



Fulfilling God's Purpose For your Life (part 4) Sunday April 23, 2006

Recognising God's Purpose for Your Life

1. Recognise the general teaching and instruction of God's Word.
2. Recognise the 'seeds' in your life.
3. Recognise the stirring within

2.4. Recognise the Grace of God Given to You

2.4.1. The word 'Grace' in the New Testament signifies

2.4.1.1. Divine favour

Ephesians 2:8

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.

2.4.1.2. Divine character

John 1:14

2 Peter 3:18

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

2.4.1.3. Divine enablement

2 Corinthians 12: 9

Divine Enablement is given to each believer

Ephesians 4:7

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

There can be different measures of the same gift.

Romans 12:4-6

⁴For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, ⁵so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. ⁶Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith.

- All members do have some function.
- We are members of one another – we must be connected.
- The gifts in your life are indicative of the grace given to you.
- The gifts given to you are in line with the function God has designed for you to perform in the Body.
- The 'gifts and callings' of God go together (Romans 11:29). You know you are called to a particular function, when you have the gifts to help you fulfil that function.
- Not all gifts are 'spiritual' in nature (vs 7-9).



How do we discover the gifts we've been given?

- Experiment – put your hand to something and see if you have the heart and gift for it.
- Special Situations – some time we are “forced” into some situations where we “rise up to the occasion” and find that we have latent gifts of grace.
- Prophetic word – Prophecy can reveal a person's potential. Gifts can be imparted through prophecy (1 Timothy 4:14). Remember, however that all prophecy must be tested (1 Thessalonians 5:19-21)

Ephesians 3:1,7,8

¹ For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—⁷of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power. ⁸ To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.

- “I became....according to the gift of the grace of God....”. What you seek to become must be in line with the gift of the grace of God given to you.
- The grace of God is always given to you for something—to accomplish a specific purpose. For example, to minister to the sick, the elderly or to children.
- The areas in which God has given you grace are also the areas in which you will find God's power working effectively in your life.

Ephesians 4:7–11

⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore He says: “When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men.” ⁹ (Now this, “He ascended”—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) ¹¹ And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers.

- Some have been called into specific offices/ministries.
- Recognise the grace of God given to you.
- Your gifts of grace reveal God's potential and His purpose for your life.
- The way you are designed reveals what you were designed for.
- God's gifts of grace need to be nurtured, developed and used to fulfil His purposes.

2.4.2. Grace plus work

1 Corinthians 15:10

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

2.5. Recognise the Leading of God's Spirit

Romans 8:14–16

¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.

John 16:13–15

¹³ However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. ¹⁴ He will



glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.

1 Corinthians 2:9,10

⁹ But as it is written: " Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." ¹⁰ But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

John 3:8

The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

2.5.1. How does the Holy Spirit speak to us?

- Bears witness with our spirits.
- Quickening of the written Word/spoken Word.
- Ideas, impressions and pictures.
- Dreams and visions.
- Prophetic words.

2.5.2. How do we know it is the Holy Spirit speaking?

When the Holy Spirit speaks, He will always glorify Jesus. This is a good test to see if what you are hearing is truly from the Holy Spirit or from your feelings.