

Topic : Kingdom Values for Victorious Living (Part 2)

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Every believer has a calling, gifting and portion. We need to validate the gifting, confirm and verify it as we journey in life. As we journey, we may derail into the wrong direction. We need to make corrections and steer back lest we remain in the wilderness until a crisis happens.

1. Every believer has the indwelling Holy Spirit called the anointing.

1 John 2:20

But you have an anointing from the Holy One and you know all things.

1 John 2:27

But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you and you do not need that anyone teach you but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things and is true and is not a lie, and just as I have taught you, you will abide in Him.

When did you receive the anointing? We received it when we were born of water and spirit; we received it when we received the Lord as Saviour. The anointing teaches us concerning all things.

1 Corinthians 6:19

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you whom you have from God and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price, therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit which are God's.

We should make intentional effort to know the Spirit; to be familiar with His nudging, promptings, restraints and encouragement. He writes His law in our mind and put it in our heart and vice versa. When we have the Holy Spirit, we have everything in life. He is the answer, wisdom and solution to life.

2. Every believer has his own specific and personal calling.

John 15:16

You did not choose Me but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

When do we bear fruit? We do so in our roles and responsibilities in life. We are not responsible for others' visions but for ours. God expects us to bear fruits in our roles and responsibilities. We are to be the godly men and women, godly husbands and wives. If you are a doctor, engineer, teacher, that's the role and responsibility in this station and you are to be fruitful.

1 Corinthians 12:18

But now God has set the members each of them in the body just as He pleased.

Nothing happens by chance. Everyone is uniquely set in the Body of Christ.

Hebrews 12:1 tells us to run the race marked out for us. The race is the path of life, the narrow way.

3. Our destiny comprises 2 outcomes:

A. The person we are becoming. Roman 8:29

Am I growing in Christlikeness? Am I rooted and established in Christ? If so, I will not be easily affected by things around me. My self esteem and significance cannot be determined by title or possession. Significance and self esteem must be locked in our relationship with God, knowing we are deeply loved by God. There will be things happening to us which will affect us. We will be tossed but we should increasingly be the men and women of God, rooted in Christ and building our house on the rock. We will not be easily shaken and will discover the purpose of life.

B. Am I fulfilling the purpose/calling of God in my life?

Ephesians 2:10 tells us we are created to do good works and be touching lives.

4. God endows gifts to every believer to enable and empower him to fulfill his specific calling.

Everyone has a gift. Our gifting is different from another. Don't compare. Comparison is the biggest tool and snare of the devil.

1 Corinthians 12:11

But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing each one individually as He wills.

1 Corinthians 12:14-17

14 For in fact the body is not one member but many. **15** If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? **16** And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," Is it therefore not of the body? **17** If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling?

There is no point in comparing. The eye is different from the ear.

5. The Bible exhorts us to earnestly desire spiritual gifts.

1 Corinthians 12:31

But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

2 Kings 2:9

And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?" Elisha said, "Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me."

There are gifts that will manifest physically in our lives. Elisha followed Elijah tenaciously and stuck closely to him as he wanted the anointing. He received something more because he earnestly desired.

6. The gift formed in us is in our personality make-up

Psalm 139:13-14

13 For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. **14** I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvellous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well.

As in the psalm above, God is telling us that His hand is involved when we are conceived. "My soul knows very well." The soul is the personality and everyone is unique. It is so important to love ourselves by knowing our personality. We are never a mistake. The gift in us is in our personality, beginning at conception and accumulates in our experience.

We may have made mistakes and have failures now and then but all the mistakes and harsh words are not wasted if we learn from them and surrender them to God. We must allow God's grace to heal and restore us and give us the chance to bounce back. God's thoughts for us are precious. He has the best interests at heart for us.

We are tripartite beings. The soul is fractured because we are conceived in sin. Don't ever discard our mind; be thinkers. Don't just take things at face value; emotions are our feelings. The will is how we respond and decide. We fail to think and decide correctly because of our fallen-ness.

Discipleship is a journey where our soul is restored as we walk with God and our natural mind become increasingly renewed. Revelation comes to the renewed mind. How? By surrendering to God and not conforming to opinions of authors or pastors.

Emotions: Be Spirit-filled to manifest the fruit of the Spirit. Our natural mind can be impulsive. We react, we are prejudicial, we make wrong decisions. Our will must increasingly be aligned to the Father's will. This is the restoration of the personality. We are differentiated by the way we respond but God wants ourselves and personality to be increasingly like the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. The gifts from God for us are also given:

- A. Directly to us as we desire and seek the Lord.

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a re-warder of those who diligently seek Him.

God responds to earnest desire and faith, not to needs. God desires us to earnestly ask and seek. It's no good to remain lukewarm and cold.

- B. Through the laying on of hands

Romans 1:11

For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established—

Deuteronomy 34:9

Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; so the children of Israel heeded him, and did as the Lord had commanded Moses.

Similarly some receive gifts but they are dormant and lukewarm and at altar call, this is revived by the laying on of hands.

1 Timothy 4:14

Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.

Stir up the gift. The laying on of hands is also called impartation.

8. The gift already in us, can be revived in the same manner:

- A. Directly as we desire and seek the Lord.
B. Through the laying on of hands.

2 Timothy 1:6

Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

9. The laying on of hands is also called impartation.

- A. This is a basic-elementary doctrine-practice.

