
Secrets to Usefulness in Ministry

BUT GOD IS JUDGE: HE PUTS ONE DOWN, AND SETS UP ANOTHER.
(Psalm 75:7)

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Introduction:

In my quest for some answers and an explanation of why God uses some while others wonder why they are not so blessed of God in ministry, I have some observations impressed upon my heart by the Holy Spirit. But I do not claim to have all the answers. I'm sure you could add to my list as you ponder these things.

God is sovereign as Proverbs 2:1-5 states: *My son, if you will receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; so that you incline your ear unto wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; yea and cry after knowledge, and lift up your voice for understanding; if you seek her as for silver and search her as for hidden treasure...then you shall understand* (2:1-5).

God uses whomever He chooses. The measure of usefulness is divinely weighed according to what He wants done, and I am confident that He will use you, according to your desire and willingness, and according to how He has equipped you for His purposes. In the purposes of God, there are no idle servants nor lack of work to be done. Usefulness is not determined by what you accomplish, according to man's estimation, but by your faithfulness to what God assigns to you. Some people are given quite large ministries, while others, just as faithful, are given a lesser place in God's purposes. Note seven reasons why God uses people. I will be quite brief in my comments about them.

A. Total Submission to God

Hesitation to yield your will to the known will of God forfeits His enabling and puts you at odds with His purposes.

B. A Consuming Compassion for People

The supreme characteristic of God is love. To have His supreme attitude prevailing in your heart gives you a divine qualification for service.

C. A Personal Student of God's Word

To seek God and His objectives in His Word gives Him an open heart and mind for divine direction.

D. An Unbroken Fellowship with God

To continue in communication with God that you may participate with Him in His purposes makes you a useful friend to God.

E. A Continual Pattern of Spiritual Growth

God's will for you is to be a *"full grown man in Christ"* that you may be ready to function in His service.

F. The Abiding Fullness of the Holy Spirit

As the Son of Man on earth, Jesus served in total dependence on the Holy Spirit, not on His inherent power as God. He expects the same of us, ready for any divine dispatch.

G. A Disposition to Believe God

Jesus said, "I will put my trust in Him (God)" (Hebrews 2:13).

The Lord wants us to follow this example. Such determination overcomes fear, disbelief, and doubt.

Is you want greater usefulness in God's service, ask the Holy Spirit to produce these secrets in your heart and life. God is no respect of persons. He will use you as He uses others. But don't ignore these stern words of Jesus: *"No man having put his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom"* (Luke 9:62).

May the Lord enable us to stay fit and useful, steadfast in His purposes.
