

5 Day Devotions, "Lent 2: Why Does God Need Me?" from Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Day 1: Embracing Grace as Divine Empowerment

Grace is not earned but given to fulfill our divine purpose. It is a divine empowerment that allows us to serve others and participate in the unfolding of God's kingdom on earth. This grace is a reminder that our worth to God is inherent and not based on our deeds. As recipients of this grace, we are called to serve not to earn favor, but because we are equipped and empowered to do so. This service is an expression of the potential that God has placed within each of us, and it is through this service that we truly live out our calling.

"Even before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." - Jeremiah 1:5 ESV

Reflection: How can you actively rely on God's grace today to serve others in a way that you have been hesitating to do?

Day 2: Trusting God's Plan Over Our Inadequacies

God's knowledge of us precedes our existence, and His plans for us are established before we are born. The story of Jeremiah's call demonstrates that feelings of inadequacy are common, but they are met with God's reassurance and provision. We are each consecrated for a mission, and God equips us with what we need to accomplish it. This narrative encourages us to trust in God's plan for our lives and to embrace our calling with confidence, knowing that God is with us every step of the way.

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." - Ephesians 2:10 ESV

Reflection: What specific mission or good work do you feel God has prepared for you, and what step can you take today to move closer to fulfilling it?

Day 3: Responding to God's Persistent Call

The biblical pattern of calling, hesitation, reaffirmation, and mission is not just a historical account but a blueprint for our own lives. Like Moses and Jonah, we may hesitate or offer excuses, but God's call is persistent and unwavering. God remains steadfast, providing the means for us to accomplish the work set before us. This pattern is a testament to God's faithfulness and our responsibility to respond to God's call with action.

"And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." - Philippians 1:6 ESV

Reflection: Can you identify a time when you hesitated to respond to God's call? What can you do today to reaffirm your commitment to that call?

Day 4: Understanding Our Need for God

Our need for God is not about God requiring our service, but about our need to be part of God's greater plan. It is through our relationship with God that we become instruments of His love and grace in the world. This shift in perspective helps us understand our purpose and our relationship with the divine, transforming our approach to life and service.

"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me." - 2 Corinthians 12:9 ESV

Reflection: In what ways do you need God's grace to be sufficient for you today, and how can that understanding change your approach to challenges you face?

Day 5: Living Out Our Universal Calling

Our calling to share God's love and grace is universal and inclusive, extending to all who follow Christ. It is not reserved for a select few but is an invitation to all believers to engage in the mission of sharing God's love and grace. As we live out our calling, we are reminded that God is with us, guiding and empowering us to make a difference in the world.

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." - 1 Peter 4:10 ESV

Reflection: What unique gift have you received from God, and how can you use it today to serve someone in your community?