

Called and Surrendered, as God Made Me
1 Peter 4:10–11

Canon City EFC

8-6-17

MAIN IDEA: **God has gifted you to serve**

SUPPORTING IDEAS: (Related passages: 1 Cor. 12:4–11; Rom 12:3–8; Eph. 4:7–16)

YOU'RE GIFTED, v.10 – all of us; not just an elite few (cf Eph. 4.7; I Cor. 12.7)

No exceptions: The God who saved you is the God who gifted you

God gives in a variety of ways - His creativity - *God's grace in its various forms. (cf. Rom 12.6)*

- Gifted you when He made you –
- Gifted you through life experience, both pleasant & painful
- Gifted uniquely by the Holy Spirit since you met Christ – Spiritual Gifts

God gave you a part – it's not all on you - God intends to do thru this family of believers includes you without you - we're incomplete, we're weaker, less effective, there's a gap

YOU'RE EMPOWERED because of Who gifted you High impact, high potential
gift you have received . . . the strength God provides (I Cor. 12.4, 6; Eph. 4.7)

too often we treat this like a job assignment God gave us, & we're going to give it our best shot
that's a huge mistake: we'll be exhausted, discouraged, maybe arrogant

His gifts, in His power - v.11 *If anyone serves . . . do so with the strength God provides,*

Which is one reason PRAYER is so important – consciously looking to Him, listening, depending
if we get this, instead of exhaustion & dread, serving brings excitement, anticipation, confidence

Powerful – but not necessarily dramatic

in fact, God's normal pattern is quiet, hidden, easily overlooked – but powerful

YOU'RE ACCOUNTABLE *as a faithful steward* - manager, servant - not the boss, not the owner

responsible, not entitled; we're accountable to the One who gave the gifts

He's given gifts to you; expects you to use them as He desires

- Nothing to brag about – *"gift you have received" 10 (Rom 12.6; I Cor. 12.6, 7)*
 - confidence, but not ego in serving others, we serve Him, v.11b – His glory
 - Brings personal fulfillment/significance – but that's a side effect
- Not to be wasted – to not use what you have, in name of humility is squandering what God gave
 - Fear, apathy cannot get in the way of using His gifts: He's dishonored, people deprived

Is your church stronger because you serve faithfully with the gifts He has given?

Unsure how you're gifted? TALK TO THE ONE WHO GIFTED YOU – He would know!

CONCLUSION / APPLICATION:

Do you have a sense of how God has gifted you to serve Him by serving others? If so, how did you discover these gifts? (sharing might help others find their gifts). If not, how might you see God's gifts? Where have you seen God use you?

Have you at times served, but done so in your own strength, with your own resources? What happened? What does God intend?

Spend time praying together, asking God to guide you and everyone in the church family in how we should each serve.