

Living the Word

- Remember when they asked you what do you want to do when you grow up?
- If you ask our children that question you may get answers like firefighter, nurse, doctor, pilot or even a sports figure.
- When we were young we had dreams of what we wanted to do as an adult. Things changed when we became adults. Pressures of life make us pick a career that will help us make it in life.
- Another thing that might steer us in another direction is God's call on our life.
- That is the X factor in our Christian walk.
- Sometimes God changes the direction on our lives.
- **1 Samuel 16:13 (NLT) — 13 So as David stood there among his brothers, Samuel took the flask of olive oil he had brought and anointed David with the oil. And the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David from that day on.**
- I'm sure David wasn't thinking that he would be anointed as the king of Israel.
- Consider the disciples and how Jesus called them to follow Him.
- They were just going about their business and out of the daily routine came that call of God.
- We as Christians are followers of God and we should want to serve Him. I was filling in for Mike last week and I taught the Sr. High class. I asked them this question "What would you do for someone who saved your life?" -Silence-
- I could ask all of us the same question and there would be some silence.
- How much gratitude do we show Jesus? Are we willing to serve Him and live our lives the way He wants us to?
- David was obedient to God. The disciples were obedient to God.
- We are all called to serve God.
- We are given gifts from God to do what He has called us to do.
- **1 Corinthians 12: 7 A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.**
- Do you notice it doesn't say a gift is given to some or a couple of us? No each of us has been given a gift.
- This gift was given to us so we can help each other.
- God gives us these gifts to serve His purpose. They are not for our own gratification or to build us up as individuals. God has a plan and He wants us to do the job He has for each one of us.
- **Jeremiah 1:5 (NLT) — 5 "I knew you before I formed you in your mother's womb. Before you were born I set you apart and appointed you as my prophet to the nations."**

- We see that He appointed Jeremiah as a prophet before he was born. God has a plan and purpose for all of us.
- **Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT)**
- **11 For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.**
- He empowers His servants with His Spirit so they can do what He has planned for them.
- **Isaiah 42:1 (NLT) — 1 “Look at my servant, whom I strengthen. He is my chosen one, who pleases me. I have put my Spirit upon him. He will bring justice to the nations.**
- **In Acts 2:4 (NLT)**
- **4 And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.**
- God gave His disciples the Holy Spirit to further His message to the world. In that scripture the disciples who were uneducated spoke in different languages.
- God gave the disciples this gift so His message of salvation could spread.
- He gave this gift as the disciples were being obedient to Jesus.
- **Acts 1:4 (NLT)**
- **⁴ Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, “Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before.**
- **Acts 2:1 (NLT)**
- **On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place.**
- We need to be living out God’s word in our lives. When we are obedient to Him we will be given jobs to do for God.
- In Matthew 25 we can read about the parable of the talents. Jesus tells this story about three servants and how their master entrusted them with a certain amount of silver. One servant he gave 5 bags of silver, another he gave 2 bags and the last servant got 1 bag of silver.
- Now the master came back and two doubled the master’s investment. The third servant took his bag of silver and buried it. Then he gave back the 1 bag of silver to his master.
- **Matthew 25:26–30 (NLT)**
- **26 “But the master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy servant! If you knew I harvested crops I didn’t plant and gathered crops I didn’t cultivate, 27 why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.’**
- **28 “Then he ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. 29 To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little**

they have will be taken away. 30 Now throw this useless servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

- God gives us gifts and we need to take that gift and invest it in God's kingdom.
- Look at what the master says to the servant. "You wicked and lazy servant!"
- Why was the servant lazy? He didn't invest the gift that was given to him. The servant didn't even do the minimum!
- **1 Corinthians 12: 7 A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.**
- We are each given a gift! The master wants us to invest it into His kingdom.
- What are those gifts?
- **Romans 12:3–8 (NLT)**
- **3 Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. 4 Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, 5 so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.**
- **6 In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. 7 If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. 8 If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.**
- **Ephesians 4:11 (NLT)**
- **11 Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers.**
- How do we know what are gifts are? How do we know where God wants to use us?
- I believe God gives us a passion about something or even multiple things. Rick Warren tells a story about how they do ministry at Saddleback church. If someone approached the board or a minister in the church about something they feel should be done. They feel that it is that person is the one that should oversee the ministry because they have the passion for the need.
- God gives us those passions. When we have those passions we need and gives us the gifts to do something about those needs.
- **1 Corinthians 12:11 It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.**

- The best way to know what God wants from us is to know God and to be connected to God.
- **John 15:4–5 (NLT)**
- **4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.**
- **5 “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.**
- With God we can do much and without God we can do nothing!
- What kind of servant do you want to be?
- The good and faithful servant or the wicked lazy servant?