

Call & Gifts

Monday, 3/23/09 – Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-31

My Observations _____

A Question to Answer: We're going to spend this week working through 1 Corinthians 12. The call of God comes to us in different ways. Sometimes it is a lifelong vocation. Sometimes it is a nudge for this moment or this circumstance. And also God calls us through "spiritual gifts." ... Today we read through all of chapter 12. Read it quickly to get an overall impression. What's your first impression? Overall, what do you think that chapter is trying to say? Write down the central idea in your own words.

Tuesday, 3/24/09 – Read 1 Corinthians 12:1

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: The Greek word that is translated as "gift" in 1 Corinthians 12 is "charisma." What do you think of when you think of charisma? Who has charisma? ... The root of the Greek word is "charis" which is usually translated as "grace" or "favor." ... Our gifts are "charismatic"; they are the expression of God's blessing in us, God's grace and favor. Do you think of your talents, aptitudes, abilities as the blessing of God? ... Would it make a difference to you if you thought of your abilities and talents as God calling you?

Wednesday, 3/25/09 – Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: It may seem obvious but verse 4 reminds us that there are varieties of gifts. Different people have different talents, abilities, interests, and inclinations. What may not be so obvious is that it is the same God who has given such a wildly diverse variety of gifts to different people. ... What's your reaction when you notice different people's different gifts? Do you feel jealous of someone else's gift? Do you celebrate another person's gift? Do you evaluate some gifts as more important than others? What's your reaction to the variety of gifts in different people?

Thursday, 3/26/09 – Read 1 Corinthians 12:8-11

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Verses 8-11 list some of the spiritual gifts God gives. (Some of these words may have a specialized meaning; but for now just focus on what these words suggest to you.) Do you feel that any of these words name one of your gifts? If so, which one? ... This is not a complete list. Other lists of gifts in the Bible name some different ones. See Romans 12:6-8. ... Use these lists just to get you started thinking. What would you guess might be a couple of the gifts God has given you? (They may not be named in 1 Corinthians 12.) ... When you think of your own gifts, do you think of them as a call from God?

Friday, 3/27/09 – Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Today's reading uses a commonplace metaphor to help us grasp our relationship to each other and our relationship with God. The metaphor is a human body -- and the parts of the human body. To be fully functional a human body needs different parts. Obvious enough, isn't it!

We need each other, and we need others to be different from ourselves. Only then can "God's body" be fully functioning. ... When do you experience other's difference as a good and joyful thing? When do you experience difference as irritating? ... Do you feel called into community with others, others who are different from you?

Saturday, 3/28/09 – Read 1 Corinthians 12:27-31

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: You (*plural; all of you together*) are the body of Christ. And as an individual, you are a member of Christ's body. ... Will you today claim your place in Christ's body? ... If you had to say, what part of the body are you? Hands? Feet? Mouth? What? ... And that means you are NOT some other part of the body. That belongs to someone else. It's important for us to be clear what we are not so that we don't usurp someone else's rightful place in the body!

Sunday, 3/29/09 – Read 1 Corinthians 12:7

My Observations: _____

A Question to Answer: Your spiritual gift, your "charisma," your blessing from the generosity of God -- this is one of the ways you can know God's call in your life. God is calling you to use your gift on behalf of others, on behalf of all. Your gift is the presence of God's Spirit in you -- reaching out to bless others. And God is reaching out to you, blessing you, through other people and their gifts. We are all in this together through the variety of gifts and calls that God has given us. What do you think about all this? Jot down your thoughts.

My Faith Journal, March 22, 2009

Experiencing Call #8

Gym Membership

What do I hear God saying to me today?

Romans 12:1-13

What action do I intend to take this week?

Each day this week, take a few minutes. Begin with PRAYER. Then READ through the Bible passage indicated on the inside of this guide. WRITE down your own thoughts, reactions, observations. ANSWER THE QUESTION to begin connecting the Bible with your life. Use additional paper or your own notebook if you need more space to write.