



SERIES: Pursuing Spiritual Fitness

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Saturday, August 12, 2023

Scripture: Ephesians 2:10; 1 Corinthians 12:7; Galatians 5:16; Galatians 5:22-23

TITLE: Using Your Gifts

Who's that person who has what you want? Or what is that talent you wish you could have? For me, I don't really wish I was anyone else, but I do wish I had a better voice. I love musicals. I love singing musicals. I wish I could be in more musicals. But, the last time I was in a musical with a singing part, they canceled the musical. I'm convinced it was to ensure I wouldn't be back to make people's ears bleed! Okay, fine, I know. That's not true. But, I really do wish I could sing.

However, if I'm not careful, my desire to sing could distract me from the gifts and talents I do have. If I obsess over what I do not have, I could miss great opportunities to glorify God with the gifts He *has* given me.

Did you know that the Holy Spirit equips us with exactly what we need to do good works and to serve the church? Let's go back to the Bible to learn more about the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 2:10 says,

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

As we've learned this week, the Holy Spirit is God. And the Spirit lives inside each Christian. He indwells permanently and fills us continually so we might glorify God.

Well, when the Spirit regenerates us, we become God's masterpiece – a work of art. And He does this so we might do good things, good works.

When we become God's masterpiece, He gives us spiritual gifts for the edification and service of the church. That's why Paul says, "A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other" (1 Corinthians 12:7). All gifts are to be fulfilled and evaluated through the light of Scripture (1 Corinthians 14:26-29).

Because the Holy Spirit lives in each Christian, we are empowered to live a life pleasing to God. Paul lays this out in Galatians 5:16. Paul says,

So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves.

The Spirit of God is still at war with our natural desires, but when we obey the Spirit and flee sin, we give the Spirit greater control over our lives.

And thankfully, because He lives in us, we can have and display supernatural love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

So here's my challenge for you today: Embrace that supernatural peace of God that the Spirit provides. The world is still a mess. At least it is here. I need to embrace that peace and trust God continually.

When we have that supernatural peace, the outflow tends to be the other elements of the fruit of the Spirit. We can show others love, kindness, patience, etc.

So, embrace that peace and then show the fruit of the Spirit to someone who needs a touch from Christ.

When we become spiritually fit by knowing and embracing the Spirit, we will win the day.

Hey, in the comments below, share what you've learned this week about the Holy Spirit. How does this help you in your walk with God? What questions do you have? Share them below, and let's interact.