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# Ignite

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*“Dear Lord, thank You for Your care and providence to each of us daily in the midst of this pandemic. We do not want to take anything for granted. Teach us to be good stewards and may we channel our blessings to others, fulfilling Your purpose and giving glory back to You. Amen”*



## SERMON SUMMARY

IMPACT Now:  
Use Your Gift

## Rev Phillip Deas

### **Romans 12:1-2, 4-8 NLT**

*“And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.”*

*“Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ’s body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. In his grace,. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.”*

### **Introduction [John 1:16 AMP, 10:10; Romans 12:1-8 NLT; Matthew 25:35-36,40 NLT](#)**

In 2019, Pastor Phillip challenged and spurred DUMC on towards **IMPACT 2020** with a stirring message from *Acts 27: Storms, Shipwreck and Snakes*. In light of the global pandemic, the church of DUMC is called to shift from impacting nations to impacting lives in the communities around us. Apostle Paul sets an excellent example when he was shipwrecked at Malta on his way to Rome - he did not wait but started preaching the Gospel where he was. There is no other way but now. We are called to **IMPACT NOW**.

God wants us to use these divine assigned gifts for His kingdom advancement. God wants to transform our **ATTITUDE** (*settled way of thinking or feeling about Him, ourselves and our God-given gift*) to expand our **APTITUDE** (*capacity to take on more*) so He can enhance the **MAGNITUDE** of the impact we can make in the world. Only then can we begin to see God do greater things through our gifts. However, this requires a shift away from two common limiting attitudes.

- **Tendency to limit our God-given gifts to spiritual works.** God has given us different gifts to do certain things well and these gifts are not just for spiritual things but for all things. Scripture exhorts us to give our lives completely to God as a pleasing act of worship in everything and every day, not just Sundays or prayer time.
- **Underestimating the influence we have in the marketplace (business or family world).** As much as we are to shine for Jesus in the marketplace, marketplace ministry is also about how the business world can be used to impact ministry. We are called to use our gifts to influence and improve the business world so it can, in turn, use its finances and resources to sow into kingdom projects.

There are **Four Action steps** to effectively use our gifts in the marketplace (or family).

### **1 See Opportunities** [\*Proverbs 29:18 MSG\*](#)

Before we can seize opportunities, we must first see them. If we cannot see what God is doing, we will continually stumble and miss what God is trying to do in and through our lives. We must take on an entrepreneurial visionary mind-set to seek improvement opportunities where others see obstacles and use our God-given gifts to solve problems and improve the company. Some examples include finding ways to make things more efficient, eliminating unnecessary expenses and fostering a healthier culture.

### **2 Serve People** [\*John 3:16, Mark 10:45 NASB\*](#)

Business is not transactional but is relationship focused. It puts serving people before profit. Jesus modelled the Father's heart as a servant leader by coming to love, serve and give His life as a ransom for many. Likewise as Christ's followers, we must excel in serving our bosses, employees, co-workers, customers and clients with compassion and humility because this is the kingdom way and our reward is in the eternal. This is also one of DUMCs core values – "*Love God, **Love people***".

### **3 Seek Growth**

Personal growth is essential to effectively use our gifts to impact business for the purpose of the kingdom. Growth is a choice and requires intentionality. It does not happen automatically. We can choose to respond to life situations in one of three ways – groaning through (complaining and whining), going through (passively hoping things would get better) or growing through (learning and developing).

### **4 Seed the Kingdom**

The more resources gathered and sowed, the more bountiful the harvest is for God's kingdom here on earth. We have common notions as Christians that money and professional achievement is evil. But when we begin to use our gifts and resources with the proper kingdom mentality – everything and every day belongs to God – then we are truly worshipping God with good works.

## **Conclusion**

God has given each of us special gifts to play a special function in the body of Christ. They are divine, holy and spiritual. When we begin to use these gifts daily for

God-designed purposes, it becomes a spiritual act of worship. He will bless our worship in such a way that allows us to build His kingdom beyond what we can imagine is possible. We must expand our capacity so we can increase our impact for God and we must begin to do that NOW.



# SERMON REFLECTION

It was more than 10 years ago when I decided to leave a well paying consulting job and to venture into the food and beverage business. Being a consultant by profession, I prided myself in my abilities to think critically, to spot “gaps” and to come up with the best solutions based on solid data analysis. I was very critical and unforgiving of others who, in my opinion, were never bright enough to see the big picture. It was this overconfidence that led me into a downward spiral.