Hebrews 6:1-2

1 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, **2** of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

B. The pray-er is only God's vessel to impart the Grace of God.

- i. **Romans 1:11** - Paul
- ii. **Deuteronomy 34:9** - Moses

C. God is the Source-Origin of the Grace imparted.

D. The Grace of God is imparted by God through the pray-er:

- i. As an Act of blessing.

Genesis 48:14-15

14 Then Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand on Manasseh's head, guiding his hands knowingly, for Manasseh was the firstborn. **15** And he blessed Joseph ...

Numbers 8:10

So you shall bring the Levites before the Lord, and the children of Israel shall lay their hands on the Levites ...

Who were the Levites? They were the priests. It is important to bless the leaders. Strong marriages and strong families are a blessing in the church.

- ii. As an Act to receive the infilling / baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:15-17

15 who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. **16** For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **17** Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Principle of Matthew 10:40-41. When we receive a righteous man, and we receive a righteous man's reward. If we judge people in the flesh, it's to our loss and we receive nothing. We lay hands to receive the infilling of the Spirit. (Infilling and baptism are terminologies referring to the same thing)

- iii. As an Act to impart authority and grace in commissioning the people of God for ministry.

Acts 13:2

2 As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” **3** Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.

This is the Bible’s practice. When we appoint leaders, we lay hands on them. It is not possible for everyone to surround someone and lay hands on him. So, we stretch forth our hands as an act of laying hands and we do as one family. When there is unity, God commands the blessings. We do so to impart authority, grace for God to use them for works such as missions.

- iv. As an Act to impart healing.

Mark 16:18c

... they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.

Luke 4:40

When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them.

Mark 1:41

Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, “I am willing; be cleansed.”

Acts 28:8

And it happened that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and dysentery. Paul went in to him and prayed, and he laid his hands on him and healed him.

Paul worked as a priest and king. He prayed as a priest and healed as a king, commanding fever to go.

E. Warnings about impartation.**1 Timothy 5:22**

Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people’s sins; keep yourself pure.

Acts 8:18-19

18 And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, **19** saying, “Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit.”

From his past experience, Simon withstood clearly that power is transformed through laying of hands.

- (1) Laying on of hands is like opening a doorway for spiritual powers to travel.

- (2) We need to be vigilant to cleanse and protect ourselves of potential transferences and harassments from unclean spirits.

In the Old Testament, sins are transferred to the goat also known as the scapegoat. Just as we need to cultivate daily routines such as showering, we also need to spiritually cleanse ourselves each time we minister, lest an unclean spirit follow us. Story is told of someone who experienced bipolar depression after ministering. This is an example of transference taking place. We must apply the Blood to cleanse us of all defilement and transference.

The other aspect of cleansing is **John 15:3**. The Body of Christ is cleansed by the Word of God.

10. Whatever gift that is imparted is unique and specific to the receiver because of God's specific calling of the believer.

In our humanness, we want the anointing like that of someone's or the pray-er but it's never exactly the same as the pray-er. Why?

1 Corinthians 12:4

4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.

There are permutations and combinations to the gifts of healing. Some are good for headaches but not for cancer. We don't know why but we are in need of one another. Several pastors can have healing gifts but they themselves have infirmities that require others to pray.

11. Our calling and gifting remain with us to fulfill our destiny on earth.

Romans 11:29

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

12. Three major handles to understand and validate our calling and gifting:

Some people are people-oriented; some are task-oriented.

A. 3 Questions

- i. What is our passion i.e. what do we love to do?
- ii. What are the things that we do very well and are good at?
- iii. Will people be blessed by what we do?

We can be passionate in one area but not in another. We can be passionate in preaching but not in counseling, thus we need others to fill the gaps.

B. Where these 3 questions over-lap



Where do we serve?

What we want is driven by motives, drives, desires and interests. What we should do is driven by values, principles and calling. What we can do is where we have the gifting, skills, talents and abilities. When these overlap, we are in the hallelujah sector.

C. 3 Questions

- i. The Word of God
- ii. Inward Witness of the Holy Spirit as we pray
- iii. Godly counsel
- v. God's intervention in our circumstances.

Conclusion

1 Peter 4:10-11

10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. **11** If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Bill Graham said (not the full text):

It is a waste of time to look for grace if we don't intend to use it; to ask for might in prayer if we don't pray, to ask for purity and holiness if we don't live holy lives; to ask for strength and power to serve God but we don't want to serve.

Good intention is not good enough. Let's take time to talk to God that during this 40-Day season of prayer, pray that God will speak, remind, encourage, stir and spur us to arise as men and women of God, and that God will change us and that we may move from calling, gifting to destiny.

End

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What do you see as your gifting and calling? Do you see yourself using your spiritual gifts? Do you see yourself fulfilling your calling?
2. Do you think we need to desire gifts? Can we do without them?
3. How are the gifts of God released?

4. What are some major handles to help us understand our gifts and have them validated in our lives?

5. What kind of gifts do you think your fellow cell members have? Perhaps, you may want to do a simple exercise. Have small slips of paper given to each individual. Begin to write the gifts you think each member has and pass it to each member. At the end of the exercise, each one will have several inputs from others. Check how many of those inputs fall within the similar area of gifting. Do the gifts resonate with you? If so, you may then want to develop them further.