

SM 041920

Discovering and Using Your Gifts for Such a Time as This

Sunday Morning Message

Text – 1 Kings 7:13 – 14; Exodus 35:30 – 36:1; Romans 12:1 – 8; 1 Corinthians 12

Congregational Reading – 1 Kings 7:13 – 14

Introduction

We are going to be looking at several portions of Scripture this morning that all deal with the subject of spiritual gifts, which are the gifts (or talents) given to believers by the Holy Spirit, which He can use to glorify Himself, and to be a blessing to the rest of the body of believers, and advance the cause of Christ, which is the salvation of lost souls.

An illustration of this principle was seen in Old Testament Israel regarding the construction of both the Tabernacle and, later, the Temple.

Read Exodus 35:30 – 36:1 regarding the Tabernacle.

Read 1 Kings 7:13 – 14 regarding the Temple.

In the New Testament, God has given us instructions regarding His equipping of saints for His New Testament Church ministry:

He gives us church planters, and pastors and teachers:

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."

(Ephesians 4:11-16)

Also within each body of believers, God gives spiritual gifts:

Read and explain Romans 12:1 – 8; and then 1 Corinthians 12

Note – some of the gifts in 1 Corinthians 12 were transitional, used in that first century, before the completion of the full canon of Scripture. Chapter thirteen clearly reveals that those transitional gifts would eventually become unnecessary when the Bible was completed:

"For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known." (1 Corinthians 13:9-12)

God has given us a job to do in 2020, in the midst of this COVID-19 Pandemic. In some general ways, the job that we have before us today is the same as it was 1900 years ago in the first-century. We have the responsibility of preaching the gospel; teaching the doctrines of the Bible; living Christ-honoring and separated lives. However, in every generation of believers, there will also be unique opportunities that represent the times that we are living in.

Illustrate - For instance, several hundred years ago, there were no musical instruments used in church worship services, but eventually churches would include organs, and by the turn of the last century, pianos. Microphones would eventually be used to amplify sound in the 1900's, and within the last twenty years, churches started using visual aids. Each one of these additions (or changes) created opportunities for people who were particularly gifted in one of those areas to use their talents for the Lord.

The challenge for us today, in this cataclysmically changing world that we are now living in, is to find ways to more effectively communicate Christ to the world around us, and more efficiently minister to the people within our congregations. However, the way we do those things tomorrow may be radically different from the way we did them yesterday. And, we will need people whom God has uniquely gifted to help us do that.

The post 9-11 period provided opportunities for Christians to serve in safety capacities. God had to especially equip people who would be proficient in the area of security and safety.

This virus has caused us to depend much more heavily on technology. We praise the Lord for the people in our congregation like Wade, Khyle, and others who are helping in these areas, because without them, we wouldn't be able to do what we are doing.

Illustrate – I am geographically in South Carolina, preaching to people in their homes in Atlantic County. That would not be possible without the equipping of some twenty-first century “Hiram’s,” “Bezaleels,” and “Aholiabs,” who are learning, growing, and developing their gifts for use in the local church.

The point is this – the post-Covid-19 church-world will be in many ways different from the world of two months ago. Part of me is very sad to see the old days go away, but another part of me realizes that these changes are necessary if we are going to be able to reach and minister to this crazy world we are living in.

Again – many things will remain exactly the same. The principles of the Word of God remain the same; the Gospel does not change; but many of the ways that we minister and communicate the gospel will change.

Right now, we are still all virtually quarantined. But, even in quarantine, God has raised up gifted people who have figured out ways to be a blessing to the church. Technology is just one example.

Illustrate – Pastor Bulka is a gifted businessman, and through his connections, he has been able to acquire a couple of thousand masks, which he will use to be a blessing to his church and community.

Illustrate – One church was able to purchase a truckload of toilet paper, which they stuck gospel tracts in, and gave away. Many people were saved as a result of that.

When we come back to the church, hopefully soon, we are still going to need preachers and teachers, but we will also need more people, and some new people whom we have never used before.

1. We will be adding another service at 8:30, which will reduce the number of people in each service allowing them to keep a social distance.
2. We will also may nurses checking temperatures in order to be sure that nobody who is exhibiting symptoms comes into the auditorium.
3. There will probably be the need for added safety personnel and ushers.
4. We will need people who will help us scrub down and sanitize the building after every service.
5. We will still be making improvements and adding to our technology team, because some people will not be able or comfortable with coming back.

Conclusion

You may not have been very active in the pre-Covid-19 church world, but maybe God has raised you up and equipped you to be used for such a time as this.

On the website, there is a respond button. If you feel that you want to be part of the local church ministry in these exciting last days, click that respond button, and let us know that you want to in. Let us know what you feel God would want you to do.

God may have raised you up specifically to be used of Him for such a time as this.