Where others failed in business, I believed I could easily turn it around within one to two years. I was so single-minded in my pursuit that I even convinced myself that it was God’s calling - that somehow God will use my success to change and transform lives....that somehow through my business, God will increase my influence to make an impact for Him. *“There was no way He would let me fail because I was doing what I was called to do.”* That was such a well rehearsed self-talk that I began to use the Lord’s name in vain. Looking back, I realised that in my secret heart of hearts, I was blinded by greed and the dream of achieving financial freedom.

It was no surprise that the business failed and I had to close down business. I went back into employment and worked to pay off huge debts. But I gained so much more in the process. **I have experienced God’s redemptive love, grace and mercy.** God sent many brothers and sisters in Christ to encourage me and to help me realise that failure does not define me. **My identity is anchored in Christ.** God softened my heart to realise that the most deeply grieved throughout this ordeal was my wife and for once, to start valuing her more than myself, to **place her needs before mine.**

Asked some time back by my wife if I regretted my actions, my reply was "*I did regret loving myself more than you but it was probably because of this experience that we are still happily married.*". God is infinitely wise. Most importantly, the experience started me on a faith journey of really knowing my God and how much He loves me. **I realise now that real matter was the matter of the heart.** My heart was not right before God. My actions and behaviour must come from intentions that are guided by the Holy Spirit. *Father, forgive me for being self-centered. I have deeply grieved you. Help me, day by day, to experience on a deeper level how wide, high and deep your love is for me and my fellow neighbours. Help me to model your fatherly love that Jesus modelled by being a servant husband, father, son, brother, employee, co-worker and friend. Help me to show the same grace and mercy to others in the same measure you have shown me. Holy Spirit, teach me to discern between desires of the flesh and true desires that pleases the Father. Empower me to be more and more like Jesus in my daily walk with you. Amen.*



# APPLICATION

## **Note to Word facilitator:**

*As you prepare for this session, this is a great time to pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you to use the questions efficaciously. You can select, modify or entirely create your own questions, according to the needs of your CG, especially if you feel that there are too many questions than required for the allocated time. The questions below are crafted with a certain flow in mind. You could use these towards the end or insert them in between your own sermon reflection and summary.*

## **Suggested Icebreaker Question** (for Welcome that would link to the Word time)

- Share one thing you spend most of your time in a day or week doing (**Note to facilitator:** *A good opportunity to understand each CG member and tailor key messages to those who may not directly fit in the marketplace ministry category e.g. youths, seniors, home makers, unemployed, etc.*)
- “If I had more time, I would \_\_\_\_\_ for God” Fill in the blank (e.g. something we have put off for later - a dream holiday, project, etc.).
- What are the two words your closest family or friends would use to best describe you?

## **Suggested Word Introductory Question:**

- On a scale of 0-100%, how much of your typical week is spent on spiritual things? How can the rest be made “more spiritual”? (**Note to facilitator:** *This and the following question reinforces the point that “all of life is spiritual worship to God.”*)
- What are some of the most mundane things you do in a typical week? How can these things also be made holy and spiritual?
- Do you sometimes feel that certain parts of your life or what you do will always remain secular and “un-spiritual”? If so, why and what can we do about it?

## Suggested questions linked to each main point:

### See Opportunities

- What are some of the gifts that God has blessed you with? What do you think God wants you to do with them?

### Serve People

- It is 2am in the morning and you need help. Who would you call? Conversely, who would call you? Why? If none, why not?

### Seek Growth

- Are you groaning, going or growing through this season of life? What can you do to continuously grow in the challenging areas?

### Seed the Kingdom

- In Matthew 6:19-24, Jesus taught His disciples to store up treasures in heaven for "*where your treasure is, there your heart will be also*". How do we ensure we are good stewards of the resources given to us? (e.g. money, time, work, etc.)

## Concluding Questions:

- What are some areas you can grow and use your gift to impact lives for God? How can we then pray for each other right now?
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## Question Bank *(if you'd like to take it deeper with your CG members):*

### See Opportunities

- Name an instance where an opportunity looked very good but you were not sure whether to act on it? How do we know whether it is Spirit-led?
- What are some areas that you find challenging to exercise our divine gifts? How can you breakthrough in these areas?

### Serve People

- Have you ever felt people were taking advantage of your kindness and generosity? In such situations, how can we act wisely and faithfully model Jesus' example of servant leadership?
- Who are one or two of your closest friends? Why are they closest to you?

