

Living Worship

For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh. –Philippians 3:3, KJV

Why Do We Worship?

So that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. –Romans 15:6

What Is Worship?

God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth. –John 4:24

Called to Disciplined Prayer

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. –Acts 3:1

Coming to Terms With Our Grudges

“In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry. **–Ephesians 4:26**

Serving God Through Illness

As you know, it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you. **–Galatians 4:13**

Seeing God's Purpose in Your Temporary Situation

“What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!” Moses answered the people, “Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today.” **–Exodus 14:11-13**

The Loneliness of Suffering and Service

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." ... and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

—Matthew 26:36-38

How to Identify Your Unique Spiritual Gifts

"For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has distributed to each of you" (Rom. 12:3, NIV).

Do you wish to discover your **spiritual gift**? Two passages in particular tell you how to do it.

In 1 Corinthians 12:31, Paul says, "Covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way" (KJV). In the Greek, this passage means "the excellent way by which you discover your gifts is by love."

It sounds almost too simple to be true: You can best discover your **gift** when you demonstrate **agape love**. Yet it is true. When we love people and long to serve them, when we totally forgive and keep no record of wrongs, then we spontaneously

find ways of expressing that love and the gifts of the Spirit emerge in us. There are no shortcuts to finding the gifts. We must have hearts devoid of bitterness.

The second principle is found in Romans 12:3. Basically, what Paul is saying is “Don’t claim to have what you don’t have.”

Though we are to covet the **gifts**, we must not seek them for our own glory or impute to ourselves abilities that simply aren’t there. We must live sacrificial lives, seeking at each moment only to love and serve God in **holiness**, humility and prayer. Then, though we may not be the first violinist or the conductor, we will quite naturally and simply find our own gift and our place in the orchestra, almost without realizing it. Sometimes the position may be quite prominent. But it will be under God’s control and God’s responsibility and almost a matter of indifference to us, since all that matters is **God’s glory** and not ours.

One further guideline here is that God does not encourage us to be incompetent, and if we feel that we are working incompetently, then it is a pretty strong hint that we are not where God intended us to be.

If you find that these are the marks of your life, ask God what He wants you to change in your life, and then offer yourself to Him again as a living and daily sacrifice.

Excerpted from Worshipping God (Hodder & Stoughton, 2004).

Making a Bad Choice

So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company: Abram lived

in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom. **-Genesis 13:11-12**