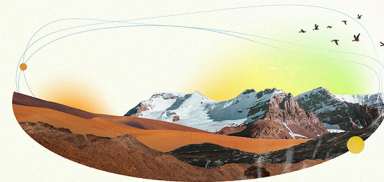


A BLESSED LIFE - TALENT



PRECEPT

EPHESIANS 2:10

For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus for good works that God prepared beforehand so we can do them.

MATTHEW 25:21

His master replied, Well done, good and faithful servant! You proved that you could be trusted with a small amount. I will put you in charge of a large amount. Come and share your master's happiness.

PROMISE

To follow Jesus means to serve Jesus. God created us uniquely and gifted each of us so we can serve Him and His people with our unique personalities and talent. We are carefully created for that purpose. Paul said in Ephesians 2:10, *"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus for good works that God prepared beforehand so we can do them."* Those who trusted Jesus with their lives are His masterpiece, a new creation. 2 Timothy 1:9 also says, *"He has saved us and called us for His holy work."* Clearly, good works will not save us because only through Jesus and by His grace we are saved, but doing good works is our fruit as Christians, this is an indication that we are saved. God shaped us and called us to serve Him.

THANKFUL. Psalm 100:2 tells us to serve the Lord with gladness! As children of God, our service to Him is our expression of our gratitude to His faithfulness and goodness to us. By His grace He saved us, by His love He called us, and by His faithfulness He sustained us. Serving Him is the least we can do for all His love for us.

AVAILABLE. 2 Timothy 1:6 reminds us to keep alive the gift that God gave us. We can do this by being available to serve in any way possible. We have various ministries in the church that are available for all of us to serve.

LOYAL. Jesus Himself was loyal or faithful to His calling. He said in John 17:4, *"I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do."* While Jesus was praying for His disciples, He was willing to take on His forthcoming suffering even though He knew how hard it would be. He remained faithful to His calling till the end. He also expects us to do the same. 1 Corinthians 4:2 says, *"The one thing required of such servants is that they prove to be faithful."* This was referring to the roles of the ministry of apostleship, but it's not limited to their roles. Each of us is called to remain faithful and loyal to our calling, and we are called to serve God till the end.

ENTHUSIASTIC. Romans 12:11 commands us, *"Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically."* Let us serve the Lord with eagerness and passion. Serving God enthusiastically also means finding time and prioritizing Him. God has been eager to bless us, let us prove to Him that we are worthy of His blessing by being eager and excited to serve Him.

NEED-PROVIDER. Proverbs 3:27 says, *"Do not withhold good from those who need it when you have the ability to help."* Let us be of help to the body of Christ and serve Him by addressing the need of the church.

TRUSTWORTHY. In Matthew 25:21 it says, *"His master replied, Well done, good and faithful servant! You proved that you could be trusted with a small amount. I will put you in charge of a large amount. Come and share your master's happiness."* We can share in the Lord's gladness when we are trustworthy, faithful, and committed.

God gives us gifts and talents and He expects us to use them, regardless of their size. As we do, He will begin to bless the work of our hands. Our church will be built up in faith and love as we employ these spiritual gifts. Let us not waste anymore time and serve now.

PRACTICE

1. Gifts from God. Do you know which gifts God has graced you with? What are those gifts that He wants to operate in your life?

2. Blessing Others. What results have you observed from the times you allowed your God-given gifts to operate in your life? What impact did those gifts have on others when you allowed them to freely operate through you?

PRAYER

I. Love

- Pray that we may continue to unconditionally show love to our neighbours and friends.

II. Growth

- May we all aim for growth in all aspects of our lives, especially in our intimacy with God.

III. World

- Pray that peace may reign over every land and may compassion unite all of us in Christ Jesus.

IV. Unreached

- Pray that the light of Christ may shine brightly into the darkness of the lives of everyone.

V. Gospel

- May the message of Christ's love be brought to the farthest reaches of the world.

VI. Nations

- Pray that every tribe, tongue, and people will know Jesus.

VII. Disciples

- Pray that God may empower and give courage to churches to fulfil the Great Commission.