

### WHEN JESUS ... Wants us to Grow – May 26th 2024 – Pastor Peter

Mark 4:3-9 "'Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seed. As he scattered it across his field, some of the seed fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate it. Other seed fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seed sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. But the plant soon wilted under the hot sun, and since it didn't have deep roots, it died. Other seed fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants so they produced no grain. Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they sprouted, grew, and produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted!' Then He said, 'Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.'"

1. We Grow In Our Gifts

Jesus wants us to grow in our gifts.

1 Peter 4:10 "God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."

We have the gifts of the Spirit.

A word of wisdom, which is supernatural insight into a situation.

A word of knowledge, which is supernatural knowledge you couldn't have without God telling you.

The gift of faith is extreme faith for a specific situation.

The gift of healing is a gift for somebody to be physically healed.

The gift of miracles is a gift to see the miraculous happen.

The gift of prophecy is sharing a message from God.

The gift of distinguishing between spirits lets you know if it's God's Spirit, an angelic spirit, a demonic spirit or the human spirit that's at work.

е	QUESTIONS:
1	1. Why do Jesus want us to grow in our gifts?
	2. Why should we engage our gifts?
	3. Are some gifts better than others?
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The gift of tongues is a message from God, and it's interpreted by another gift, the gift of interpretation, that lets us know what that message is.

These are amazing gifts, and you can have these gifts and bless all of us with these gifts so let's start growing in these gifts.

Beyond the gifts of the Spirit, there's also serving and teaching and encouraging and giving and leading and having mercy.

### We Engage Our Gifts

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This church is a bench free zone. There should be no sitting on the sidelines.

There should be no spectating. There should be no standing around watching.

The way our gifts growth is to engage.

### We Have the Right Motivation

We want to have the right motivation. This is super critical.

In 1 Cor. 13 the Apostle Paul talks about gifts.

Here's what he says.

1 Cor. 13:1-3 "If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing."

Paul says if you have gifts that people think are awesome but you don't have love as your singular motivation, you are nothing and so is the gift.

### **QUESTIONS:**

4. What is the right motivation to seek and use the gifts God has given us??

5. How can we find the gifts God has given us

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Because a gifted person without love has totally missed the source of the gift and the purpose for the gift. Charisma isn't the same thing as character.

The source of your gift is God and the purpose is to glorify Him. That has to be the motivation.

Your Gift Is Your Gift

1 Cor. 12:18-20 "But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where He wants it. How strange a body would be if it had only one part! Yes, there are many parts, but only one body."

Every part, every gift is needed and valuable.

Here's the truth, 'I am what I am.' Which also means, 'I'm not what I'm not.'

We don't need to compare our gifts. We need to start embracing the gifts that we have and the gift that you are.

Your history may be difficult, and you may be struggling but our God is bigger than that.

### 2. We Grow In Our Impact

We all want to have an impact. We all want to leave a legacy.

But as followers of Jesus, how do we do that?

David offers to fight Goliath and here is what Saul says,

1 Sam. 17:37,38 "Saul finally consented. 'All right, go ahead, he said. 'And may the LORD be with you!' Then Saul gave David his own armour - a bronze helmet and a coat of mail."

Saul stands head and shoulders above everybody else and David is small so Saul's armour is way too big for David and he takes it off.

Don't try to wear somebody else's armour.

Don't try to do what somebody else does.

### QUESTIONS

1. How do we have an impact as followers of Jesus?

2. Why didn't David use Saul's armor? What does that teach us?

3. Why was David able to have the impact he had?

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Don't try to look like somebody else looks.

Don't try to talk like somebody else talks.

Go with what you have. Go with confidence that God has made you the way He wants you to be.

David goes out without any armour to fight Goliath his way.

As he goes here's what David says,

1 Sam. 17:45 "David replied to the Philistine, 'You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of Heaven's Armies - the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.'"

What gives him the impact? Here it is.

1 Sam. 16:13 "So as David stood there among his brothers, Samuel took the flask of olive oil he had brought and anointed David with the oil. And the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David from that day on."

This unlikely candidate has impact, not because of natural ability, not because of innate intelligence, not because of a magnetic personality, not because of charisma.

What sets him apart and results in massive impact is that the Spirit of the Lord is upon him.

### 2 Cor. 1:21 "Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us."

You have an anointing, and that anointing is the presence of the Holy Spirit.

### 3. We Grow In God

Growing in our gifts and growing in our impact are really subsets of a broader principle. The broader principle is that we want and need to grow in God.

Because, if we grow in God, there'll be this trickle-down affect. Our gifts will be released, and God's anointing will be upon us because

### **QUESTIONS:**

4. What does having the anointing of the Holy Spirit mean for us?

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we'll be seeking Him for that anointing. And that growth happens within the context of freedom.

**Freedom to Pray** 

Heb. 4:16 "So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most."

Don't stop praying. Don't stop believing. Don't stop trusting.

Here's a word from God for you.

Isa. 59:1 "Listen! The LORD's arm is not too weak to save you, nor is His ear too deaf to hear you call."

Keep believing. Keep seeking. Keep calling out to God.

We walk by what we believe, not by what we see.

### Freedom to Read

Matt. 4:4 "People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

The Bible is food to our spirits and life to our souls.

The Bible reveals God, it shows us what He's like and it guides our every step.

Don't get your information from the wrong source.

You aren't going to find ultimate truth online.

### Freedom to Obey

John 14:21 "Those who accept My commandments and obey them are the ones who love Me."

Our love for Jesus is evidenced by our obedience to Him. And when we obey Him He shows Himself to us. If you aren't seeing God working in your life it could be because your obedience is soft. Obedience triggers revelation.

### QUESTIONS:

1. What happens if we grow in God?

2. What is the context in which this growth happens?

3. Can you explain in your own words the importance of having the freedom to pray, read, obey, share, and trust?

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When I obey God, He reveals things to me.

### Freedom to Share

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John 15:8 "This is to My Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples."

Not living in camo. Not hiding in the bushes. But showing, speaking, living as Christ's disciples. Share the treasure you've found.

### Freedom to Trust

1 Peter 5:7 "Give all your worries and cares to God, for He cares about you."

We have freedom to trust God with every detail of our lives.

There's an anxiety epidemic in our society, especially among youth and young adults. Our sense of satisfaction is connected to posts and likes and shares even though we aren't seeing the real picture.

To stressed out people God, says throw all your worries, throw all your cares, throw all your pressures on Him because He cares for you.

### TAKEAWAYS

1. **The gifts are for us but not for us.** God gives us gifts and we receive them. But the purpose of those gifts is not for our indulgence. Each one of us has a part to play in God's great plan, and God equip us with gifts to make sure we have all we need to fulfill it. The gifts God has given us are equally important to the rest of his followers. No gift is greater than other.

2. **The Impact of our Gifts.** The impact of our gifts in our lives and the ones around us depends on the anointing of the Holy Spirit in our lives. The impact or fruits of the gifts given to us do not depend on our strength, ability, or skill set. It all depends on the Holy Spirit. He gives the gifts he wants, to who he wants and when he wants. What we need to do is to put those gifts he has given us in action. How do we do that? By serving others. Don't know where to start? Start anywhere but start! You don't know what you don't know, until you do.

#### HOW CAN I APPLY THIS TO MY LIFE?

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3. **Growing in God.** Growing in our impacts will, by effect, produce bigger impact which at the same time will draw us closer to God. By leaning closer to God we will experience his everlasting grace and anointing, therefore strengthening our gifts and producing more fruit, which will have a greater impact. Its all connected and a never-ending cycle. That is why it is perfect. The environment in which this cycle lives? Freedom.

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