

## LIFE CHANGING STORIES FROM THE BIBLE

### BEING WHO YOU ARE FOR GOD

Everyone is unique, everyone is different. Some have more gifts and abilities than others. But whatever we are, whatever gifts and abilities we have, or don't have, we can be one hundred percent for God and his glory.

We can find complete satisfaction and fulfilment in being who we are. But whatever we are we can develop it further and grow into all the potential God has planned for us. Paul says in Philippians 4:11-13 "I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength."

Accepting who we are and accepting the circumstances God puts us through is the secret of contentment. A verse each of us needs to take to heart is found in Romans 12:3-6. "For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us."

We are not to think more highly than we ought of ourselves because it usually ends in humiliating failure. Like the good Christian man I knew, who God was using, but he set his eyes on being a big evangelist, so he rented the Auckland town hall hoping to fill it with people who would come to hear him preaching. He advertised in the paper but sadly hardly anyone came. Bravely he preached to the few but it was mostly empty seats. That was not his gift, his gift was, one to one, speaking to people about the Lord. God was using him in that gift. On the other hand, we can with a false modesty, think more lowly of ourselves than we ought. In Exodus Chapter 3 we see how God called Moses to go and deliver the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt, listen to Moses' response in verse 11, "But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" 13) And God said, "I will be with you."

We read how Moses is full of excuses then in chapter 4:13, "But Moses said, "O Lord, please send someone else to do it." 14) Then the Lord's anger burned against Moses."

A sure way to make the Lord angry is to think you are not good enough to do the work he calls to do. Sometimes it might be because we are jealous of others who have bigger gifts than us and we go and hide any smaller gift we might have and do nothing for God. But every gift is needed whether big or small. Like the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30. It is a story of a man going on a journey and leaving different amounts of his money with his servants. A talent was a certain weight of silver or maybe gold but the word talent can also be applied to the gifts God gives us. To one servant he gave five talents, to another he gave two and still to another he gave one, just like God gives to us different gifts.

The servants were to invest the money and get a profit for their master while he was away. The first servant doubled his amount and the second servant did the same, but the third servant hid the money and made no profit but rather loss. When he returned the master was pleased with the first two servants because they had done something for their master, while the third servant had done nothing but hide his talent. His master was very displeased with him and punished him.

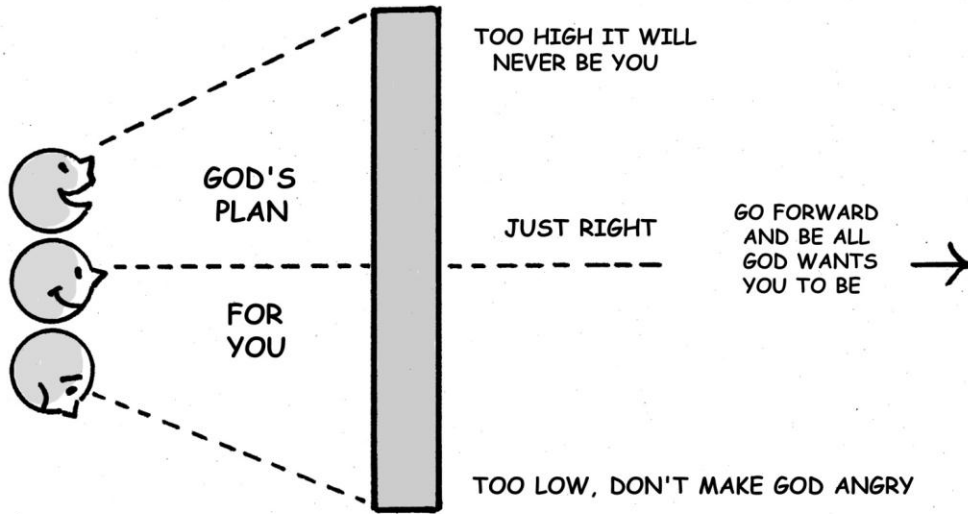
So whatever talents or gifts we receive from the Lord whether big or small he expects us to use them for his glory. Figuratively speaking, we should rejoice in whatever God has made us in the body which is a picture of those people who have accepted Christ as saviour. If we are an eye, let's be an eye for the glory of God, if we are an ear, let's be an ear for the glory of God, if we are a mouth, let's be a mouth for the glory of God, if we are a hand, let's be a hand for the glory of God, if we are a foot, let's be a foot for the glory of God and so on.

We all need each other for the body to function properly, for example, the hand is very clever, it can play the piano, paint pictures, build buildings, etc. but what good is the hand without the arm. The hand has more ability than the arm but the hand is useless without the arm.

Let me close with a parable. The hands were feeling jealous of the mouth, they felt the mouth was getting more praise than they got, the mouth could sing beautiful songs, speak wonderful words and get much admiration from people. They decided they didn't want to be hands any more, they wanted to be a mouth. So they joined their palms together and started to open and shut their fingers like a mouth opening and shutting to speak words.

But no words came out so they tried opening and shutting faster, still no words. It so happened that the body went out in a little boat on the water and came across a man drowning. The mouth called out with a loud voice, "Grab my hands!" But the hands were so busy trying to be a mouth that the man drowned. If the hands had functioned as God intended they would have grabbed the man and he would have been saved, because in this situation the mouth could do nothing but shout, "Grab the hands!" How important it is to be what God made us to be.

# SET YOUR SIGHT ON BEING WHO YOU ARE, FOR GOD



WE ARE ALL PART OF ONE BODY, SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE TRY TO BE WHAT WE ARE NOT

