

GOD WANTS TO USE YOU

AUGUST 29, 2021

ROMANS 6:13 (TLB, TEV, Combined) “Give yourselves to God completely, every part of you, because you’ve been brought from death to life, and now you want to be used by God for good, and for His righteous purposes.”

- Life involves more than getting a job, making money, retiring and dying. Those things are temporal, but God made us for something eternal not temporal. He wants to use us for His righteous purposes.
- Most think they’re disqualified or unqualified to be used by God. Disqualified for bad decisions; unqualified for lack of talents or abilities.
- Abraham, Jacob, Leah, Joseph, Gideon, Samson, Rahab, Elijah, David, Peter, Thomas, Zacchaeus, Moses, and Paul, all have something in common: They all had issues, were shown mercy and were used by God.
- Paul could’ve been disqualified and unqualified, yet God was merciful and used him to write over half the New Testament and plant many churches. How can God use a terrorist and murderer like Paul? Let’s find out.

1. Mercy. **2 CORINTHIANS 4:1 (ESV)** God’s mercy is greater than our failures.

LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23 Without it, we’d all be consumed!

A. **1 TIMOTHY 1:12-13 (NCV), GALATIANS 1:13-15 (NLT)** God knew all about Paul’s failures. Yet, he had mercy on him, called and chose him. As zealous as Paul was, he was wrong!

B. What about us? Every sinner has a future and every saint has a past. God knows our past, failures, weaknesses and flaws. He also knows our potential and strengths. He doesn’t choose and call perfect people. He shows mercy to flawed people and uses them in His service.

C. **EPHESIANS 2:10 (TLB)** What excuse can we make? A twelve-year-old boy gave us life’s greatest purpose. **LUKE 2:49** We must be about our Father’s business no matter what our profession: teacher, lawyer, doctor, electrician, etc. We are to use what we’re good at to help others. His mercy will cover our mistakes and failures.

2. Paul was authentic. **2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-2 (MSG)**

A. Paul wasn’t copying someone else. He was genuine. He wasn’t looking for the approval of others. He knew God loved Him and called Him even with his imperfections. **ROMANS 8:15 (NLT)** Being authentic is liberating.

3. Paul knew it is all about Jesus. **2 CORINTHIANS 4:5-7 (NLT)**

A. Our culture says it’s all about us. Having this mindset we lead to pride. Nebuchadnezzar knows without God, we can do nothing.

4. Paul used his experiences to help others. **2 CORINTHIANS 4:8-9 (NLT)**

A. Paul understood suffering: self-imposed, innocent, and redemptive. He suffered for the benefit of others. **V15-17 (TLB), ACTS 9:16**

5. Paul focused on eternity. There are three motivations in life: internal (personal success); external (pleasing others); eternal (pleasing God).

A. **2 CORINTHIANS 4:18 (CEV)** None of his sufferings could compare to the eternal rewards for serving God.

CONCLUSION: Nothing should prevent us from serving God and fulfilling the purpose He created us for. Mercy is greater than fear, anger, resentment, shame or any excuse we can make for not serving God. Let’s take the advice of Jesus and be about our Father’s business.