

# Our Righteous Resources

There is a story of a old farmer who had the best mule in the entire region. The mule was legendary! When the farmer grew too old to work his farm he put the mule up for sale. The fortunate new owner came and picked up the mule in his wagon and upon arriving home readied the mule for a good days work. After hitching him to his blow he told the mule to go and he just sat down! After several unsuccessful attempts to get the mule to pull his plow he went back to the old farmer to see what he was missing.

The old farmer went with him back to his field where they found the mule still stubbornly sitting on his powerful hind quarters. The old farmer looked around and found big stick and taking a mighty swing he wrapped the mule on the head! Immediately the mule stood and started pulling the plow.

As the mule's new owner jumped behind his new source of work help to direct his new found energy the old framer shouted after him, "Sometimes you just have to get his attention first!"

Our heavenly Father has all the resources we need to complete all the good works He has planned for us in the earthbound portion of our eternal lives. These treasures are taken by our heavenly Father from the universal store house and deposited into our eternal account. They are to be used by us for **His** glory to do **His** good works that **He** prepared beforehand specifically for us. They are for our betterment and the benefit of the kingdom of God and we need to put all our effort into investing them into the time we have been given for our earthly lives. We each have great potential to be excellent at something; sometimes He just has to get our attention first!

Sometimes He will use a crisis, sometimes He will use a song, sometimes He will use a Sunday morning message or a radio broadcast, but what ever He uses we need to listen.

Yesterday He used a man in the hospital to help put this message in perspective. This 85 year old businessman told me that as a child his father taught him the importance of honesty. His dad

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took him to a W. T. Grant Co. to buy him a fishing rod. Upon leaving the store his father noticed that the clerk had given him too much change so told his son to wait while he set it straight. This, man as a boy, told his dad it didn't matter and his father firmly explained that it mattered for the clerk at the end of the day and it mattered for his dad to be an honest man. Si, here is this man nearly 80 years later saying how that shaped his life. He became a jeweler with a reputation for honesty. He has customers stop him in the market and hand him a \$20,000 diamond ring and ask him to clean and tighten the stones, because they know he is an honest man and can be trusted with their earthy treasures.

We are entrusted with much more valuable treasures. These treasures are from the King of kings, the Creator of the universe, who holds all of creation in His hand and He singles us out for tailor-made resources that suite us perfectly. These treasured resources, when applied with the guidance of the Holy Spirit by the Word of God, will be used to make lifelong transformational changes in people's individual and family lives, changes so dramatic they can transform nations.

I have provided a tool called, a Spiritual Gifts Survey that I would ask you each to complete and bring back next week. This 10 minute survey will help you get a sense of where you stand with the 16 categories of gifts.

The idea is that we should know what our gifting is and work together to develop these gifts from God to honor Him and His purpose in our lives. When we honor God with our lives He will pour out abundant blessings in every way good and perfect. Are you up for that???

If you have the New Spirit Filled Life Bible you will find a section in the back, just after the book of Revelation, that gives extensive information for 9 pages on Spiritual Gifts.

In the first letter to the Corinthian church, 1 Corinthians 14, the apostle Paul says, "Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy." He was

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encouraging believers to desire Spiritual gifts. This is a natural part of being a believer. To walk in the fullness of the Holy Spirit is to also walk in the spiritual gifts.

Right now I need to have someone step up that has the gift of administration to break down the tasks of Friday Night @ The Movies and recruit workers for the set up a break down. After doing it for two weeks one thing we noticed this past Friday is that it had a different level of difficulty with different people doing different tasks; a practical application of this principle.

When you are operating in your area of giftedness it is a pleasure, when you are not it's no fun at all! The Lord wants us to enjoy our work for Him, it's not supposed to be drudgery. Psalm 37:4 Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart! This is a wonderful promise from God's written word.

Jesus promises us an abundance of joy when we faithfully follow Him. So we have two weeks for the completion of a ten minute survey. Please pray and read up on the variety of the Spiritual gifts. As you seek Him He will show you your area of gifting and you can even ask Him for additional gifts or to strengthen the ones you are sure of!

You can find passages about the subject starting in; Romans 12:3-8 where you will see the "Gifts of the Father," 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 28, that shows the gifts of the Holy Spirit and Ephesians 4:11.

Read, study, apply! This will build us up individually and corporately. It will help us in God's church building process.

In two weeks we will get further into this process. Next week we will meet at the Gazebo in Gowan Park at 9 AM for a joint service with other churches. I will bring a message on, "Life Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness."

Let us pray.