

# Strength for Serving

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The 19<sup>th</sup> century Danish Theologian Soren Kierkegaard once told a parable of a wild duck that became exhausted in the annual migration and was left behind by the other ducks. The duck landed in a farmer's barnyard where it was fed daily and associated with the tame ducks.

For a while, every time a flock of wild ducks flew over the barnyard, the duck had the urge to join them. But since life was so easy in the barnyard, it stayed. During all this time, the duck did not fly.

The next year a flock of wild ducks flew over. The "call of the wild" was so strong that the duck was determined to join them. Alas, when it tried to fly it, it could no longer do so. The duck had lost the ability by failing to use it.

Being a part of a local church for the Christian is much the same. Before you can spread your wings in flight you first have to condition them for effective use. So as we are a part of the church here at EPBC let me encourage you to be present and active in the ministries opportunities of the church through service.

Apathy to service within the local church is not something new as 19<sup>th</sup> century English pastor Charles Spurgeon made note of even in his day.

***"I believe that many professing Christians are cold and uncomfortable because they are doing nothing for their Lord; but if they actively served him, their blood would begin to circulate spiritually, and it would be well with them."*** –Charles Spurgeon

Here at EPBC I am so thankful for so many who are faithful in finding their place of service, but there is always room for improvement and there is room for more to actively serve here at EPBC. So as we find ourselves in the summer months when it's easy to put church activity on the back burner and even justifiable to some to take a break from church all together, let's not forget our great salvation and the esteemed privilege we have to serve Christ through His church.

***"Let us not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we don't give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us work for the good of all, especially for those who belong to the household of faith."*** Galatians 6:9–10 (CSB)

The Church is not a seasonal activity like so many other things that are a part of our lives. Instead of seeing the Church as a part of our lives, we need to see ourselves as a part of the Church. And as we are a part of this greater whole, being the Church, let's not allow ourselves to be defined or defamed as "seasonal saints". Let's not become drained, disinterested or defeated as we live for Christ as God has planned because of His gracious salvation given to us through faith (Eph 2:8–10). In the time we are given, let's make the most of the time and our lives as we take every opportunity that the Lord puts before us to work for the good of all, especially those within the church.

***"Faithful servants never retire. You can retire from your career, but you will never retire from serving God."*** – Rick Warren

## Opportunities to serve:

- Love Out Loud, Neshoba—June 21-25
- VBS—June 27-July 1
- Extended childcare (Sundays)
- Nursery worker



Let's Fly,

Pastor Jeff