

Finding My Serve: What Can I Do?

1-13-13

Paul tells us in two places (I Corinthians 12:4-12, Romans 12:4-8) that God dispersed abilities to every member of the body of Christ, and that these things worked together to perfect the church. These gifts came from God, and we must be clear, everyone who comes to Him has something necessary for the church.

Sometimes our habit is to say "I can't do.....". We all know it is hard to engage in public speaking, leading singing, class teaching, or leading the church in prayer. What we mean to say is that not all of us are eloquent or convincing. Perhaps we simply acknowledge that there is not always an ability, or even the authority to accomplish a task (see I Corinthians 14).

Let us consider four "Servant's Rules" that are necessary to place within our minds.

First: Very little of service is public – Paul spoke about the ability given by God; very little pertained to public service. Prophesying, ministering, teaching, exhortation, giving, leading, or showing mercy (Romans 12) could be seen as gifts not part of the worship assembly. Wisdom, knowledge, and faith (I Corinthians 12) are also ability that we see as necessary and natural to growth.

Second: GOD said you have a place - *From whom the whole body, joined and knit together **by what every joint supplies**, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. Ephesians 4:16*

Third: God accepts no excuses - Did God Excuse Moses: "*I am not eloquent, but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue*"? Jehovah: "*I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say.*" Did God Excuse Jeremiah: "*I cannot speak, for I am a youth*"? Jehovah: "*Do not say, 'I am a youth,' for you shall go to all to whom I send you*". Did God Excuse Isaiah: "*I am a man of unclean lips*"? Jehovah: "*Your iniquity is taken away*" Did God Excuse Paul: My "*bodily presence is weak, and (my) speech contemptible*"? Jehovah: "*My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.*" We need to clearly understand that **God Accepts No Excuses** (Matthew 25:14-30)

If He has equipped you, you must serve. So how do we find our area of service? First, we must find our motivation. Paul said "*For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.*" 2 Corinthians 5:14-15. Our motivation could be the same

Second, we need to examine ourselves to find our ability. Do we have a "translatable skill"? Something we do well in the world that has a place in the work of the Christian? Do we have a particular interest or desire that has a companion work in the church?

Finally, we need to know that for every talent a second can be learned; this is the lesson of the parable of the talents. How many "needs" could ANYONE do? Anyone can learn exhortation, mercy, giving, or faith. We need to see that we can grow gifts to please God.

God gave each of us a place and purpose. We can find these gifts by faith. We can add to these gifts by diligence. We must use these gifts for God