

Spiritual Gifts Focus on Our Strengths

God doesn't call us to be Supermen or Wonder Women. He doesn't ask us to conquer the world. We were created with a purpose and equipped to carry out that purpose in our lives. God empowers us for those tasks, but He doesn't make us superhuman, capable of doing everything. He gives us specific skills and attributes and walks alongside us as we work to accomplish His purpose through us. The familiar passage, "*I can do all things through Christ, who gives me strength (Philippians 4:13)*" isn't a blank check. It is an assurance that He will be with us and empower us when we seek to do His will.

I recently came across a Max Lucado devotion on gifts. It is called, "What are your strengths?" The devotion is based on a verse from Romans that says, "*We all have different gifts, each of which come because of the grace God gave us (Romans 12:6)*". Lucado asks us to think about this: "What are some things we want to do but simply aren't equipped to accomplish?" As an example, Lucado cites his lack of ability to sing in public. He says listening to his singing wouldn't give satisfaction to an audience. In Paul's letter to the Romans, Paul writes, "*Have a sane estimate of your capabilities (Romans 12:3)*". The concept of this verse is that we should be aware of our strengths, and not try to be something we are not. Lucado suggests we can measure our strengths by how people react. Ask yourself these or similar questions: "When you teach, do people listen? When you lead, do people follow? When you administer, do things improve? Where are you most productive? Lucado says to identify our strengths, and then "major" in them. Put them to good use. Lucado writes, "If we don't focus on our strengths, it may prevent us from accomplishing the unique tasks God has called us to do."

This is not an excuse to sit on the sidelines and do nothing. God equipped each of us to serve according to our unique, God-given abilities. He doesn't need all of us in the choir, especially those who can't read music or carry a tune. There are other people God has equipped for tasks that are not our strengths.

Our church has a Spiritual Gifts Inventory that helps people identify their strengths. Once I know areas of giftedness, I seek to use those God-given gifts to serve the Lord. Using spiritual gifts is not restricted to the church. God has tasks He wants us to accomplish out in the secular community as well. Let your life point to Him in what you do.



Looking at the use of our God-given gifts and talents is that we seek to do the Lord's will. If it is something God wants you to do, He will empower you. Seek to do not "my will" but God's will.

Question: In what areas are you gifted, and what can you do to expand on those gifts to serve the Lord?

Prayer: Lord. We thank you for the many gifts and abilities you give each of us. Let us use those abilities to help others see Your love flowing through each of us. Amen.