Daily Devotion #146

**Help Others Grow**

**1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NASB)** *“Encourage one another, and build up one another.”*

When you think about your life, isn’t it wonderful how God has blessed you with certain talents and abilities? I understand as I write that statement that some who read this will think that God has not blessed them with any ability. Of course, that’s not true, because God has said He has given us various abilities or gifts to use for his service. (1 Corinthians 12) But too often people feel less than blessed when they take an inventory of their lives.

If that is you, can I encourage you to look at how God has blessed you? Can I encourage you to think about the things you have the ability to do that others may not have? Some have the ability to sing or play the piano or sew or cook or handle a hammer or screwdriver well and even sing or teach the Bible. You may not think about your abilities like that, but you should.

God has given each of us the things we need in this life to function and make life happen, but He has also given us those abilities to help others grow. This means that the abilities you have are not meant for you alone. They were provided from God for you to bless others - to help them grow to be the people God wants them to be.

We are not to be selfish with the abilities we have been given. But too often that is the case. Too often we believe that we have certain abilities and those abilities make us dominate others. They make us look better in front of others or they make us more valuable than others. They give us the edge over others in some way. But that is not why you have the ability you have.

You giftedness is designed by God to help others be the people God wants them to be, and He wants you to be the one to pass along your abilities and or knowledge of how to do what you do so the people following you will be able to keep life moving.

If you watch our Lord carefully, when He was on the earth, His mission was not only to rescue people from hell and the eternal damnation they were heading to, but He also cared about them. He cared that they would become all they could become for Him and then lead others to a greater awareness of God in their lives. He came to edify others so they would see they not only have eternal value, but they also have earthly value - a value that He wanted them to pass on to those coming after them. (John 14:12)

When Paul wrote these words to the Thessalonian church, he wanted to encourage them by helping them know they were secure eternally. He wanted them to not live in fear and dread of the pressures of this life but to keep themselves thinking rightly. To remember their true goal. The goal of making it to God’s presence. But at the same time, Paul wanted the believers to remember that their life mattered while they were still on earth. And that there were others who needed them. People needed the giftedness and the talents they had. And they not only needed them for the talents they had but also so those same people would pass on what they had to others.

The point is that you and I have been given so much by God. It is our role to pass on to all who follow us whatever we have that will encourage them and lift them up to be the best they can be for God. We are not to think that we’re a certain way and we’ll do this or that until we’re gone, and then everyone else will just have to figure it out. No. Our goal in life should be to train others to do our job - to take over for us when we leave this earth. We should pass on whatever we can so the ones behind us will know how to do what we do and even do it better. We should be working ourselves out of our jobs.

And that applies to everything. We are not islands thinking there is no one who can do what we do. We are to be the opposite. The best leaders in this life are those who help people to become all God wants them to become.

Let’s take the talents we have, whether baking a cake or mowing grass or building playgrounds or preaching sermons, and pass them on to our children and grandchildren and anyone who follows Christ. Our church and our world will be all the better for it.