

Weekly Devotional by Pastor Ken Nabi
June 8, 2010

Convenience vs. Call

"Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good." 1 Cor 12:7

The Apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12 that every person who is a Christian has been indwelt by the Spirit of God and with that indwelling comes power for purpose. You have been given a spiritual gift for the common good. I have 2 observations for your consideration.

First, the Spirit's indwelling means that every follower of Christ has been given a spiritual gift. Every human being has talent and abilities (these too are a gift of grace from God). But, only Christians have been given spiritual gifts which come by the power of God's Spirit. No Christian has every gift and every disciple has at least one gift. Do you know what spiritual gifts God has given to you?

Second observation: the purpose of this gifting finds its greatest fulfillment in the process of serving other people. Our giftedness is "for the common good" which means that when you function within your spiritual giftedness, others are being built up. The gift from God really is not for you to enjoy primarily, it is for you to serve others. Your enjoyment in that service becomes a secondary benefit.

The church is a living organism and is interdependent upon one another. We need each other and we are better off when we rely upon one another. The church is strongest when every person finds their place and by the power of God's Spirit serves others.

One of the great tragedies in today's church is all of the people who have been given a spiritual gift and simply choose not to utilize it in service to others. I think at some level we will experience God's disciplinary judgment for such a failure. Just read Matthew 25 description of what happened to the person who buried their one talent and did nothing with it for the master. When we serve out of convenience, we miss God's best for our lives.

Conversely, one of the greatest joys in life is using your spiritual gifts to serve other people and see them grow. Knowing that God is using your life and any efforts you direct in service to him is a deeply fulfilling way to spend your life—even when that service is maybe hard.

At Community Church, we teach the Network Class several times a year encouraging people to discover what gifts God has given to them and where they best fit. Would you consider taking that class when it is next scheduled? It will change the way you think about church and your role.

I believe that everything in the church is spiritual and the utilization of spiritual giftedness is the manner in which we are to serve. The way a volunteer cares for a crying baby is every bit as spirit filled as the person who sings a solo. We all play a part as we discover our call. The usher, the person preparing the coffee, and the one mixing the sound are all part of God's orchestration of Spirit filled ministry. When the church functions as God intends, it is more powerful than even

the best high performance automobile. The key for the vast majority of people in the church is two fold: discover your spiritual gifts and then using them in service to others for their good.

Prayer: God, thank you for calling me to yourself and indwelling me with the Holy Spirit's enablement to accomplish ministry. Please help me to understand my calling by discovering my spiritual gifts and then to grow in them over the rest of my life.