



Divinely Blessed & Restored

Serving God

with

Power

and

Purpose (Part II) ©

But you shall receive power (ability, efficiency, and might) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the ends (the very bounds) of the earth.

Acts 1:8 Amplified

We are assured and know that [God being a partner in their labor] all things work together and are [fitting into a plan] for good to and those who love God and are called according to [His] design and purpose.

Romans 8:28 Amplified

God wants us to lay aside our own desires and agenda to follow Him. If we truly are serving God with **power** and **purpose**, we must have the heart of a servant. There's a key ingredient we should display in our personality as a servant, *humility*. As Philippians 2:3-4 tells us, we are to be full of humility, not full of pride. *“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit; but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.”* NIV *Pride* is all about me, myself & I. *Humility* is about you not me. In the church humility is considered a Christ like virtue, however, the world will tell you that being humble is to be weak, to be a pushover. As Christians, we can't afford to buy in to the world's philosophy, we know the truth.

Characteristics of a Servant

There are other important characteristics a servant must have. We also must be **obedient**, submissive to the will of our Father. Jesus serves as an example of this type of obedience in Luke 22:42 when He said, *“Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me; nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.”* KJV Are you obedient to the Father and say, not my will but thine will?

Servants also **maintain a low profile**. They don't promote or call attention to themselves. If they are recognized for their service, they humbly accept the acknowledgment but don't let the notoriety distract them from their work.

Servants are **dedicated & faithful**. Whatever they do, they do it with all their heart. The size of the task, and what the task is, is irrelevant. A servant will never think they are too important to perform menial tasks. Real servants are faithful and finish their tasks; fulfill their responsibilities, keep their promises, and complete their commitments. They don't leave a job half done, and don't quit when they get discouraged.

Servants are **attentive to the needs of others**. Real servants are always on the lookout for ways to help others. When they see a need, they seize the moment to meet it. This requires being sensitive to those around us. I call it being “present”. Believe it or not, God will bring opportunities for service into your path. Pray and ask God to help you have a sensitive and in-tune spirit to others.

Most importantly, servants are **available**. A servant is always standing by, ready for duty. If you only serve when it's convenient for you, you're not a real servant. Ask yourself a few questions...

- Are you available to God anytime?
- Can He mess up your plans without you becoming resentful? (As a servant, you don't get to pick and choose when or where or whom you will serve).

DNA – You're unique

There are different reasons we are sometimes hesitant to be obedient to God regarding our service. Many of us struggle with two questions "What do I have to offer"? And "What can I do as a servant of God?" There is no one-size-fits-all answer to these questions. Why? Each of us is unique. We each have our own unique DNA (genetic make-up) that makes us unique, with unique talents and abilities.

In the Purpose Driven Life, Rick Warren said: "God never wastes anything. He would not give you gifts, interests, abilities, personality, and life experiences unless he intended to use them for his glory." As unique individuals our methods of witnessing and being of service will be unique, but our responsibility is the same - to dedicate ourselves to using our unique abilities (talents), gifts and personalities in service to others. Let's look at each briefly:

Abilities/Talents: Believers and non-believers are born with natural abilities and talents. The Bible is full of examples of how God used people with different abilities and talents. There were carpenters, architects, debaters, philosophizers, musicians, teachers, and fishermen. Many of us find jobs based upon our abilities. We often choose our career based upon our abilities. If you are good with math & numbers, you pursue a career in accounting. If you are good with typing and office work, you pursue being a secretary or an administrative assistant. Excellent leadership skills you pursue managerial positions. What we have to realize is that our abilities and talents are not just for making a living; they are also to be used in ministry.

Spiritual gifts: Spiritual gifts are special God-empowered abilities given for serving him. God gives these gifts only to believers. In Corinthians chapter 12, Paul teaches about spiritual gifts. The spiritual gifts are:

- ✓ **Evangelist:** The person who tells others about Jesus, persuading them to follow Him.
- ✓ **Prophet:** The preacher, teaching about sin and how to change.
- ✓ **Teacher:** The scholar that researches and teaches doctrine and the Bible.
- ✓ **Exhorter/Encourager:** The person who offers encouragement.
- ✓ **Pastor/Shepherd:** The leader; overseeing, training, and caring for the people of God.
- ✓ **Mercy-shower:** The person that comforts others.
- ✓ **Server:** The individual in the background, meeting the needs of others
- ✓ **Giver:** The individual that generously shares their finances and/or time
- ✓ **Administrator:** The individual that administer the affairs of the church.

