

Spiritual Gifts, Serving and Growth Track with Chris Hodges - Episode 359

Serving as Spiritual Formation (Part 5)

When people discover their gifts, they begin to feel more connected and fulfilled. But few churches know how to help people discover the unique wiring God has given them, and fewer still have a plan to help people leverage those gifts once discovered.

We wrap up this series on “Serving as Spiritual Formation” with an interview with Pastor Chris Hodges from Church of the Highlands to unpack the success they’ve had with Growth Track, which has inspired thousands of churches across the country, and the overall importance of helping people serve with gifts as part of their spiritual formation journey.

Key Quotes

1. CHRIS: “The missing ingredient in people’s growth is the first step of understanding their own spiritual gifts. I don’t think you can develop your discipleship process without understanding how God made you.”
2. CHRIS: “When people discover their grace gift and are connected, the fulfillment is unbelievable.”
3. CHRIS: “The best way to solve your problems isn’t to solve your problems. The best way to solve your problems is to have something in your life bigger than your problems.”
4. CHRIS: “We’ve lost what I call organic discipleship. The best development of leaders isn’t a curriculum or class. It’s me being interested in you, in developing you, seeing something in you.”
5. CHRIS: “You pour your lives into other people; the growth will take care of itself.”

Self-Assessment: How Are We Doing?

1. Growth Track seems to be successful for two reasons: It’s practical, and its purpose is clear. Using red, yellow or green, how would we rate our current discipleship pathway for practicality and clarity of purpose? For yellow or red areas, what could we change to improve the process?
2. In what ways do we emphasize the importance of serving for individual spiritual growth (versus asking people to serve because we need volunteers)? What are two or three things we could do to amplify this truth even more?
3. Beyond our church-wide discipleship pathway, do our staff and volunteer leaders have a heart for personally and organically discipling others (i.e., do we see leaders being raised up organically)? If the answer is no, what can we change from the top to make this part of our culture?

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