

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: I Peter 4:10-11 “As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, *that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ*, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

Quote: “By the grace of God I am what I am.” Paul

The church in Corinth was plagued by carnality and worldliness that evidenced itself in factions and pride, with individuals boasting loyalty to particular leaders. Paul addressed the contentions among them by asking, “Where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men? For when one says, ‘I am of Paul,’ and another, ‘I am of Apollos,’ are you not carnal? Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but *ministers* through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? I planted, Apollos watered, *but God gave the increase*. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, *but God who gives the increase.*”¹ He would later ask, “For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?”² Paul then went on to disclose the truth that Christian service can often be anything but glamorous and can often involve hardship.

This flies in the face of some who focus on becoming the vision that they have of themselves. “In YOUR BEST LIFE NOW (Joel) Osteen says, ‘I am what I am today because of what I believed about myself yesterday. And I will be tomorrow what I’m believing about myself right now. God sees us as more than conquerors, able to fulfill our destiny. We need to see ourselves through the eyes of our Creator.’ (Osteen) says that our self-image should mirror exactly what God says about us, not what we feel or think. And he encourages readers to be people of faith, for if you can see the invisible, God will do the impossible.”³ Prosperity theology, and self-promotion fly in the face of what God’s Word teaches. Osteen’s formula for success⁴ makes God

a reactor and not the sovereign initiator of what a person becomes.⁵ To this same prideful group of Corinthian believers, Paul wrote, “For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But *by the grace of God I am what I am*, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet *not I, but the grace of God which was with me*. Therefore, whether it was I or (the other apostles), so we preach and so you believed.”⁶

How does all of this apply to us? *God equips each of His own to do His work in His way with humility and for His glory alone.*⁷ Moses asked God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?” The Creator of all things answered Moses by promising to be with him. However, Moses replied, “‘O my Lord, I am *not eloquent*, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue.’ So the LORD said to him, ‘Who has made man’s mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the LORD? Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say.’ But he said, ‘O my Lord, please send by the hand of whomever else You may send.’”⁸

Even a great example of faith like Moses initially failed to see that God’s will did not depend upon him. He was merely the mouthpiece through which God said to Pharaoh, “But indeed for this purpose I have raised you up, that *I may show My power* in you, and that *My name* may be declared in all the earth.” One of the greatest wonders for every believer is that Almighty God fashioned a plan that includes exactly how He made us. He has wisely gifted His own to be able to honor Him through obedient, humble service, using the abilities that He has given to us. Indeed, life is not about us! It is all about Him!⁹ By God’s grace, our best life is yet to come! *Soli Deo gloria*: “to the glory of God alone!”

God’s A Honor Roll, Ability

1 | Cor.3:3-6 2 | Cor.4:7 3 Barnes & Noble 4 [The Power of I Am; Think Better, Live Better; I Declare; Fresh Start: The New You Begins Today](#) 5 Acts 9:15-16; 2:28; II Cor.11:23 6 | Cor.15:9-11 7 | Cor.12; Rom. 12; Ps.139:4-16 8 Ex.4:10-13 9 | Cor.1:26-31