

Faith Christian Fellowship
Sunday, October 13, 2013
Faithful Stewards 4

TEXT: 1Co 4:1-7

We are God's kids and enjoy many privileges based entirely on that fact. We will, however, one day be evaluated based on how faithful we have been as stewards of what He has given each of us. It is required! Our fruitfulness and our reward depend primarily on our stewardship. (Drop and roll, or well done 3:12-15)

We are stewards of time, our bodies, money, gifts, and His message. We looked at time and our body, the Message, and our money. Today we look at our gifts. We will be evaluated on the day of Christ concerning how we used the abilities He gave us.

- ❖ Believe you are gifted:
 - 1 Peter 4:10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. (NKJ)
 - Gift = *charisma*: "a gracious divine endowment:" an extraordinary gift of the Holy Spirit dwelling and working in a special manner in the individual (from Vincent's Word Studies). Notice verse 11: two general categories.
 - Get motivated to find and use your gifts:
 - It impacts the whole Church: Eph 4:16
 - You will be evaluated on whether you are good (motive) and faithful (dependable): 2 Cor 5:10-11/ Gal 6:4-5 / Matt 25:21
- ❖ Find your gifts:
 - Romans 12:1-8 describes the flow of charisma gifts, divinely imparted abilities..
 - VV 1-3 Present your body and renew your mind. You can't fulfill the plan of God without doing these things. You are part of a Body. All the functions are equally important.
 - V. 6-8 Our gifts differ entirely based on the grace of God. We cannot gift ourselves. We are only stewards of what we are given. Every gift is just a magnified ability in an area that all believers are expected to function.
 - Your call is established by God, not you. It is not a question of deciding what you want, but discovering what you are. John 3:27 / 1 Cor 15:10
 - Pointers for locating your gift:
 - You don't start out in your ultimate place. Don't despise small beginnings. Zech 4:8-10 / Matthew 13:31-32 (It's a gift, not a position)

- Never dis-esteem your gift. It is from God. Romans 11:13 / 1 Cor 15:10 / Num 16:8-10.
- Notice how things work for you. If it seems easy for you to do and gets good results, it is likely a grace gift.
 - Matt 11:30 If its not easy (well-fitted) and light then you are either in the wrong race or you're running in your own strength.
 - Matt 12:33 Fruit is a sign of gifting.
 - John 15:1-7 / Lk13:6-9 If you're not sure, dung it and see what happens.
- What arouses passion?
 - Do you love to do it?
 - Does it irritate you when it is not done well?
 - Does your com-passion give you direction?
- ❖ Hone your gift
 - When you find a God-given ability, concentrate on it. Practice, practice, practice! Talent is not the same as skill. We are to become skillful.
 - Observe people who are good at their work-- skilled workers are always in demand and admired; they don't take a back seat to anyone. Proverbs 22:29 MSG)
 - Practice your talents, not your weaknesses. Hire or recruit your weaknesses.
 - Look for places to apply your abilities. Don't seek titles or positions. They will find you. Practice your talents where you R.
 - Look for ways to use your abilities in the job you have. Ex. a pastor may have administrative gifts or he can exhort those who do. A youth worker may be a teacher or an exhorter or a mercy-giver.
 - Promotion in the kingdom comes through faithfulness, not talent. Luke 16:10-12
 - **REMEMBER:** God is in charge of promotions, not you. 1 Peter 5:6 / Psalm 75:6,7 Do your job, prepare yourself, develop your character and let God exalt you.
 - Using a dull ax requires great strength, so sharpen the blade. That's the value of wisdom; it helps you succeed. (Ecc 10:10 NLT)

Your talent is God's gift to you.
What you do with it is your gift back to God.

Leo Buscaglia