

4 I Can Be A Worker

Kim now understands more about the church and the ministries God has given to its members. As he examines the church, he notices that not everyone has the same ministry. There are those who preach and teach, those who give messages of wisdom and knowledge, and those who serve and share.

There are many different ways Kim could help his brothers and sisters in the Lord, but there are more things he would like to know. For instance, he is curious about how to work for God, and he would like to know how to discover and receive the ministry gifts God has for him.

Perhaps you have been wondering about these very same things! It may be that you have been a believer for a while but have thought that there was nothing special for you to do. God does have a ministry for you. First Corinthians 12:7 assures us that “to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.” May the truths in this lesson show you how to discover your special ministry in the body of Christ.

The Plan

- A. Special Help for Workers
- B. Gifts for Workers
- C. A Gift for You

The Goals

1. Identify the Christian worker's source of help.
2. State how God commissions a person to work for Him.
3. Describe God's part in giving us ministry gifts.

A. SPECIAL HELP FOR WORKERS

Goal 1. Identify the Christian worker's source of help.

A Great Task

Jesus commanded, “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19–20.) This is our task—to make disciples and teach them.

Most of the world is not saved, so Christian workers have a duty to help the masses hear the gospel. We cannot neglect this. Jesus left the command for His followers to obey. This is a great task for which we need God's special help.

We Have an Enemy

Alone we cannot overcome our enemy. Our enemy is Satan, who wants to see God's work fail. If the Christian worker fails, God's work suffers.

Do you remember the story of Samson in Judges 16? Samson was set apart for a special work for God. But for a moment he became careless about God's call. Samson then lost God's presence and was powerless to overcome his enemies.

We Have God's Power

Because the task is great and the enemy strong, God gives us special help to work for Him. Jesus equipped His disciples with power to be witnesses for Him (Acts 1:8), and we have the same power of the Holy Spirit today.

God wants the world to be saved, so He has given the Holy Spirit to help us execute the Father's will on the earth. God furnishes the power, and we work for Him using His power.

Application

- 1 We read about the power God gives us to do His work in
 - a) Matthew 28:19.
 - b) Mark 16:15.
 - c) Acts 1:8.
 - 2 The Christian worker's source of special help is
 - a) power received from the Holy Spirit.
 - b) deep desire he has to serve the Lord.
 - c) work for which he has been set apart.
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B. GIFTS FOR WORKERS

Goal 2. State how God commissions a person to work for Him.

God is all-knowing. He sees the work and the worker. In His wisdom He is able to select the right one for the right place. So He calls us to work for Him.

Sometimes the call comes while we are reading the Bible. The Holy Spirit can use the inspired Word of God to speak to us. It becomes a call to service in our hearts. Or God can put a burden on our hearts as we pray. We might become interested in a place that needs the gospel. As we work to help take the gospel there, we sense in our hearts that God wants us to become workers in that place.

The call may also come as believers are seeking the Lord. In Acts 13:2, the Holy Spirit instructed the church at Antioch: “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

God does not call everyone to do the same work. For example, God may call a businessman to be a witness for Christ in the way he operates his business. A woman may work at home and be a godly witness in her community, praying for those who preach and teach the Word and witnessing to her neighbors. No one is left out of God’s call. Just as people are different from one another, the calls are different. God needs you as a Christian worker. When you sense the Spirit speaking to your heart, pay attention.

Application

3 Suppose a friend were to ask how God calls people to work for Him. In your notebook, list at least three ways God does this.



God Equips

When a person feels God’s call, he or she will be able to obey that call because God gives ministry gifts to His workers. We studied these gifts in Lesson 3.

The first gift, the Holy Spirit, was given on the Day of Pentecost. We may be able to do many things, but to do a spiritual work we need the Holy Spirit’s help. A gift, of course, is not something we earn by our own efforts. A gift is given because someone has a need. God gives gifts to Christian workers because they have need of them. Paul writes, “To each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it” (Ephesians 4:7).

