

Wednesday, September 12, 2007

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A Worthy Life

Ephesians 4:1

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.

Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. ²Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

I. Right _____

- a. We serve because _____ us.
- b. We serve because serving is _____ and _____ glorifies God.
- c. We serve because serving _____
_____.

II. Right _____ to Serve (SHAPE)

Three major themes of Paul in writing about Spiritual Gifts:

1. We are a _____ made up of _____ parts.
2. You will have _____ you need
3. Without _____ it's all worthless.

What are Spiritual Gifts: *"Spiritual gifts are special abilities distributed by the Holy Spirit to every believer according to God's design and grace for the common good of the body of Christ."* - Bruce Bugbee

Eight quick truths about Spiritual Gifts:

1. Only _____ have spiritual gifts. (1 Corinthians 12:1)
2. Every Christian has at least _____ gift. (1 Corinthians 7:7)
3. No one receives _____ the gifts. (1 Corinthians 12:27-30)
4. No single gift is given to _____. (1 Corinthians 12:29-30)
5. You cannot _____ a spiritual gift...the Lord _____ what gifts you receive. (Ephesians 4:7 & 1 Corinthians 12:11)
6. We should _____ the gifts God gives us. (1 Timothy 4:14)
7. Spiritual gifts are not for my _____ but others'. (1 Peter 4:10)
8. Using my gifts without _____ is worthless. (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

"When church members begin considering spiritual gifts, they sometimes run into difficulty by thinking that God gives them some 'thing' - like an ingredient called 'administration.' No, He doesn't give something; He gives Himself. The gift is a person. The Holy Spirit equips you with His administrative ability." - Henry Blackaby

Three Cautions about Spiritual Gifts:

1. Be aware of _____
2. Be aware of _____
3. Be aware of _____

H _____

- a. Passion, or heart, helps us to know _____ to serve.
- b. It gives us _____.
- c. It gives us _____.
- d. Ensures all _____ are met.
- e. Helps us to understand God's _____ for our life.

Galatians 1:15-16

But when God, who set me apart from birth and called me by his grace, was pleased ¹⁶to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not consult any man,

Our heart and passion is, many times, the chewing gum of our minds.

A _____ & _____

P _____

- Some are _____ and others are _____
- Some need _____ and others need little structure.
- Some are _____ and others are _____.
- Some like _____ and others like _____.
- Some are _____ and others are _____.

There are no right or wrong temperaments, but temperaments should never be an excuse for ungodly character.

E _____

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (Living Bible)

What a wonderful God we have--he is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of every mercy, and the one who so wonderfully comforts and strengthens us in our hardships and trials. And why does he do this? So that when others are troubled, needing our sympathy and encouragement, we can pass on to them this same help and comfort God has given us.

- Your _____ experiences
- Your _____ experiences
- Your _____ experiences
- Your _____ experiences

III. Right _____

Spiritual Gifts expressed without love do not reflect God's character and purpose; therefore, they fail to make a kingdom impact.