### Seek Growth

- What are some areas you feel you need to grow more? What are some of the practical ways to grow in these areas?
- Is there a difference between spiritual growth and personal development (e.g. self help books, motivational seminars, enrichment courses)? Why or why not?

- Are you pursuing spiritual growth all by yourself or have you found some fellow brothers and sisters with whom you can be transparent and accountable?

#### Seed the Kingdom

- IMPACT NOW is about impacting the communities around us now. What do you think is the special function you play as part of the church?
- “God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well”. Share what this means personally in your life? What would you say is your purpose in life?
- **In Matthew 6:24**, it says “*No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.*”. How can we ensure our hearts are in the right place and be good stewards of our resources?





## WHAT'S YOUR STORY?



### Story of the week...

*"Hi, Joanna. Thank you for reminding us to invite ppl to join our virtual church, I copied the link you sent to someone. She logged in and paid a visit and was ministered to by the message today. Thank you for your timely reminder to invite people to our online church. Be Blessed my dear sister!"*

- Shared by Joanna Ow, PJN3

\* Joanna serves as an Online Welcome Host on dumcmy.online.church where she greets people on the public chat window

*"There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you."*

- Maya Angelou

If your CG member(s) has a story to share related to today's Word,  
**Share their/your story** [\[HERE\]](#)



# PRAYER

**Note to CGL:** You (or someone you assign this portion to), may lead by reading these prayers together as a CG during worship.

## **Prayers for Pentecost Church – Spiritual Awakening & Revival**

*Living God, you sent the Holy Spirit to breathe life into Your church so that we too can join You in accomplishing Your mission. Let us no longer be captives to fear, but messengers of Your saving love, so that all may be reconciled in You. Let there be an invasion from Heaven – to impact the Church once again to a deeper devotion to prayer until we are endued with power from on high through Jesus Christ, our Divine Intercessor. Amen.*

### **Nation & Justice**

*Lord God, through Christ You give us peace that the world cannot give. In this time of unprecedented global and national upheaval, let Your Spirit of Truth, our Comforter and Teacher, abide with us so that we may live in hope, grow in faith, and keep your commandments of love. Preserve us from judgement, protect our nation from evil, and lead us into justice and righteousness. Amen.*

### **Pastors & Church Leaders**

Lord Jesus, we pray for our church leaders and pastors to

- increase in desire for more of You and the fullness of the Spirit;

- increase in desire and will to surrender and give up control, position and recognition; may they be rooted in Your Word, walk in obedience and serve with humility;
- experience holistic rejuvenation and refreshing from being in Your presence.

### **Communities & Social Transformation**

*Lord Jesus, we ask that You will pour down Your Holy Spirit to bring conviction of sin, reconciliation of relationships and families, and restoration of broken communities and neighbourhoods. We pray for our neighbours and communities to be transformed and rebuilt through forgiveness, forbearance and love, as we confront the big issues of social polarisation, poverty and injustice. Amen.*

### **Personal Holiness**

Fill me with Your Holy Spirit that I may be a living portrait of Christ. In the words of St. Augustine of Hippo, this I pray –

- Breathe in me O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy;
- Act in me O Holy Spirit, that my works, too, may be holy;
- Draw my heart O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy;
- Strengthen me O Holy Spirit, to defend that which is holy;
- Guard me then O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. Amen.

(adapted from 24-7 Prayer Asia Guide)







# **OTHER RESOURCES**

Below are some links to resource you. Do **CLICK** on the images below!

## FEATURED

*In view of our current changing landscape that affects us individually and corporately, here are some featured resources for you this month!*

 <h3>The Psychology of Crisis</h3> <p>1 hour 35 minutes rightnowmedia.org Truths for facing the COVID-19 pandemic. Video Clip Featured - August</p>	 <h3>Listening</h3> <p>8 sessions (6 minutes on average) rightnowmedia.org Listening is a critical aspect of leadership. Video Series Featured - August</p>
 <h3>Grief</h3> <p>8 clips (4 minutes on average) rightnowmedia.org Involving your team during times of grief. Video Series Featured - August</p>	 <h3>Unanswered Prayer</h3> <p>24 minutes prayercourse.org Challenges and realities when our prayers aren't answered. Video Clip Featured - August</p>

## OTHER RESOURCES

*Discover a host of other resources curated for you here!*



### **DUMC STORIES**

*Be blessed by a compilation of inspiring DUMC Stories that you can share with others!*

