

The Primary Purpose – A Reinterpretation

Some say that God invented the great game of golf for bored gardeners. If this is true, then I assume that the clubs would have God given names. In competition golf, the golf bag carried by the caddie can contain a maximum of fourteen clubs. Below, are the royal names of the clubs (I think) that the triune God would want us to use.

No.	Club	Royal Name (Prayer, Gift, Weapon, Talent)
1	1 Wood	Asking for forgiveness, and forgiveness of others
2	3 Wood	Repentance
3	5 Wood	Faith
4	Hybrid 5	Worship
5	2 Iron	Tongues and interpretation of tongues
6	3 Iron	Prophecy
7	4 Iron	Discernment of spirits
8	5 Iron	Preach the Word of God – Evangelism
9	6 Iron	Words of wisdom
10	7 Iron	Words of knowledge
11	8 Iron	Healing
12	9 Iron	Miracles
13	Sand Wedge	Deliverance
14	Putter	Angelic manifestations and assignments

In the article entitled *The Primary Purpose*¹, it appears to me that the focus is on the five iron – evangelism, that is, preaching to others. Mostly, the rest of the clubs are left in the bag, no matter what part of the course you are on. Preaching to others can be done in our own strength, without accessing the resources and power from heaven. Some say that if you can talk someone into God's kingdom, then the enemy can quite easily talk them out of it.

A lawyer asked Jesus a question, testing Him, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." Matthew 22:35-40

So Jesus told the lawyer, our first and great commandment is to 'love the Lord our God, with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our mind.' In the books we have been reading lately, God is providing us with an explicit primary purpose – to become intimate with Him, receive revelation directly from Him, and access Heaven and its resources first before we operate back down here on earth. Only by doing this first, can we effectively perform the second commandment, 'to love our neighbour as ourselves'.

By healing others, we show them a God of power. Through words of knowledge, we show others a God Who intimately knows them and their circumstances and cares for them. By asking God to open others' eyes to see the angelic realm, we show them really fun stuff.

I'm not seeking to diminish evangelism, but if preaching is not followed by signs and wonders, then I wonder whose power is operating. If signs and wonders follow preaching of the Word of God, then there is no doubt that heaven is touching earth and God's power is manifest. So let's put God first, before others.

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1 – Brian Medway "The Primary Purpose: Rediscovering the Biblical Reason for the Church"
(caloundrachurchofchrist.org.au/wp-content/uploads/PrimaryPurpose-1-1.pdf)