

Conversation Starters

- Have you ever felt called to do something? If so, what was/is it?

Discuss

Last week we started a series called “Weaponized,” and the idea is that our lives are meant to be assault forces for good in this world. Last week we started off with a look at what the Bible calls the “armor of God.” We learned that the first step toward a weaponized life is suiting up with a very specific belt, shoes, breastplate, helmet, shield and sword. This week we’re going to take a step into what we do once we’re fully outfitted with that armor. You’re battle ready, but where’s the battle? What’s your post? Where do you go and what do you do?

It begins with answering the call of God on your life, and in answering it, making the difference you are meant to make—and where and how you are meant to make it.

The first clue in discovering God’s call on your life is paying attention to how he has gifted you. Gifts are different than talents—if you are talented at something it just means you have a natural affinity for it. The Bible doesn’t talk about talent, it talks about gifts. And gifts are different than talents. The idea behind a gift is that it isn’t natural—it’s something you did not already have. It’s something that is given to you in a way that you did not already have. In particular, the Bible details what it calls a spiritual gift, which is a supernatural ability to develop a particular capability.

“And now...I will write about the special abilities the Holy Spirit gives to each of us...there are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but it is the same Holy Spirit who is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service in the church, but it is the same Lord we are serving. There are different ways God works in our lives, but it is the same God who does the work through all of us. A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church” (1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-7 NLT).

(See Ephesians 4:7; Romans 12:6 for more.)

- Do you know what your spiritual gift(s) is or are? How did you discover them?
- If you don’t know yours, take the spiritual gifts test when you have a few minutes at mecklenburg.org/serve.
- If you do know your spiritual gifts, what are you doing to exercise them?

The second thing to know when discovering God’s call on your life is your vocation, which is a term we use differently than the Bible. The word “vocation” is a deeply biblical and spiritual word. It comes from the Latin word *vocatio*, which means “summons” or “invitation.” Your vocation is meant to be an answer to a direct call from God as to how you should spend your life. And then, as you spend it, doing it in a way that is for Him. The idea is that God has invited you, summoned you, to invest your life in the area of your work for Him. Not simply as an occupation, but as an offering. Not just as work, but as worship. Not merely as a paycheck, but a prayer.

- How is the definition of vocation above different from your previous understanding?
- Do you know what your vocation is?
- If not, can you think of an area where your passion and energy meet the world’s desires or needs? Answering that question could help lead you in the right direction.

The church is the primary place where God intends gifts to be exercised.

“[Christ] is the one who gave these gifts to the church...Under his direction, the whole body is fitted together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love” (Ephesians 4:11, 16 NLT).

- Do you use your gifts in service of the body (the church)?
- If not, how could you start? If so, what are some ways you can continue to develop your gift?

Next Steps

- What do you need to do this week to either discover your spiritual gift or put it into practice?

Pray

Father, thank you for your personal design of each and every one of your children. Thank you for calling us to a life of more. Help us to pursue you above all else.