

Formula for Fulfillment

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I. Introduction.

- A. This is a promise for everyone of every age. (Psalm 37:4)
- B. There was a time when the speaker's desires were to travel, have money, and to have an easy job. They have changed to more godly desires.

II. The first step to fulfillment is to discover your gifts.

- A. Everyone has a gift that sets him or her apart. (1 Corinthians 7:7)
- B. There are many categories of gifts in the Bible. (Ephesians 4, Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12)
 - 1. If you have a gift you are to get with it. The gifts are representative not exhaustive. There are specialized gifts. There are universal gifts, prayer being the primary example.
- C. There is a pattern of usage for the gifts.
 - 1. Samson is given a lot of space to illustrate New Testament gifts.
 - 2. God gave him the gift of physical strength to accomplish His purpose.
 - 3. God was anxious to put Samson's gift in use. (Judges 15)
- D. The discovery of your gift.
 - 1. For some it is easy. For some it is difficult because God does not want us to forget the enthusiasm of having the gift.
 - 2. To discover your gift ask yourself:
 - a. Have I given it a good try?
 - b. Am I successful at it?
 - c. Am I fulfilled when doing it?
 - d. Does it have a good effect on others?
 - c. Consult with those with whom you have had an impact.
 - 1) Ask them your strengths.
 - 2) Ask them your weaknesses.
 - 3) God has entrusted those around us to tell us these things.

III. Dedicate your gift.

A. Billy Graham could have been an actor, but he dedicated his gift to the service of God.

B. Bill Gates and Warren Buffet gave most of their money away—if they are doing it for the glory of God they are being fulfilled.

IV. Develop your gift.

V. Deploy your gift for a higher purpose.

A. The Body of Christ is built up both qualitatively and quantitatively.

1. Some are confronters and these are well suited for evangelism.

2. Others are not confronters—they serve and help people. These probably have a greater testimony than those who confront. (Matthew 5:16, 41; Proverbs 6:16)

B. Emotional energy is released.

1. We only use part of our energy.

2. We employ unused energy when we are doing something we enjoy. (John 4:32)

C. God provides for us.

3. God will not call us to do something He has not gifted us for. (Romans 11:29; 2 Timothy)

4. Christ is the greatest gift. (1 Corinthians 9:15)

Application questions.

1. What observations did the speaker make about fulfillment? How does one achieve it?

2. What is the relationship between the desires of one's heart and the gifts that he has been given? Why is fulfillment found in God's gifts?

3. Have you found personal fulfillment? Are you involved in something that allows you to exercise and develop your gifts? What will you do in light of the message to better deploy what God has given you for personal fulfillment?
