He is outside of time, and it is in His timing. This decree that I am saying, "Today, is the day of the Lord! It is not just for me, but it's for my house and for my children's children and for a thousand generations, amen. I will not be discouraged if my prayers are not answered today. *Having faith* that my children's children will see them."

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Andrew Murray was a revivalist in the Dutch Reformed Church of South Africa in the 1800s. When the Spirit of God moved on the house, people just started repenting in their chairs. Just crying out to God as Murray was preaching. The Spirit of the Lord came and fell upon them. They couldn't help, but just cry out to the Lord, "Abba, Abba." Andrew Murray said, "This is not the order of the Lord. This is not the order of the Spirit. This is like First Corinthians." He had an example to give them, and he shut it down. He shut it down when it happened over and over again about three times. He went to his dad, who was his pastor and his dad was crying. He said, "How dare you stop what I have been praying for decades to happen in this church." It hit him that his dad had been praying for decades what Andrew Murray was stepping into. You must have the humility, that what you are praying for, is for you today. But, be humble enough to know that it could be for tomorrow also. I won't be discouraged either way.

That is maturity in the House of God. How many thousands of years did Jesus wait to come? How many decades did He wait to reveal Himself? He was 30 years old when He began His ministry of unveiling who the Father was, full of grace and truth to mankind. He is a humble God and He is our Father. Yet, He is excited to show up and give gifts to mankind. That is our God, Adonai, Yahweh, the Wonderful Counselor.

Matthew 11:12-13

John the Baptist was the cousin of Jesus, because Elizabeth and Mary were related. So, John came six months before Jesus. There is an interesting dynamic here in the Spirit. God is, "hedging His bet." Because, if you think about it, if John the Baptist does not choose to fulfill his role and function as the last prophet of the Old Testament, then Jesus cannot be revealed.

If John says, "No, I am not going to do it. I am going to sit down. I am not going in the wilderness. I am not going to do it." John the Baptist has a free will to choose to do the work of the Lord or not. He can choose to believe the way of the Lord or not. He can choose to be the one with the voice crying out in the wilderness or not. Praise God that He did. We know that anything that God starts He will finish. I understand that. But, John the Baptist having free will is still a part of this equation. If John does not say, "I have a purpose. There has not been a prophet for 400 years, but I am one." If he does not take that up in faith. If he does not hear the word of the Lord, and say, "You must be baptized."

Baptism was a new doctrine. No one had baptized before John. It was a brand new theology and teaching. John the Baptist is crying out in the wilderness saying, "You must be baptized." What does that mean? "Turn from your wicked ways. Look upon the Lord. Call upon His name. Show it by faith and getting in this river, for it cleanses you, so that you can see Him when He shows up." If John the Baptist does not take up his ministry and say I have a role to play, I have a purpose, and I have a ministry of reconciliation. If I do not speak, and I do not fulfill it, then Jesus cannot be revealed. It had to be fulfilled. All of the Old Testament prophets had to be fulfilled "with a voice crying out in the wilderness. Prepare the way of the Lord." John was the last of the Old Testament prophets. How do we know this?

Luke 16:16-17

"It is easier for Heaven and Earth to pass away than, for one tittle of the law to fail." If John is the fulfillment of all of those prophets, it was easier for Heaven and Earth to pass away than for what John was saying to go away. That is why Jesus had to be baptized, so that it could be fulfilled. Do you see what I am saying? Wow. Now this explains something in the book of John. It says that the "Word became flesh." John the Baptist was a part of that word. When the word was released, it had to be manifested in the flesh. It cannot go away. It is going reveal itself, as Jesus. He reveals the word from John the Baptist to the beginning of time. "I am who I am. I am the Son of David. I am the Son of God. I am the Messiah the last prophet has prophesied about. Here I am.

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Wow. What am I saying? Jesus says, "If you knew that John the Baptist was Elijah, if you can bear it." He tells the Jews, "If you can bear that John the Baptist was Elijah. But, I tell you truly, that those who believe in me are greater than John the Baptist." So what does that tell me about you? That if John the Baptist had this much of a role to play in the Kingdom of God, then you have just as much or greater of a role to play? Yes, you do. You do. Because, you are not just in one office.

You can be apostolic, and go. You can be prophetic, and see the visions of the Lord, and proclaim it. You can be evangelistic with the Evangelist within you. Jesus is all of these things within you. Yes, you have to teach with the authority and the power and the conviction of Jesus, the Teacher, in you. You are called to love and care and serve all around you. Love one another as Christ has loved you. The Lover, the Pastor, the Overseer of your soul is within you. You are not just one office you are fulfilling. Yes, some are set aside into the office, that they have the Spirit of Jesus within them to accomplish, the fullness of the Bride of Christ. We have many gifts and they have been distributed among us. But, we have the Spirit of God. That is the circuit that is continuously empowering us to do all that we need when we need it through the Holy Spirit.

Jesus is the Word of God in the flesh. He appeared after all the words about Him and His Kingdom were unleashed on the Earth. Jesus is the Word of God in the flesh. The Word of God, Jesus, appeared after all the words about Him and His Kingdom were unleashed on the Earth from the law, to the prophets, to the last of the old testament prophets, John the Baptist. What if John the Baptist had said, "No." Jesus would have to wait. Isn't that amazing to think about? Praise God it was done in the fullness of time. He is faithful to do it, and He will surely do it.

