

SF My Experiences

Rom. 12:6-8

INTRO: The last aspect of spiritual formation in “The Me I Want To Be” is the practicum. It is the action item of spiritual growth. As you can see in this familiar text on spiritual gifts, it is critical to “use them.” Having them is one thing, using them is quite another. Practice may not make us perfect, but it does help us grow more perfect!

Living in the flow of the Spirit means I use my gifts in the context of my daily life. Experiences are what we do in life. Most people spend over half their lives “at work.” Our work is our arena of experience.

“Work is not, primarily, a thing one does to live, but the thing one lives to do.....the medium in which we offer ourselves to God.” Dorothy Sayers

Henry Blackaby has taught this piece of spiritual formation wonderfully in his book Experiencing God.

“You come to know God by experience at His initiative as He reveals Himself to you. As you experience God, you come to know Him more intimately and personally.”

YOU COME TO KNOW GOD BY EXPERIENCE AS YOU OBEY HIM AND HE ACCOMPLISHES HIS WORK THROUGH YOU.

Some insights into Work:

I. Discover your strengths (Marcus Buckingham, [Now Discover Your Strengths](#))

Don't focus on your weaknesses

An activity that makes you feel strong (**Ex. 36:1-2**)

II. Understand what you receive when you work

Work is a form of dominion over the earth

It is also a form of love.....serving if you will

III. Let your work honor God (Col. 3:22)

My best self works wholeheartedly

Generally speaking, if you can't pray for the success of what you're doing, start doing something else!

IV. Make work a part of your calling

job, career, calling

V. View work as a service to God

You have to go through exile before you come back home

Adversity “can” lead to growth.

1. Rising to a challenge reveals abilities hidden within you (and beyond you!) that would otherwise have remained dormant.

Temptation has a way out; not necessarily adversity!

2. Adversity can deepen relationships.

3. Adversity can change your priorities about what really matters.

4. Adversity points us to the Hope beyond ourselves.

Ernest Hemingway, *“Sooner or later, the world breaks everyone, and those who are broken are strongest in the broken places.”*

CONC: Sometimes we can “create an experience.” We can plan something that will bring about a learning opportunity. BUT most of our lessons are learned in the “ordinariness” of life.

MAYBE you need to stretch and plan an experience that would stretch you in a new way.

MAYBE you need to offer up your “ordinary life” to God as a means of learning more and giving more.