

# A Word on Wednesday from Pastor Tonia

## "Gifted and Sent" 2/9/22

*The gifts of God are given...*

*"to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ" (Eph 4:11-13)*

We've each been gifted by God with the ability to do what we were created to do. We are each an important part of the whole. We are each indispensable for the work of the family, the business, the church, the organization to which we belong. God gave us the gifts to do what God called us to do.

We don't always feel up for the job, capable, ready. We worry and wonder if we can, if we will. We fear failure. We look at others and unfairly judge them incapable of completing the task before them. Or unfairly judge ourselves and say I can't do what they do.

I seem to be on a roll speaking of the gifts of the Spirit. I fear my congregation is thinking, "enough already." But I know how free I felt, how lifted up I was when I realized God had gifted me. I had a purpose. There was something I could do. Until then I was always jealous of others, he is so talented, she is so smart, they are so important. I was nothing, unable. I would never be picked to be on any team.

But we have each been chosen for the team. God created us to fulfill the purpose for which we have been called. Maybe you weren't called to be a CEO of a Fortune 500 company, but it is empowering to know what your purpose is and to know you have what it takes to complete your purpose. Some are gifted to administer, some to open doors, some to care for people, some to care for animals, some to farm, some to build, some to write, some to parent, some to make music, some to make laughter. All to encourage others, for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.

We are called to be church, to be the body of Christ in the world. To share the Good News, the love and forgiveness of God to those around us. We are gifted to lead, to teach, to serve, to share, to reflect the love of God. It takes each of us, living out our gifts. Being human, because we have struggled, aren't always sure, we find ourselves hoping we have what it takes to do what we're called to do. This doubt can freeze us, but the knowledge of the truth can free us.

If you are aware of your spiritual gifts, rejoice and use them for God's glory. If you still wonder, read scripture. Talk with your pastor. Or there are gift assessment tests on-line you can take, which will help you to realize how you have been equipped to serve God in your life. When you realize your gift, you are able to see how it takes all of us, with all of our gifts, to be Church in the world God so loves.

**Please pray with me.** God of gifts, thank You for Your complete love. Thank You for knowing me before I was born, for gifting me and for how You have called me to serve You, in my vocation, my job, my family, my church, my community, and the world You so love. Help me to use my gifts to lift up others and to reflect Your love. **Amen**