

MINISTERING TO GOD

1 Peter 4:7-11

INTRODUCTION: Calvin Miller wrote: "I have no way to prove it but I have a feeling that they live the longest who know why they are alive in the first place." Do you know why you are here? Many people go through their entire lives with ever learning who they are or what their purpose for being here is. Those who know why they are here know who they are. Romans 12:1-2. Have you discovered what it is that God wants you to do?

I. MINISTERING TO GOD BY MINISTERING TO OTHERS!

Our Lord has gifted each one of us uniquely both with natural gifts from our parents and also with spiritual gifts by our heavenly Father at our new birth. All these gifts are given to us so we might serve our Lord by serving others. 1 Peter 4:10. Each of us have been gifted by our God and called by our God to minister in His Name: Matthew 20:25-28. Even our Lord Jesus Christ did not come into this world to be ministered to but to minister to others for His Father's glory. In the same way we are called to minister to our God who has given us freedom to serve others for His glory: Galatians 5:13.

II. AVAILABILITY, AUTHORITY, HUMILITY, AND RESPONSIBILITY!

Once we truly understand that our freedom in Christ is a freedom to do what our God wants us to do and not a freedom to just do whatever we want to do, it will bring joy to both us and those our Lord desires us to minister too. There are seven principles given in God's Word to guide us to minister to our God by ministering to others. Principle # 1: Availability: 1 Corinthians 12:7-11. The church at Corinth was arguing about which gift is the most important when they should have simply been ministering with which ever gift the Lord had given to them: 1 Corinthians 12:4-7. The people God has used greatly are people who simply made themselves available to God: Isaiah 6:8; Acts 9:5-6; Luke 1:38; Matthew 25:31-40; Philippians 2:13. Principle # 2: Authority: We must serve others by being under the authority of our God: Matthew 28:18-20; Hebrews 10:5-7; Luke 6:46; 1 Peter 3:15. Principle # 3: Humility. Pride can undo more ministry than any other cause: John 13:3-17. Principle # 4: Responsibility: Matthew 25:14-19: our Lord Jesus has given each of us gifts and responsibilities. 1 Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 22:12.

III. ABILITY, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND FIDELITY!

Principle #5: Ability: Romans 12:3-8. Every gift we have from our parents or from God are gifts from our God for service: 1 Corinthians 4:7. Principle # 6: Accountability: Matthew 25:19. Each one of us has ministries our Lord wants us to do for His glory and others good: Ephesians 2:8-10; Matthew 25:19-28; Romans 14:10-12. Principle # 7: Fidelity: Matthew 25:21-23. Did you notice the reward for the man with five talents was exactly the same as the one with only two talents? 1 Corinthians 4:2; Hebrews 6:10-12; John 12:26. It is an honor to minister to our Lord by ministering to others!