

CHURCH OF THE HIGHLANDS

Study Guide

Made for This Ministry

Chris Hodges
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Major Points

- 1 God has given every person a specific assignment, portion, and boundary lines in life — and when you find it, it brings deep fulfillment and unshakeable peace.**
Psalm 16:5-6
- 2 Every Christian is a minister, not just professional clergy — the priesthood of all believers means every follower of Jesus is called to serve with their unique gifts.**
1 Peter 2:9
- 3 Every spiritual gift is important and unique; the body of Christ needs every part functioning, and no one's calling is lesser than another's.**
1 Corinthians 12:27
- 4 You were fearfully and wonderfully made with a purpose ordained before you were born — stepping into that purpose is where true joy is found.**
Psalm 139:13-16
- 5 Jesus said bearing fruit as a disciple leads to complete joy; serving and using your gifts is the pathway to the fulfillment that many people are missing.**
John 15:8-11

Key Quotes

- "The best ideas of the church aren't going to come from me. They're going to come from all of us.*
at 14:38
- "You're not one in a million, you're one of a kind.*
at 25:50
- "I'm in sales, not management.*
at 26:15
- "Some of your actual development that gets you further along won't ever even happen until you step into this.*
at 29:30
- "I cannot believe I've waited this long to do this.*
at 12:12

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean that God has given you a specific 'portion' and 'boundary lines' in life, and how does that change the way you view your current circumstances?
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2. Pastor Hodges shared the story of Sherry who expected to be forced into nursery duty. Have you ever felt pressured to serve in an area that didn't match your passion or gifting? How did that affect your view of church involvement?
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3. The sermon argues that the clergy-laity divide is unbiblical. How does the concept of the 'priesthood of all believers' change how you see your own role in the church?
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4. Jesus said in John 15:11 that bearing fruit leads to complete joy. In what areas of your life do you sense a lack of joy that might be connected to not stepping into your God-given purpose?
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5. What fears or misconceptions have kept you from discovering or stepping into your spiritual gifts, and what would it look like to take one step forward this week?
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Word Studies

masterpiece

Greek

A thing that is made; a work of art or craftsmanship. From 'poieo' (to make or do). English word 'poem' derives from this root. Emphasizes that each believer is a carefully crafted work of God, not mass-produced but individually designed with intention and purpose.

Usage: 2 times in NT (Romans 1:20, Ephesians 2:10)

royal priesthood

Greek

A kingly body of priests; a community with both royal dignity and priestly access to God. 'Basileion' means royal or belonging to a king; 'hierateuma' means a body of priests or priesthood. Together they describe believers as having direct, unmediated access to God with the authority and dignity of royalty.

Usage: 1 time in NT (1 Peter 2:9)

fruit

Greek

Fruit, produce, result. Used metaphorically for the visible outcomes of a person's life, character, and ministry — including converts, good deeds, and the fruit of the Spirit. In John 15, it refers to the tangible spiritual impact that flows from abiding in Christ.

Usage: 66 times in NT

Cross References

Romans 12:4-8

Paul teaches that the body of Christ has many members with different gifts — prophecy, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, showing mercy — reinforcing that every believer has a distinct role.

Jeremiah 29:11

God declares He has plans to prosper and not harm, plans for a hope and a future — echoing the sermon's theme that God has a pre-ordained, good purpose for each person's life.

Ephesians 4:11-16

The role of church leaders is to equip the saints for the work of ministry, so the body of Christ is built up — directly supporting the sermon's argument against a clergy-only ministry model.

Exodus 19:5-6

God originally called Israel to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation, the Old Testament foundation for the priesthood of all believers that Peter applies to the church in 1 Peter 2:9.

2 Timothy 1:9

God saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of His own purpose and grace — affirming that purpose is God-initiated, not earned by qualification or training.

Further Reading

- **The Purpose Driven Life**

by Rick Warren

- **S.H.A.P.E.: Finding and Fulfilling Your Unique Purpose for Life**

by Erik Rees

- **Every Good Endeavor: Connecting Your Work to God's Work**

by Timothy Keller

Scripture References

REFERENCE	TYPE	TIME	CONTEXT
Matthew 6:33	Read Aloud	2:50	<i>Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and ...</i>
Psalms 16:5-11	Read Aloud	6:30	<i>Lord, you alone are my portion and my cup; you mak...</i>
Matthew 5:13-16	Referenced	18:40	<i>"You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt ha...</i>
Acts 2:17-18	Read Aloud	19:30	<i>In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spi...</i>
1 Peter 2:9	Read Aloud	22:00	<i>But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a...</i>
Ephesians 2:10	Referenced	22:50	<i>For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesu...</i>
1 Corinthians 12:12-27	Read Aloud	25:30	<i>Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but al...</i>
Psalms 139:13-16	Read Aloud	30:50	<i>For you created my inmost being; you knit me toget...</i>
John 15:8-11	Read Aloud	32:00	<i>This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much f...</i>