

CULTIVATE

THE POTENTIAL IN YOU



THE POWER THAT FEEDS POTENTIAL (Week 2)

WELCOME: Name the top three most influential individuals within the past five years of your life. What is their influence on you?

WORSHIP: Sing, **TEN THOUSAND REASONS** (Matt Redman)

WORD:

Series Memory Verse: **EPHESIANS 4:7, *But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it.***

This Week's Scripture: **2 TIMOTHY 1:3-8**

What common truths can you find in all the verses?

- Ephesians 4:7
- Romans 12:3:
- 1 Corinthians 12:7
- 1 Peter 4:10

The premise of this series is to *help us discover the seeds God has deposited in us and release their potential.* When Pastor Jon opened the series two weeks ago, he shared with us that, the Holy Spirit imparts spiritual gifts to every believer to enhance the Body of Christ. Last Sunday, Pastor Ta preached a poignant sermon on the importance of fanning our gifts into flame. He said the topic is close to his heart because he has seen it work in his life.

Can you remember the story he shared about his first experience of studying in Bible college to become a pastor?

A common question is, how can I discover my spiritual gift?

When Pastor Ta started out in Bible college, his knowledge was limited, his communication skills were deficient and he had little idea of what a pastor really does. It was his professor who invested time and energy into him that allowed him to discover who God was making him to be.

A. WE DISCOVER OUR GIFTS BY SERVING THROUGH OUR PASSIONS AND ABILITIES

The apostle Paul had many spiritual gifts which means that God does not limit to one-gift-per-person only. Christian author, Peter Wagner uses the phrase "gift mix," to describe the gifts each individual has. According to Dr. Wagner, each person has multiple spiritual gifts and each gift is given to complement and enhance the other gifts they might have. At the end of this study, we want to encourage you to visit this website and take the spiritual gift test: <http://sdrock.giftstest.com/test>

1. **What are you passionate about? These are things that generally excite you and feel good doing.**
2. **What talents do you have? Have you found a place in the church to use your talents?**
3. **What do you desire doing more for the Lord?**

B. WE DISCOVER OUR GIFTS BY RECOGNITION AND MENTORING FROM OTHERS TO HELP IN OUR EFFECTIVENESS.

Other Christians, especially mature church leaders, will recognize and affirm your gift. Paul mentions that Timothy's gift was "*in you through the laying on of my hands.*" In 1 Timothy 4:14, he mentions that Timothy's gift was bestowed "*through prophetic utterance with the laying on of hands by the presbytery [elders].*" Paul, like other pastors, may have had special apostolic authority to impart spiritual gifts, but also, the church recognized Timothy's gifts, affirmed by Paul and the elders that is why they laid hands on him. The modern application would be that others will recognize and affirm your gifts as they see you serve.

In 1 Timothy 1:2, Paul calls Timothy, "*my true son in the faith.*" That conveys the fact that Paul had mentored Timothy. Paul recognized the gifts in Timothy and invested in the young man's life. As a church, one of our core values is, *intentional multiplication.* That means, embracing God's assignment to produce fruitful disciples. We can only do that if we will be like Paul, seeing the potential in people and ruthlessly investing in their lives. Pastor Ta said, "*Always see people for who they can become.*" That's a key ingredient to making disciples and mentorship. When we invest our resources (money) into a business, it is because we see potential for growth. The same is true with investing our time, effort and spirit in someone.

What is the difference between “mentorship” and “discipleship”?

The word disciple means “learner.” It involves a direct invitation from the teacher. Jesus told his disciples, “Come, follow me” (Matthew 4:19-20). Discipleship is focused on the spiritual/emotional dimension which fundamentally touches on every area of life – our personal life and lifestyle, our work, our relationships. Discipleship is about spiritual parenting.

Mentoring, on the other hand is less about instruction than it is about initiation – about bringing others into maturity. The Latin word ‘protégé’ meaning “to protect” is about protecting his mentee as they mature in areas of their practical giftedness. Mentoring is more about guardianship (Proverbs 27:17).

- 1. Do you have someone in your life like Paul (a mentor, discipler)? If yes, who is it and how is it helping you? If not, why?**
- 2. Do you have someone in your life like Timothy (someone you mentor/disciple)?**
- 3. Can you think of someone in your life outside of your family that you can lead to Christ disciple?**

C. WE MUST FAN INTO FLAME THE GIFTS BY EXERCISING THEM.

Paul tells Timothy to “fan into flame the gift of God which is in you.” The picture is of a fire and as you know, most fires will die out unless you tend them and add more fuel. There are several applications:

1. Always kindle afresh your first love for Jesus.

It’s easy to drift into spiritual apathy or distance from Christ. The world crowds in, pressures keep us from spending time alone with Christ, and before we know it, we are in the spiritual doldrums. Don’t let your love for Jesus Christ grow cold! Maybe you burned out by doing too much or you got burned in serving through criticism, so you quit. Don’t quit because it’s hard, continue because you love Jesus.

2. Always use God’s gifts His way.

Paul mentions four qualities, one negative and three positive, which were specifically geared to Timothy’s disposition. But, of course, they apply to us all:

Use your gifts without timidity.

Like many people, Timothy was not naturally bold. He shied away from conflict or confrontation. But the fact is, we’re engaged in spiritual warfare and you don’t win wars by being passive or cowardly. People will not grow in Christ and the church will not stand against the forces of evil if we do not overcome the fear of opposition and conflict. What fears do you have that keep you from serving?

Use your gifts with power.

This is not the power of the flesh as seen in worldly assertiveness training. This is the power of the Holy Spirit, resting on the truth of God’s authoritative Word. The aim of this power is not so that you can control others, but so that you can help them come under God’s control, to conquer sin and heal broken relationships.

Use your gifts in love.

Love balances power. It also is opposed to fear, because fear stems from self-love or self-concern or self-protection. Biblical love is concerned for the spiritual well-being of others. Love for others will give you the boldness to overcome your fears so that you can speak to them about their need for Christ or their need to obey His Word. Love for God and others should be your motivation whenever you exercise your spiritual gifts. 1 Corinthians 13 says, gifts without love are almost useless.

Use your gifts with discipline.

This word occurs only here in the New Testament, but a similar concept, self-control, is a fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:23). The nuance of the word used here is of a sound mind controlling your life so that you don’t react in a sinful emotional outburst and so that you do not yield to impulses of the flesh. It means that you use the gifts that God has given you in a sensible, controlled manner, in line with God’s purposes in each situation. Don’t abuse your gifts.

WORKS

- Pray for one another that your DGroup.
- Find one or two partners and take the spiritual gifts test this week over tea or coffee! Rejoice over what you discover.

ANNOUNCEMENT: MOSAIC CHURCH WILL HAVE A DREAMTEAM SABBATH ON MAY LONG WEEKEND (May 19-21). WE WILL NOT HAVE A SUNDAY WORSHIP EXPERIENCE. WE ENCOURAGE FAMILIES AND DGROUPS TO SPEND TIME TOGETHER THAT WEEKEND!