

The One Or No Talent Christian

When we read in God's Word, the Christian Bible, the lives of men and women whom God used powerfully to further His plan for humanity, we wonder what we are called by God to do.

1 Corinthians 1:26 [NIV] *"Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth."*

Most of us called by God to become Christians, acknowledge we are **not** among the great in this society. We relate to the many **not** the few. There is a very good reason for this.

1 Corinthians 1:27-29 [NIV] *"But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things, and the things that are not, to nullify the things that are, so that no-one may boast before him."*

Most Christians are without any great natural talent we can boast about.

How then are we able to be used by God to help fulfil His plan for all humanity?

1 Corinthians 1:30-31 [NIV] *"It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God, that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."*

Note there are three things mentioned that can be ours through our close relationship with our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Righteousness

Isaiah 64:6 [NIV] *"All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away."*

Anything we do of our own power to be seen as "righteous people" is totally unacceptable to God.

Matthew 23:1-3, 5-7, 13 [NIV] *"Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. So you must obey them and do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practise what they preach." ... "Everything they do is done for men to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long; they love the place of honour at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; they love to be greeted in the market-places and to have men call them 'Rabbi'." ... "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the kingdom of heaven in men's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to."*

Jesus Christ condemned the scribes and Pharisees because their efforts to appear righteous was self-seeking. They sought the praise of other human beings, **not** God.

What then is true righteousness that is accepted by our Creator God?

Romans 3:20-22 [NIV] *"Therefore no-one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference,"*

We receive this acceptable righteousness from God through faith in what Jesus Christ has done for all humanity.

Romans 4:13, 16 [NIV] *“It was **not** through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through **the righteousness that comes by faith.**” ... **“Therefore, the promise comes by faith,** so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring, not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all.”*

This righteousness through faith is guaranteed to all who follow Abraham, who lived by faith in what God has promised him.

Romans 4:21-25 [NIV] *“**being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.”** The words “it was credited to him” were written **not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness, for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.**”*

This same promise of “*credited righteousness*” can be ours.

God credits the very righteousness of the life of His Son, Jesus Christ, to all who have faith in what He has done and promised.

How will God use this “*credited righteousness*”?

Philippians 2:12-15 [NIV] *“Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed, not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence, continue to **work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.** Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe.”*

Our end salvation is dependent on our allowing God to work in and through us out to others who do **not** know Him as the One and only Creator God.

God “*works in us*” by crediting His righteousness to us, and we “*work out*” by allowing the work of the Holy Spirit to create in us the very characteristics of God that make Him righteous and holy. [See **Galatians 5:22-26**]

Revelation 12:9-11 [NIV] *“The great dragon was hurled down, that ancient serpent called the devil, or **Satan, who leads the whole world astray.** He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. **They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony;** they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.”*

The work of Satan, who is the one who leads all humanity into living a sinful life, is overcome by two things we can do.

Accepting the sacrifice of Jesus Christ as a substitute for our own deserved death because of our sins.

This good news we preach to all other humans we are able to reach.

We also live a spirit-led life that will be an example of the changed life all humans can have through faith in Jesus Christ and yielding to the Holy Spirit living in us.

We don’t have to have great talents for God to use us in this way.

Holiness

Holiness is being set aside by God to be a special vehicle or vessel that He can use.

How does God use us in this way?

Matthew 6:25-33 [NIV] *“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”*

If we are living a life that is one of faith in God’s provision for our physical needs and placing serving Him first in our lives, such a life will **not** go unnoticed by other people we come in contact with.

Such a life may invoke questions from others as to why we live such a different life.

1 Peter 3:15-17 [NIV] *“But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. It is better, if it is God’s will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.”*

We **don’t** force our lifestyle on others, only letting them know why it is different when they are receptive by personally asking why.

We don’t have to have great talents or higher education to be aware of the promises that are made in God’s Word, the Christian Bible.

John 16:12-13 [NIV] *“I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.”*

Just allow the Holy Spirit to work in us to give us an understanding of all truth.

John 14:26 [NIV] *“But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”*

Claim this promise made by Jesus Christ to His disciples.

John 7:37-39 [NIV] *“On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.”*

Anyone who is called by God, and desires to be used by God, can allow this to happen in their lives.

Redemption

The Greek word translated “redemption” is “*apōlutrōsis*” literally meaning to “buy back.” Used theologically to indicate atonement [a covering], reconciliation [restoring a relationship] and salvation [liberation from form penalty of sin].

All pointing to liberation from forms of bondage such as sin, death, penalty of law, evil or a curse.

2 Corinthians 5:17-18 [NIV] *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:”*

This is a job that all Christians are given.

2 Corinthians 5:19-21 [NIV] *“that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”*

An ambassador is one who represents the wishes and lifestyle of a county other than the one he is living in.

We represent the Kingdom of God and yet we still live in a world that is the kingdom of Satan, ruled over by his evil intentions and character.

We all have been called as Christ’s disciples to live and preach this message of reconciliation.

Romans 8:15-17 [NIV] *“For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” **The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.** Now if we are children, then we are heirs, heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.”*

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit makes us **now** very created children of God the Father.

Romans 8:18-23 [NIV] *“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, **but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.”***

All Christians past and present are the “firstfruits” of the created family of God.

Romans 8:24-25 [NIV] *“For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? **But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.”***

We are to prepare and wait patiently for this all to happen at the return of Jesus Christ as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

How can we prepare for this event?

Romans 8:26-30 [NIV] *“In the same way, **the Spirit helps us in our weakness.** We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the*

saints in accordance with God's will. And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified."

This is what is happening in the lives of all Christians who are responding to the commission that Jesus Christ has given us. [See **Matthew 28:17-20**]

Romans 8:31-35 [NIV] *"What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all, how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died, more than that, who was raised to life, is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?** Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?"*

If we give ourselves over to this task that God has given us, nothing must get in the way of our fulfilling our individual part.

Romans 8:37-39 [NIV] *"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Our union with Jesus Christ in the task God the Father has given Him, will never be broken at any time or in any circumstances.

Nowhere in scripture do we find that any who give their lives over to Jesus Christ to use in His mission of reconciliation, are limited by the lack of physical talents.

Acts 4:13 [NIV] *"When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realised that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus."*

See how God used Peter and John, and allow it to encourage all of us, as Christians, to seek to be used by Jesus Christ to further the expansion of the Kingdom of God.

I through personal experience know that this all can happen to any Christian without physical talents.

The aim of this website is to bring to the vast majority of people knowledge of the God they do not know and the love He has for them personally.

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