

June 6, 2010

Putting It All Together

Matt 13:44; 1Cor 9:16; Rom 1:15; Rom 15:20

We have been working a lot in the past several weeks to ascertain spiritual gifts, what they are, how they are valuable to us and to God, and how to encourage every Christian to use their gifts. In this week's lesson we will try to determine the value of serving with joy. We also want to learn how to use our gifts to get results, and how to increase our passion and commitment to do the will of God.

Favorite activities for you as a child:

Homework	family vacation	playing with toys inside
Going to school	household chores	reading
Going to the movies	camping	playing organized sports
Playing backyard sports	taking music lessons	fishing
Hunting	gardening	taking machines apart

How different are your responses from others in the room? Why?

What is our motive for our work in ministry? If it is *obligation* or *duty*, your dedication will be temporary. God has also placed in your heart an inborn desire in particular interests. That inner stirring will give motivation when duty is worn out. If you love it, you won't tire of it. Your ministry will last if you can serve with joy!

1. Matt 13:44. What are you willing to trade away or give up for God? What is YOUR treasure; what will you pursue with joy and determination, forsaking just about any other thing?
2. 1Cor 9:16. What was it that *compelled* Paul to preach? What are YOU *compelled* to do for Jesus?
3. Rom 1:11-17. What was it that made Paul feel *obligated* to his ministry of preaching? Are you ever *ashamed* of being a Christian? Are there times when you would want your faith to be obscured in some crowd?
4. Rom 15:17&20. What is YOUR spiritual ambition? What is it that you MUST do for God that you cannot and will not shirk?
5. Col. 3:23-24. How often do you find yourself working to please people rather than the Lord? How would our work be different if we really thought of God as our employer? Can you do your regular job for Him? How? Or with what motivation?
6. Gal. 4:4-7. How does it make you feel to know you can call the Creator of the Universe, "Father"? How often do you remember God in this way? How does this help give you a motivation to work for the Lord?
7. 2Tim 4:7. How are YOU doing at fighting the *good fight*? What is the *good fight* anyway? Do you want to be able to quote this verse toward the end of your days? Do we have to wait until we are about to die to think of our life's work in this way? What enables us to say it today?

Think of your favorite hobby. Now think of a way you could turn that hobby into a ministry. What would you name it? Who would be your target audience?

Do you have a vision or dream for God about which you've never told anyone? How much risk is involved on your part? Is this something you could pursue with all your heart? What resources would be required to get your dream started?

After going through all these recent studies, how would you complete the following statements?

- a. My personality could best be described as:

- b. My greatest abilities and talents are:

- c. My primary spiritual gifts are:

- d. My life experiences have equipped me to help others by:

- e. My heart's desire for ministry is to:

Please write out these scriptures in the space provided.

Psalm 37:4.

Colossians 3:23-24.

What does God's desire for your future? Jeremiah 29:11

