

CORNERSTONE

DISCIPLESHIP

GROUPS

FITLY JOINED TOGETHER, part 3
Pastor Barry Burns
Message from Sunday, May 3, 2026

Key Scriptures

- Ephesians 4:16
- 1 Corinthians 15:9-10
- 2 Corinthians 8:1-5
- Psalm 112:1-3, 9

Main Takeaways

1. **Grace Brings Power:** God's grace is not passive—it brings supernatural power to transform lives (from Saul to Paul).
2. **The Three-Fold Surrender:** The Macedonian churches demonstrated:
 - First, they gave themselves to the Lord (total surrender)
 - Second, they gave themselves to the apostles (submitted to leadership)
 - Third, they gave their finances (extravagant generosity)
3. **The 20/80 Reality:** In most churches, 20% of people provide 80% of the finances and volunteer work.
4. **Grace-Empowered Giving:** True generosity flows from surrender, not obligation.

Discussion Questions

Understanding Grace

1. How does Pastor Barry's definition of grace as "power" differ from how you previously understood grace?
2. Looking at Paul's transformation from persecutor to apostle, what does this teach us about the power of God's grace in our own lives?
3. The Macedonian churches gave "out of extreme poverty." How does this challenge our typical excuses for not giving or serving?

Personal Surrender

1. The sermon emphasized giving ourselves to the Lord FIRST, before giving our service or money. Why is this order so important?
2. What areas of your life have you been holding back from God? What fears keep you from total surrender?
3. Share about a time when you experienced God's provision after stepping out in faith. How did that impact your trust in Him?

Service and Community

1. Why do you think the Macedonian believers gave themselves to the apostles (church leadership) as part of their commitment?
2. What keeps people from serving faithfully in the church? How can we overcome these barriers?
3. Looking at Ephesians 4:16—"every joint supplies"—what unique contribution do you bring to the body of Christ?

Financial Stewardship

1. The sermon mentioned that some people "tip God" rather than tithe. What's the difference between these two mindsets?
2. How does fear influence our giving decisions? What biblical truths counter these fears?
3. Pastor Barry shared his struggle with giving \$20. Can you relate? How has your perspective on giving changed over time?

Key Takeaways

1. **Grace is power:** When God's grace is at work, supernatural transformation happens.
2. **Priority matters:** Surrender to God first, then service to others, then financial giving flows naturally.
3. **Everyone contributes:** Every member of the body of Christ should supply something—financially and through service.
4. **Fear vs. Faith:** Fear-based living holds us back; faith-based giving opens the door to God's provision.
5. **Joy follows surrender:** The most satisfied and joyful Christians are those who have completely surrendered to God.

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose ONE of the following action steps:

Option 1: Total Surrender

- Set aside time this week for a prayer of complete dedication to God
- Write down any areas you've been holding back and surrender them specifically
- Consider sharing your commitment with an accountability partner

Option 2: Find Your Fit

- Fill out a ministry involvement form at church
- Commit to serving in at least one area for the next 3 months
- Ask God to show you where your gifts can best serve others

Option 3: Step Out in Giving

- Prayerfully evaluate your current giving patterns
- If you're not tithing, determine a percentage to start with and set up automatic giving
- If you are tithing, ask God if He's calling you to give an additional offering beyond your tithe
- Track how God provides over the next month

Group Accountability

- Share which option you chose and why
- Exchange contact information to check in with each other during the week
- Plan to share testimonies at your next meeting about what God did

Get involved!



As you grow in your relationship with the Lord, you will understand that you are to imitate Him in how you live your life. One of the most revolutionary examples He gave us is becoming a servant to others. It is in serving that you can find true fulfillment in life. Cornerstone Church is designed to offer many opportunities to find your place of service in the Kingdom of God. The Body of Christ benefits from your investment and you benefit most of all.

Scan the QR code to sign-up or show your support for areas you are currently serving.

News & Events

Scan QR code for Upcoming Events, News, Giving and more! <https://linktr.ee/cornerstonejc>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- May 17 - Intro to Cornerstone Life; registration is open
- May 10 - Muffins with Mom
- May 16 - Good Neighbor Day
- May 31 - Water Baptism; registration is open

