

Diving Deeper into Discipleship for July 24, 2022

Pastor Pete Fowler

The Gifts and the Giver: Don't Hide Your Gifts

Sermon Reflection Questions:

- How much of your time, talents and treasure are you dedicating to the ongoing Kingdom-work that Jesus desires for the Church and in the world?
- Which gift(s) from Scripture most resonate with who you've been created to be, and with who you've been re-created to be in Christ?
- How can you "fan the flame" of your giftedness this week?

Devotional Reading and Reflection

- **Romans 12:1-8, 1 Corinthians 12:1-31, Ephesians 4:11-16, 1 Peter 4:8-11**
Take some time this week to prayerfully read through the passages above, being open to the Holy Spirit giving you insight into your giftedness.

Weekly Spiritual Practice

July Practice: Corporate Guidance | The Community of God

(from *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster, pg. 189)

- A personal experience of the Emmanuel presence of Jesus, that He has come to guide His people Himself, leading them in definite and immediate ways, is a deeply profound thing. But, it is not sufficient. Individual guidance must yield to corporate guidance. There must also come a knowledge of the direct, active, immediate leading of the Spirit together. Perhaps the preoccupation with private guidance alone in Western cultures is the product of their emphasis on individualism. The people of God have not always been so.
- Dallas Willard states, "The aim of God in history is the creation of an all-inclusive community of loving persons, with Himself included in that community as its prime sustainer and most glorious inhabitant." Such a community lives under the immediate and total rulership of the Holy Spirit. They are a people blinded to all other loyalties by the splendor of God, a compassionate community embodying the law of love as seen in Jesus Christ. They are tenderly aggressive, meekly powerful, suffering and overcoming.
- Ask someone close to you about what "loyalties" appear to him/her to be most influential in your life. Do any of these loyalties distract you from the splendor of God or lead you away from the law of love?