

Don't Forget Why

Message Notes - 8.9.26 | Pastor Mike Foster

Key Scripture: Ephesians 4:1-14

1. Don't forget why.

- Before we ever unwrap the gifts, we have to remember the reason behind the study.
- The danger of studying spiritual gifts is becoming more fascinated with the gift than with the Giver.
- We pursue things, but we neglect intimacy. We seek power, but we forget His presence.
- It turns into experience-chasing instead of Christ-chasing.
- Like opening a Christmas gift and ignoring the person who gave it.

Matthew 3:16-17

John 16:13-14

- The Trinity operates in perfect unity, each person glorifying the others.
- The Holy Spirit never draws attention to Himself. He always points to Jesus.
- Every genuine move of the Spirit makes Christ bigger.
- Not personalities. Not churches. Not denominations. Not emotions. Just Jesus.
- The church is called to reflect that same unity.

2. The awe of God must come first.

Isaiah 6:1-8

- Before God sends you anywhere, He brings you to a place where you say, "Woe is me."
- Worship came before the assignment. Awe came before the calling.
- The divine order:
 - Character before calling.
 - Fruit before function.
 - Holiness before ministry.
 - You don't want to get those out of order.

Galatians 5:22-23

- Scripture gives us the fruit before the gifts on purpose.
- The Spirit develops who you are before He develops what you do.
- He is more concerned about who you are than what you do.
- Awe of God protects you from pride.

- The more gifted someone is, the more humble they should become, because every gift is grace.

3. Your gift is not for you.

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

- Every believer has been given a spiritual gift.
- Gifts flow out of worship, not ambition.
- The gift belongs to God. It is entrusted to you, not owned by you.
- It exists for the body of Christ and the expansion of the Kingdom, not for personal use.
- When you sit on that gift, you deprive yourself and others of what God wants to do in you and through you.

4. The church needs you, and you need the church.

- The church grows and matures only when all the members function together in harmony.
- You need the church even more than the church needs you.
- The enemy works hard to distract you from that truth.
- Stop sitting on your gift and step into service.
- We are fighting from victory, not for it. We have already won.
- I want to be in Jesus' Hall of Fame.