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Personality: Just as we are physically unique, we are also unique in personality. Each of us has different personality traits. You might ask, what is the significance of our personality to being a servant of God? I'll give you an example. There are some people who are very social, talkative, the kind we say, "never meet a stranger". That person is considered to be an Extrovert or "Feeler". They live and thrive off interaction with other people. Without much difficulty you can look around the church and identify things that type of person would be comfortable doing, serving as a Greeter, Announcer, and Chairperson of a program. Then you have the person that is an exact opposite, an Introvert or "Thinker". They hate the limelight; they don't want attention on themselves, and they prefer one on one interaction. These people would be comfortable sending cards, calling or visiting the "sick and the shut-in". They will take the time to carefully fold the church bulletins, arrange the bibles & song books in the sanctuary. Make no mistake, each of these individuals are performing tasks using their talents that are of service to God. But each is expressing theirs in the way that suits their personality.

There is something in each and every one of us that motivates us to use our God given abilities, talents, spiritual gifts, and personality in service to God – our **heart**. Your heart is what I want to call your generator. It's what charges you up, energize you, gets your interest going and motivate you to use your spiritual gifts. Another word for heart is passion. What do you get excited about? What do you get enthused and passionate about? When we are doing what we love to do, what we were uniquely shaped to do, no one has to convince us to use our gift.

Will Your Experiences Help Someone

There's something else we each have that we often down play in our Christian service – **experiences**. We each have experiences in our life, which can be used to minister to others. We have family experiences, educational experiences, spiritual experiences, career experiences, and parenting experiences. One of our biggest challenges as people is sharing with one another. We can be sitting right next to someone and know they are going through something with their child and we will act like we can't empathize with them. For us to empathize and share our experiences is to admit our life isn't a "bed of roses". What do you think would happen if you leaned over and said, I know what you are going through? I had a similar experience with my son, with my daughter. Share it! You can give hope and encouragement to that individual. Think about a time someone was open enough to share with you his or her experience about a situation you were going through and how that ministered to you?

"God never wastes anything. He would not give you gifts, interests, abilities, personality, and life experiences unless he intended to use them for his glory" Rick Warren - Purpose Driven Life

Believe it or not, the experiences we have are to be shared. It is usually the most painful things we have gone through, that we can witness the best about. It's hard to talk to someone about something based on what you've heard. It's on a whole different level when you minister to someone about what you know, what you have experienced, and what the Lord has done for you. People are encouraged when they realize they aren't the only ones that are going through! There's an old proverb that says: What you are is God's gift to you; what you do with yourself is your gift to God.

God's intention is that our salvation will result in works of service. We are not saved merely for our own benefit, but to serve God and build up the rest of the church. There is no such thing as significant service and insignificant service. There are not significant ministries, and insignificant ministries. Some ministries are out front, visible for people to see (teaching and preaching) others are in the background (intercessory prayer). You do not need to envy others and feel that what you are doing does not seem significant or pleasing to God. Service for God cannot be evaluated by comparison to other people. The important thing to God is not how I measure up with others, but how I am doing with what He has given me. I Peter 4:10 NIV tells us: "*each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others.*" Remember, what God has called you to do, He has gifted you to do and what He has gifted you to do, He has called you to do.

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The Question

My question for you today is, “are you ready, willing, able to be a Servant for God?” If so, you should be *witnessing*, sharing the Good News about Christ, sharing your personal testimony about what the Lord has done for you every opportunity you have. You have a unique purpose and contribution you are to make to this world that is yours and yours alone. You have a unique gift that the Lord gave to you that only you can use to bless others. God has given you a specific task, accept it cheerfully and do it with excellence. Make a commitment today – to get *fired up* with the **power** that you have been given in the Holy Spirit and do the work that God has **purposed** you to do!!!!

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May

Coffee, Tea and Thee® Christian Book Club

Meet and Discuss – To Know Him: Beyond Religion Waits a Relationship That Will
Change Your Life by: **Gloria Copeland**

April 19, 2007 – May 24, 2007

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. @ Panera Breads

Spring Brunch

Spring Brunch “**Hattitude**” - Celebrating God's Virtuous Women!!

May 5, 2007

11:30 am @ Edsel & Eleanor Ford House

September

Teen Conference

“ Abstinence ”

TBA

November

Women Retreat

2nd Annual Women's Retreat

November 16-17, 2007

**Make sure that you check our website for updates and
upcoming events!!**