

Day 5 - God Prepares Us to Serve

We know we are expected (even commanded) to serve. We have looked at various proper motives for serving according to Scripture. Yet, many of us feel unprepared to serve. If you are a Christian, you don't have to feel unprepared. Why? Because God prepares and equips us.

Read *1 Peter 4:10*.

- According to this verse, what are we to use our gifts for?
(to serve one another)
- According to this verse, who has received a gift?
(each of us; that means everyone who is in Christ!)

As Christians, each one of us has a gift. These gifts vary, but the God who gives them and the expectation to be good stewards of these gifts by serving does not vary (1 Pet 4:10; 1 Cor 12:4-7).

Not only does God give to each of his people special desires and gifts to be used to serve God and others, he also equips us by his Word.

Read *2 Timothy 3:16-17*.

- What is the Word of God profitable for?
(teaching, reproof, correction, training in righteousness)
- According to verse 17, what is the purpose of the Word of God?
(that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work; God's Word equips us to serve!)

I share this truth with you to encourage you. You do not need to know a specific name for the spiritual gift God has given you in order to serve. Search and study the Word of God; it will equip you for "every good work." If you're not sure how you are spiritually gifted, I encourage you to study Scripture *and* to serve in one of the church's ministries. God often confirms our spiritual giftings through our serving (and if it is clearly not your gifting, not just that you don't love every moment of it, then serve in a different capacity until you find one where your gifting is confirmed). So, don't wait! Everyone who is in Christ can and should serve in some way. Jump in, and discipline yourself to serve.

Close by praying that God would confirm an area of service to God and others in your life through his Word and his people; and, if you aren't serving in some way, pray about where you might serve in the ministries of this church (and then reach out to those leading ministries and volunteer to serve regularly).