



The Adventure—David

October 15, 2023

DAILY DEVOTION

Through David's life, we learn that regardless of our upbringing or status, God has an incredible purpose for our life. Everyone makes mistakes, but our mistakes are not what define us. God's plans for our lives will be accomplished, no matter what or who tries to stop it.

<https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/13494-king-david-for-you>

INSPIRATION

Every one of us has a purpose for living. We may not have been tapped on the shoulder to be the king of Israel - but no one that God brings here on this earth is insignificant. There is no one like you - you are tapped by God for a purpose. Discovering that purpose - and carrying it out - will delight God and you.

DEEP DIVE

Read Acts 13:36

You and I have the privilege of being called by God to do His work in the world AND equipped by Him to do what He has called us to do. Part of that equipping is God giving each follower of Jesus Christ spiritual gifts. Based on the primary Scripture passages that talk about gifts (1 Corinthians 12-14, Romans 12, Ephesians 4, 1 Peter 4), a spiritual gift is:

- a unique ability
- given by God
- through His Holy Spirit
- to believers in Jesus
- for the purpose of bringing glory to Him and strengthening His church.

Read Acts 2:36-39. What does Peter say is needed for anyone to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit?



God calls us and we acknowledge our need for Him, coming to Him in humility and repentance, receiving His forgiveness and the promise of new life. That new life reflects God's call on the whole of ourselves, and we respond in gratitude and service.

Read 1 Peter 2:4-5 and 1 Peter 2:9-10. List at least five descriptions of us as believers.

- Discuss what each of these means.
- Did you note that all of the descriptions are plural?

We together are God's people. This is not a solo deal.

Read Romans 12:3-8. Talk about at least three ways we are to live as the Body of Christ. Gifts are given to each of us to be used for ALL of us. The Scriptures that reference spiritual gifts do so in the context of a group. "Chosen people," "holy nation," "Body of Christ," "common good" are all plural terms that remind us that we belong to each other, and that gifts are to be used for others. Ultimately, our gifts are a way to steward what God has entrusted to us.

Taking the Assessment If you have connectivity, take a moment now and have each person in your group take a spiritual gifts assessment you can find at: <https://hgctools.com/sgifts/> - no church code is needed.

When taking the assessment, approach it prayerfully, asking and trusting God to reveal Himself in the process; do not overthink the questions; write in the answer that first comes to mind; you are answering how you are, NOT how you think you should be,

Debriefing What You Discovered

List your top 3 gifts here:

Discuss in your group:

- Which gifts confirm what you already knew?
- Which one(s) are a surprise to you or which do you wish you knew more about?
- Which one(s) did you expect to see in your top 5 but your scores for those were low?

Philippians 1:6 gives us confidence that God will complete the work that is begun in us. Read that verse together.



NEXT STEPS

- Become familiar with your own top-scoring gifts.
- Where could/does this fit in ministry, the larger church, the community, your workplace, where you live?
- Use your gifts. Ask God to use you for his purpose. Ask Him to show you where you are already using them and to open new doors for you to put them into practice. Ask Him to help you embrace the gifts He has seen fit to grant to you.
- Recognize that sometimes your use of gifts necessarily develops over time. Of course, God can gift you in a moment and make you fully able, but often He gives the special ability and we live into it in stages, reflective of our growing dependence on Him.
- Finding a mentor, shepherd, or coach to help you explore and grow into your gift(s) can also be a useful practice.

PRAYER

Spend some time praying about your gifts:

- that God would help you embrace the gifts He has seen fit to give you,
- that the Lord would help you let go of the desire to have a different set of gifts,
- that His Spirit would empower you to use your gifts in new ways,
- that He would help bring clarity to your understanding of spiritual gifts,
- that God would help you see the ways that the gifts of others complement yours.