

Courageous Joy as I Bow my Gifts

Understanding our gifts

1. Gifts can be p_____, a_____, e_____, or c_____.
2. To be bowed or used by us, gifts must be r_____.
3. The ultimate purpose of all gifts is to g_____.
4. We are not given gifts to make us h_____. We are given gifts with which we can g_____ God. Because we are created and purposed to glorify God, using our gifts in this way satisfies our deep longing for purpose and fulfills us.
5. We all share one gift if we receive it. That gift is J_____, the p_____ of God in our lives and the P_____ that raised Jesus from the dead.

Eph 1:18-20 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. THAT POWER is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms.

So, how can I have courageous joy as I bow my gifts? For that matter, how can I bow them?

Let's start by recognizing three things. (Exodus 3-4)

1. He E_____. Being equipped, gifted, enabled, purposed, sealed, established, and rooted by God SHOULD make us courageous.

HE _____. Do we receive?

2. He C_____. Being commanded by God to give SHOULD make us bow.

We _____. Do we give to his glory?

3. He P_____. Being promised blessings, honor, abundance, peace, treasure, and rest SHOULD give us joy.

He _____ again. Do we believe that he will?

Call to Action: You are equipped to give. To have courageous joy as you bow, you must bow. Get on your face and ask God to uncover all the ways you have been equipped and how to give to his glory. Then DO IT.

Homework: On the attached page, read the following passages. In the margin, write E where it talks about your being equipped or gifted. Write C where you are commanded to give or use a gift. Write P where there is a promise or assurance about what will happen when you give.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant not to put their hope in wealth, which is SO UNCERTAIN, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they make take hold of the life that is truly life.

2 Cor 9: 6-15

⁶ Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷ Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹ As it is written:

“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever.”^[a]

¹⁰ Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

¹² This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord’s people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. ¹³ Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. ¹⁴ And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!