Application

- 4 God equips workers to do His work by
- a) putting a burden on their hearts.
 - b) calling them to work for Him.
 - c) giving them the ministry gifts they need.
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C. A GIFT FOR YOU

Goal 3. Describe God's part in giving us ministry gifts.

God Chooses Our Gifts

We have already said that God chooses the right person for the right job. This indicates several things:

1. God knows what work we are to do.
2. God knows what gifts we need.
3. God will give those gifts to us.

Suppose a certain church in your town needs a pastor. God knows this need. In a nearby town a believer named Edward is praying about the work he should do. He knows about the need of that church and feels that God wants him to offer himself to be its pastor. How would God help Edward do the work of pastoring? God would give him ministry gifts as he needs them, but Edward should also do what he can to prepare for his work and develop his gifts. Perhaps there is a Bible school where he can go to receive training. Or perhaps he can study by sending for Bible lessons through the mail.

And so it is with us. God calls us to work for Him and chooses the gifts we need. The gifts fit both the work and the worker. God knows what gifts are important in our work. He knows what gifts fit us. He chooses better than we can, so we can trust Him to make the right choice. When He gives us a gift, it will be just what we need to do the work He has called us to do.

God Uses Our Gifts

God gives us special abilities to serve Him. God can also use any skill or talent that we dedicate to Him. For example, suppose a man who can paint pictures accepts Christ. If this man gives his talent to God, God can use it to bring a blessing to the church. The man could paint a picture to hang in the church. He could paint pictures to help his Sunday School teacher teach the lesson. In this way his talent could become a gift to the church.

Whatever your gifts or talents are, God can use them. In Romans 16:1–2 is mention of Phoebe, a servant of the church. We do not know what she did. But God must have used her life because the apostle Paul says that “she has been a great help to many people, including me” (Romans 16:2). No matter what gifts a Christian worker has, God can use them to bless and minister to others.

Application

5 Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.

- a)** Because we know what work needs to be done for God, it is our part to choose the gifts we need.
 - b)** Since God decides which work to call us to, He also chooses which gifts to give us.
 - c)** God will give a believer as many gifts as he needs to do the work to which He has called him.
 - d)** Because God gives us gifts to serve Him, we do not need to prepare ourselves.
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Receiving Your Gift

Paul wrote to the Christians in Rome that a part of worship is to offer ourselves to God (Romans 12:1). In the Old Testament sacrificial offerings, animals were set apart for use in worship. In a more figurative way, Christians give themselves over to God’s service. The Christian must first offer himself to God before he can receive gifts from Him.

Think about the gifts as you study the New Testament. Become acquainted with the way they were used and how they built up the body. Notice the gifts as they are used in your church. Think about how the gifts would help you as a Christian worker.

The reason why you want to receive gifts is important too. No gift is given to make a person great. It is wrong to desire a gift so that people will think you are spiritual. Pray about your work. Desire the gifts that give you power to minister and help others. Start with the gifts you feel drawn to. Think about the gifts that the Holy Spirit brings to your attention. Do not forget that God gives the gift (1 Corinthians 12:28, Ephesians 4:11). Pray for and desire the gifts, but leave the choice with God.

Application

6 Suppose a friend asks what he can do to receive ministry gifts from the Lord. In your notebook, list three things you could tell him to do.



Check Your Answers

- 4** **c)** giving them the ministry gifts they need.
- 1** **c)** Acts 1:8.
- 2** **a)** power received from the Holy Spirit.
- 5** **b)** and **c)** are true
- 3** Your answer should include these ideas (in any order): through the Word of God; through a burden placed on our hearts when we pray; and through the Spirit's speaking to our hearts.
- 6** Your answer should include these ideas (in any order): offer himself in complete dedication to God; study the gifts and observe how they are used; and desire the gifts and pray that he might receive them.