

Sermon Notes

Seek and You Will Find: Part 8

December 11th – 12th, 2021

- **Finding Your Purpose**
- Do you believe that you are here for a reason? That you make a difference, that God has a plan for you?
 - o I hope you do because it's true.
- **Today: Zeroing In on Purpose – Spiritual Gifts**
- Before we go any further, I want to bring up what I learned the first time Pastor Larry preached...
 - o God's plan for us is first and primarily who we are: character, heart, attitude, etc.
 - o After that God has some specific assignments for us, but our identity is not in our assignments.
- It doesn't work to try to make up for bad character by doing good things for God. **Matthew 7:21-23**
 - o Let God change you from the inside out. Then it flows naturally.
 - The fruit of the Spirit (**Galatians 5:22-23**) trumps the gifts of the spirit. **1 Cor 13:1-3**
 - I'm not sure we believe that in today's Christian culture!!
 - o This is what **John 15:5** is all about. It's **Matthew 6:33** regarding purpose in our lives.
- That being said, let's look at spiritual gifts.
 - o Some lists: **Romans 12:4-8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 and 28, Ephesians 4:11-13**
 - These are not exhaustive lists, there are lots of ways God gifts people to serve. Like Ryan...
 - How do you find your spiritual gifts??
 - o First, what are you good at?
 - God will give you natural abilities that indicate how you can serve.
 - But, not only that, He will also supernaturally give you new abilities!!
 - For me, reading and guitar kind of stand out.
 - o Maybe wisdom/philosophy/speaking. I wasn't particularly deep as a kid...
 - Obviously, the supernatural gifts, like healing, tongues, interpretation, prophecy, and miracles, fit into this category!
 - o Next, what are you interested in?
 - I hate paperwork. Tranette loves paperwork! This informs our callings.
 - This is key to understanding **Matthew 11:28-30**.
 - Now, sometimes you have to do things you don't want to do, but catch this too.
 - God will change your desires as well.
 - o That's the double meaning of **Psalms 37:4** in my opinion.
 - o Third, what makes you angry?
 - Oddly, I've noticed that this is a key diagnostic in understanding how God wants to use me.
 - Early on I was really mad at preachers and teachers.
 - I didn't like what they said and I didn't like how they led. Why?
 - Partially due to immaturity, but partially due to seeing the importance of the work.
 - When you feel something is important, it isn't fun watching it being done poorly.
 - o Don't get mad and run. Instead, engage and make a difference!!!
- Who are spiritual gifts for? **1 Corinthians 12:7**
 - o Your spiritual gifts are not for you. You are the one delivering the gift.
 - o The truth is that a life of purpose is a life that is not about you.
 - Quite the paradox. **Mark 8:34-36**.
 - There is no loop hole here. Purpose is selfless...but it's personally worth it!
 - o Maybe the mistake you have made all along is that your life is about you.
 - It's time to lay it down at the feet of Jesus and pick up a life of purpose.
 - Believe that **Psalms 37:4** is coming your way when you do!
- Get personal prayer by emailing prayer@goodhope.ag.