

“What Kind Of Gift Do You Expect?”

By Mrs. Sojourner

Whenever someone compliments you or encourages you concerning one of your gifts, do you usually brush it off and say, “It was nothing, I didn’t do much.”

Please consider this. The gifts that God gives each of us, be they writing, or singing, or comforting, or organizing or whatever, may come easily to us, but not necessarily to everyone else. These are gifts from God. He did not have to give them to us. Our purpose in life is to glorify our Heavenly Father and part of glorifying him is testifying to what he has done for us and another part of glorifying him is using the gifts he has given us as fully as we possibly can. **10**Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms. **11**If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4:10-11 (NIV)

The more we exercise the gifts we have and the more



Notes:

[a]
2 Timothy 1:6
(NIV)

we expect God to show up when we use our gifts, the more we will find that our gifts grow beyond what we ever expected. Are we limiting how God uses us and our gifts because we consider them our gifts instead of the gifts he has invested into our lives for his glory.

Consider something else. God is a good God so we expect good things from him. Do we only expect small good things from him because we consider ourselves small, or do we look beyond ourselves and expect big glorious gifts from God because he is a big God?

Let us, as Paul encouraged Timothy “fan into flame the gift of God”^[a] and expect big “house-sized” gifts from God and see him glorify himself by delivering just that—the extravagant!

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Sojourning

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...with The Sojourner

“How Big Is Your Pot?” (Teaching Sketch)

Acts 1:1-11



The words as recorded by the Apostle Luke, a physician, in the book, The Acts of the Apostles,^[1] in Acts 1:1-11 are the last words of Jesus before he ascended to the throne in Heaven. We know there are subsequent words of Jesus speaking to the Apostle John on the Isle of Patmos at the writing of the Book of Revelation.

Those Chosen Apostles

Luke is doing Acts as a follow up to his earlier Gospel where he told of the things Jesus, “Began to do and teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.”

Jesus Gave Instructions

Jesus told the apostles on one occasion, after proving his resurrection to them, not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for the promise of which he had spoken to them. This instruction was given while they were eating a meal. I point this out because Jesus provides physical food for the body as well as spiritual food.

Jesus told them things regarding the Kingdom of Heaven^[2] during this same time, prior to his ascension.

God Has His Timing

The question Jesus was asked on one occasion was, “Lord are you at this time going to restore the kingdom of Israel?” It is this type of question which occupies the minds of many believers today as they attempt to figure out when Jesus will come for his Body, the called out ones.

Gods Authority

Jesus made it clear the knowledge of when the Body of Christ would be caught away or Israel restored is within God’s realm but not for mankind to know.

You Will Receive

Jesus then after setting things straight as to what is in God’s area then tells them they, “Will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and (here is the function for them) you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” This

Notes:

[1]
Sent ones

[2]
Kingdom
of Heaven
is here in
us and in
Heaven.

Scripture:

Acts 1:1-11 (NIV)

¹In my former book, Theophilus,^[a] I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵For John baptized with^[b] water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." ⁶So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

⁹After he said this, he was

Notes:

[a] Theophilus *theh-of'-iil-os; friend of God; Theophilus, a Christian:—* Theophilus.

[b] Or in

taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

¹⁰They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."



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"How Big Is Your Pot?" (Teaching Sketch)

Acts 1:1-11

commission to them was his parting words and then Jesus was taken up and hidden from their sight. He had told them what they were to do.

How Big The Pot

Jesus gave them something to do bigger than they were, accompanied by the promise of enabling power. The expectation they had been given was a very big pot to fill. They, no doubt, had never imagined themselves in such an endeavor. Today, as then, people become so busy delving to spiritual matters not assigned to them that there is a need for angels to appear and ask why are you still occupying yourself with looking up when there are assignments yet to be carried out. How big is your pot? Your perceived pot may be smaller than your assigned pot. A flower planted in a small pot remains small and root bound but a flower moved from pot to larger pot blooms and flourishes more and more. Fill your pot to the full with blooms and then let the Lord transplant you to a bigger pot. Jesus had the believers start where they were and then kept expanding their territory (pot) to fulfill his plan. Bloom!

Just so you'll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship**
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during "Praise & Worship" (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

