

## You Have It (Him) In You! Ministry Fair Message 2018

During the Last Supper, when Jesus told His disciples, *“I am going away, and where I am going you cannot come”* (John 13:33), they knew He was not talking about going on an extended vacation by Himself. He was talking about His impending death and then His ascension into heaven. Jesus was going to heaven where He would take His seat at the right hand of God after winning the victories over sin, Satan, and death. And the disciples were going to remain on earth to continue the work that Jesus began.

If you were a disciple, how would you feel about that? I’m guessing you would feel deflated. “What are we going to do without Jesus? Who *are* we without Jesus?”

I’m guessing you would feel anxious. “What *can* we do without Jesus? He was the Star of this show, and without Him no one is going to even show up, much less pay attention to what we say or do.”

I’m guessing you would feel a sense of inadequacy. The disciples had been with Jesus long enough to know that there was a massive gap between them and Him, not only in their moral character, but in their abilities. No one could teach like Him; no one could love like Him; no one could perform wonders and miracles like Him.

But after Jesus told them He was going away and where He was going they could not come, He made a startling statement. He said, *“Because I am going to the Father, you will do even greater things [than the things you saw me do]”* (John 14:12). Don’t feel deflated or inadequate! Don’t be anxious! The best is yet to come...even without Me in your presence! And *you* are going to be leading the charge!

Jesus seems to be asserting that His work on earth will be better off without Him around. How is that possible? How can weak, sinful, often inept people do greater things than Jesus did when he was on the earth? Jesus tells us in John 16. *“It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you”* (John 16:7). And regarding this Helper Jesus said in another place, *“he will not only be with you; he will be in you”* (14:17).

This *Helper* is the Holy Spirit, who is God Himself. Which means He has the same character as Jesus, the same love as Jesus, the same power as Jesus, and the same agenda as Jesus. So the reason the work of Jesus will be better off without Him on this earth working alongside His disciples, is because His Spirit will be *in* those disciples, enabling them to be like Jesus and do what Jesus did. It’s a principle of multiplication. *Every* believer gets to express the life and ministry of Jesus because every believer has His Spirit living in them.

Do you realize how incredible this is? Do you realize what this means for you and me and for our church? Do you understand the potential there is in this room for God’s will to be done on earth as it is in heaven? The possibilities are staggering, given the number of people in this room right now.

Several years ago the elders of our church wrote a mission statement for our church that I think does a good job of capturing the essence of Jesus’ instruction to His followers regarding their impact and influence on this earth until He comes again. It goes like this: *As the Body of Christ we will bring pleasure and glory to Jesus as He lives in and through us, expressing his life within the Body, and to our community and the world.*

We are told in Ephesians 1 that God’s grand, eternal purpose is to *glorify his Son, the Lord Jesus, and reconcile all things to him* (v. 10). God is in the process of bringing together

all creation under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. That's the definition of the Kingdom of God in its fulfillment—Jesus sitting on His throne and every knee bowing and every tongue confessing that He is Lord.

And Paul says that churches, like ours, have the privilege of participating in this grand, eternal purpose. After describing the glory and majesty and magnificence of Jesus in Ephesians 1 he closes the chapter by saying that the church on earth is the body of Christ, and the fullness of Christ in this earth realm. This means that the way people on earth get to authentically encounter Christ is when they come into contact with His body, the church. It means the way that Jesus expresses His life and accomplishes His will and expands His kingdom is through His body, the church.

Someone wrote a song that goes like this: "Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He sees and has compassion on this world. Christ has no body now on earth but yours" (John Michael Talbot).

So we bring pleasure and glory to Jesus when we function as His body, expressing His life to one another, and to our community and to the world. We can do that because all of us who have put our faith in Jesus have the Holy Spirit living in us. And He lives in us so *that* He can express Jesus and do the work of Jesus through us.

Whenever I meet with newcomers to Emmanuel Bible Church I tell them that if God has led them to be part of our church then it is His intention that they be actively engaged in the life and ministry of the church. God never intended anyone with the Holy Spirit living in them to be spectators or by-standers or benchwarmers. The Holy Spirit lives in us in order to express the life and work of Jesus, and He intends to do that through every single member of the Body. Because we are all body parts, and we can only effectively function if each body part is doing what it's supposed to do.

Many of you know how you fit into this particular expression of Christ's body called Emmanuel Bible Church and are functioning in the manner that God intended you to function. Praise the Lord! But some of you have yet to discover where you fit, and how the Lord wants you to function. We want to help you discover that. Part of our purpose in having a ministry fair today is to give you an opportunity to see how you might be able to be used by God to express the life and ministry of Jesus within the context of this body.

Some of our ministry leaders are going to give you a brief overview of several areas of ministry here at EBC, and some of the needs and opportunities in each. Then we are going to dismiss you to visit one or more of the tables that are set up on the platform and in the foyer, where you can learn how you might be able to serve the Lord.

Pastor Stan Myers  
September 16, 2018

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The Benefit of Jesus' departure from earth

“You will do greater things than Me” (Jn. 14:12)

“The Helper comes only if I go away” (Jn. 16:7)

“He will not only be with you, but in you” (Jn 14:17)

EBC's Mission Statement:

*As the Body of Christ we will bring pleasure and glory to Jesus as He lives in and through us, expressing His life within the Body, and to our community and the world*

The Contemporary Challenge

The Current Needs

Worship Service Ministries

Church Family Ministries

Adult Ministries

Children's Ministries

Youth Ministries

Hospitality

Serve Ministries

Outreach Ministries