Matthew 3:5

When you have a role to play, you are an ambassador of Christ. You have the will to choose, and what you say matters. How you say it matters. When you are in your prayer closet. That is a very intimate, relational place. When you are in a small cell, like a cell group, that is an intimate place of life. When you are in this setting, corporately you know that okay, I need to speak things with more formality. If I were to go to the State Senate or I sat on the floor of the House of Representatives for Texas, in Austin. I am going to be a little bit more formal and prepared in what I have to say. Right? If I was called to go to Washington, DC, and speak. I am going to come with a little bit more power, authority, legality, and reverence. What is different? The place were you are at and the setting that you are in.

There is a time in your secret place in the closet to be declarative as if you were before the Ancient of Days on the throne. But, that is a place where you are to wrestle with God and know what He wants you to say. That is a place where you are to be intimate with Him and talk about concerns. Talk about doubts and talk about fears, and not be afraid to know Him and to be molded by Him, so that all of His desires can come out. You say what you have heard in the closet, and declare it on the mountaintops.

We spoke last week, that what you decree and what you declare shall be established for you, and do not take it lightly. It says, "woe to those who give unrighteous decrees." There is a place to wrestle with God and know Him and know His desires. When you are in that place in the week, then on Sunday or once a month at "Just a Sound." It's like, "I know what my God is saying to me. Here it is. Yes, this is the word of the Lord. I proclaim it." We sang that today, right? "We proclaim your truth and the gates of hell shall not prevail." *Storming the gates of hell* is an offensive term. Right? If the gates of hell are in front of you, that means that you have barged all the way through the Earth and are storming the gates of hell. The gates of hell won't prevail. Yes, that is how most people take that. The gate is a place that is trying to keep people

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from getting out, so if I am going against the gates of hell, that means I have stormed the Earth, and I am going against the gates of hell. That is an offensive term. It's not defensive. That is the authority that Christ has given us.

Matthew 3:5-6

Whose baptism? John's baptism, his doctrine, his theology, his Word from the Lord. It's similar to Moses. He did not set up worship in the House of God. Moses was on Mount Sinai. He didn't hear from God that He wanted music. It's kind of weird, right? But, who set up worship in the House of God? King David did many, many, many years later. The king who was after God's own heart, found out God loves music, God loves worship, and said, "I am going to set up worship 24/7 in the House of the Lord." The worship of the Lord was set up by David, not by Moses.

You think, "Well, that is blasphemous." We are co-laboring with God. He is revealing Himself age to age, era to era, year to year. He says, "No, eye has seen, no ear has heard what I have planned." So, when those things come and we are saying, "Who are you or what is this? This is a false teaching." No, God is revealing Himself, and you will know it because the Spirit of Truth will reveal all truth that is within you. This was His baptism. His doctrine of baptism.

Matthew 3:7-12

Last week, I mentioned a woman who cried out to Jesus and said "Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts that nursed you." Then Jesus said more than that, "Blessed are those who hear the word of the Lord God and keep it." We cannot lean upon the heritage of this nation. The Jews did that with children of Abraham, saying, "God will never cast us away." But, they went into bondage in Babylonian captivity. He never forsook them, but He did punish them.

You need to have a revelation. God, "The winnowing fork is in your hand over my city, my state, and my nation. Not what I want, but I want to wrestle this with you where I have been frustrated and where I have been disgusted with my country, my statesmen, my citizens, or with my fellow neighbors. Because, what you say matters right now. What you are speaking matters." God will take note.

God is going to take note. Where do you stand and what do you believe? I want you to believe with me. I want you to hear what I am saying. I want you to know what I am feeling. I want you to know what I am thinking about Texas, about San Angelo, about the United States of America, about all 50 states. I want you to speak the truth. I want you to declare the truth. I want you to decree a thing. have it be established. For today, but also for your children's children. You have a role to play. You have a purpose to play. You have a ministry of reconciliation for today and tomorrow.

"The winnowing fork is in the hand of the Lord." We trust what He does in deliverance. We trust what He does in rebuilding and restoring the old ruins. We trust what He does when He plucks up and casts out. We trust Him. Brandy has been saying, "You have to keep your eyes on who has the winnowing fork. Keep your eyes on who has the axe. If you keep your eyes on Him, He will be your anchor. He will be your anchor, and you will never be moved for all your days." Amen.

Let's stand and honor the Lord. Holy Spirit, we honor you. I honor you Holy Spirit. I know your good news changes lives. You came to fix our lives. You came to make us right with you. You came to heal our hearts. You came to bind up our brokenness. You came to bring us back to life where we have died, we have been asleep, or we have been in trauma. You have come to bring us back to life and to let us live and live life abundantly. I speak your word, Lord.

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In John 10:10, You say that “the devil comes to steal, to kill and to destroy, but that you came that we may have life and life more abundantly,” now. “Surely goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our lives.” I honor this word.

I thank you, Jesus, that you have said I have a purpose. I have a mission. I have a role to play. You are listening and you are waiting for me to agree with you. I ask God that you would settle it in our hearts what you are saying. That we would decree, “as one.” Because the Spirit and the Bride decree together. “Come, Lord Jesus, come,” in Revelation. We want to be speaking as one nation, as the Bride of Christ, in this state, in this nation, in this city, exactly what you are wanting us to say. That we would not be out of step, we would hear correctly, know your word, and be filled and empowered with your voice. In Jesus’s name we pray. Amen.