

# Leverage His Gifts

May, 7, 2017

# Agenda

- Overview
- What are our gifts?
- What is the purpose of those gifts?
- How can you discern them?
- What gets in the way?
- Why we should use those gifts?
- Questions / comments / thoughts

# Overview

- Finding our strengths and (as much as possible) operating out of those.
- Helping **those we lead** discover their strengths and putting those team members in positions where their strengths are utilized.
  - Holding up the mirror.
- God gave everyone unique talents to help serve others, but sometimes we're not even **aware** of those talents until we encounter struggles.

# Overview

- How do we often decide where to spend our time **today**?
  - Sometimes we simply **don't**, right? We have families to care for, vocations to tend to, and sometimes there just isn't much energy left over at the end of the day or week.
  - Even if we do have a little "gas left in the tank" we may sometimes fall prey to idle occupations to simply pass time or relax
- What if we took a different approach, and instead identified our God-given strengths and let **those** be the guides for our time?

# What ***are*** our gifts...?

*Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift back to God...*

Leo Buscaglia

# What *are* our gifts...?

1. Ministry - ***Demonstrating*** God's love
  2. Discipleship - ***Educating*** God's people
  3. Evangelism - ***Communicating*** God's Word
  4. Worship - ***Celebrating*** God's presence
  5. Fellowship - ***Participating*** in God's family
- Some combination of the above

# What is the *purpose* of those gifts...?

*How could we enjoy heaven if during our lifetime we had used most of our time, treasure, and talents for ourselves and our select group?*

Daniel Fuller

# What is the *purpose* of those gifts...?

- Minister to others, & build up the Body of Christ
- Not for our reputation, but **for others** (1 Peter 4:10 tells us that each of us “should use whatever gift you have received to serve others..”)
- Produce **maturity** in our church (Ephesians 4:12-13 tells us that Jesus equips “...his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature...”)
- To **glorify God** and help each of us grow...

# **How** can you discern your gifts...?

*If you have money, power, and status today, it is due to the century and place in which you were born, to your talents and capacities and health, none of which you earned. In short, all your resources are in the end the gift of God.*

Tim Keller

# How can you discern your gifts...?

- Feedback from God, trusted peers, family members, etc.
- Those things that you...
  - Enjoy
  - Find yourself being called upon to do for others
  - Sense you do well :)
- Tools
  - Faith based - [Spiritual Gifts test](#), [Gift Test](#)
  - Secular - [Strengths Finder](#), Kolbe A Index, or Predictive Index

# What gets in the way...?

*When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say, 'I used everything you gave me.*

Erma Bombeck

# What gets in the way...?

- History vs. His Story
  - Past habits (history)
  - His Story (our will vs. His - how do we discern?)
- Relationships with (& commitments to) others
  - Co-workers
  - Members of the Church / fellow Christians
  - Family members
- Satan's temptations
- Earthly "priorities"

# ***Why*** we should use those gifts...?

*If we did all the things we are capable of, we would literally astound ourselves.*

Thomas A. Edison

# *Why* we should use those gifts...?

- ROI example
- God's Will (Galatians 6:9-10)
- Efficacy for...
  - You personally
  - Fulfillment of others (Matthew 5:16)
  - Collectively furthering His mission to love God, love others and to serve the world

Questions / comments / thoughts?