

# Fit or Misfit? (Part 2)

by Richard Siple

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*The sermon explores the importance of understanding and embracing God's design for our lives through the lens of motivational gifts.*

**Duration:** 47:21

**Scripture:** Exodus 35:35, Psalm 68:18-19, Matthew 6:33, Ephesians 4:8-13

**Topics:** "Spiritual Gifts", "Church Ministry"

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## Description

In this sermon, the preacher focuses on Ephesians 4:8-13, which talks about the gifts that God has given to the church. These gifts include apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. The purpose of these gifts is to equip and perfect the saints for the work of ministry and to build up the body of Christ. The preacher also shares a personal story of a man who was deeply impacted by the message of being a fit or misfit and how it led him to accept Christ and live a life dedicated to God.

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## Transcript

Are you a fit or a misfit? Very important question about God's design for your life. I told you something about this briefly, but I want to expand on a little more tonight. While I was pastor of Hillsdale Alliance Church in Regina, right across from the church was a high-rise apartment building.

In that building lived a young man whose family basically lived out in Ontario. They were medium-wealthy people, business people, people who were good at making money. He seemed to be born into the world with the same ability, and even as a young man, whatever he put his hand to seemed to prosper, and he was able to make money successfully.

He came from a family that had a church membership in a liberal-type church and absolutely no Christianity whatsoever. He himself never gave any thought to the things of God. It was just simply not important in his life whatsoever.

He had already messed his life up in a number of ways. He had had a very early marriage and almost immediate divorce. A sinful, selfish young man doing what he wanted to do.

Of course, his marriage was doomed right from the beginning. At that point, he was living an immoral life and spending money and doing all the things that a worldly, ungodly young man might do in Canada. He had little respect for his parents and very little contact with them.

His apartment happened to be on the side of the building that faced our church, so Sunday mornings he was usually up certainly by 11 o'clock or before. As he would go and look out the window, he would see the cars streaming into the parking lot. He was astounded because the church of which he had been a part as a child was very dead and just a very few people, but he couldn't believe his eyes as the people swarmed into that church by the hundreds.

About the time that he got interested, the church was running around a thousand. It grew more than that after that, but it was a lot of people, and he stood there watching them, watching them, watching them, and said to himself, I don't believe it. What are they doing? Why would they be going into a church? All those people, and a lot of them are young people, young adults, young families.

Why would they go in there? It bothered him more and more, and of course he didn't know it, but it was God after him, and so finally one Sunday morning he thought, oh well, what have I got to lose? Let's see what they're doing, so he just had to walk across the street, and he walked into the morning service. I happen to be in this series on fit or misfit, and I think I probably was on sermon number four and just about ready to start into the individual motivational gifts. He was so interested in what he was hearing because he'd never heard anything like it in his life, and it appealed him so strongly he decided he was going to come back next Sunday.

He came back the next Sunday, and then he started wondering when I was going to describe him, and so then he couldn't stay away, and he was there every Sunday until the Sunday that I preached on the gift of administration, and pardon me, not administration, giving, the gift of giving, and as he listened to that sermon, his mouth almost dropped open. He sat in awe, and he said, he is describing me perfectly out of the Bible. I can't believe this.

He is giving an exact description of me totally like he knew me. I hadn't met him yet, and he was so impressed and so moved that the Bible would speak to him that directly and that specifically and totally describe him and say, God made you that way for a purpose. It gripped his heart, and he started to be open to the gospel, and not long after that he received Christ as his personal Savior.

He married one of our girls. They live in Calgary. He has a business there, and I never think about these things, but sometimes, you know, returns come back when they love God, and they love you, and so that's the family that took us on a cruise to Alaska for a week, and we had a great time with them, and their children, who call us grandma and grandpa.

Family living for God, and the thing that gripped his heart was the subject matter that I am speaking about in this Sunday Night Series. Now, I would never have chosen that as something to bring somebody to Christ, but you see, he was impressed with the fact that God knew all about him and that possibly God had designed his life, and he was missing it, whatever it was, and once he was convinced, then he thought, I need God, and so he came to Christ. I want to read three passages of scripture briefly, and comment on them as I go along, to get us into this message tonight about God's definite design of our lives.

I'm starting with Psalm 68 and verses 18 and 19. Now, you may want to turn your Bible. I have, because this passage is mistranslated so often, I've translated it very carefully, just as carefully as possible, because it has something to say that people don't believe, and that's why they don't translate it correctly.

You know, it's funny what people do sometimes when they have a theology. They mistranslate scripture without meaning to, to fit what they believe, but you've got to see what this scripture says tonight, so I've

tried to be very careful, and here it is, Psalm 68, 18 and 19. Some of it's quoted later in Ephesians 4. Speaking to God, the writer says, you have ascended on high.

You have led captivity captive. You've heard that in the New Testament. You have received gifts, men.

That's the way it's written. You have received gifts, men, like men are the gifts. Are you listening? And it doesn't just mean the male gender.

It means men, speaking of human beings. God has received gifts, people. Yes, the rebellious also.

Now, we have to see this tonight, because when we're talking about the motivational gifts, we're not just talking about spiritual gifts that are given to Christians by the Holy Spirit. We're talking about something else just as divine and just as much from God, but different, and it's very important for us to see that. So even among the rebellious, there are men that have been received by God as gifts from the Father's hand, received by the Son of God.

The rebellious also that the Lord God might dwell among them. Blessed be the Lord who daily loads us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. So even the rebellious, even the unbelievers, even people who do not know God, who do not believe in God, who do not want God, have been designed by God and often do the will of God, though they have no intention of it.

And, for instance, God calls Cyrus his servant, and we'll get to that scripture eventually, my servant Cyrus, and tells what he's going to do 300 years before he does it, because God designed him to do it. So God is in charge of the lives of human beings, and God designs them for his purposes. All right, are you in agreement with that? Well, it's true whether you agree with it or not, but it's a wonderful thing to know it, because it helps you to understand what's going on in the world and what's going on with people all around you.

So there it is. Now we go over to Ephesians 4 in the New Testament, verses 8 to 13, and he quotes from this passage, Wherefore, it says, when he ascended on high, that's the Son of God, he led captive a host of captives, and he gave gifts, not to men, but he gave gifts these men. It's saying the same thing as it says in Psalms.

He gave gifts. What were the gifts? Men. They were people.

Designed by God, people that he gave. And then it talks about what he gave to the church, these people that God has given to the church, and he gave some apostles and some prophets and some evangelists and some pastors and teachers. What for? For the equipping or perfecting of the saints into the work of ministry unto the building up of the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

Now he's saying what was said in the Old Testament about the gifts that the Son of God received from the hand of his Father, who designs people, that these gifts then function within the church. People who have been given certain motivational gifts by God, they've been designed a certain way, and now they're in the church. And God intends them to function a certain way in the church.

They are made that way. They have this gift, whether they ever become Christians or not. For instance, I believe that Adolf Hitler had the gift of prophecy, and he almost wrecked the world because he gave it to

the devil instead of surrendering it to God.

Ever thought about it? I've seen pictures of him speaking. It's amazing. He swayed people by the thousands.

And I didn't understand what he's saying. It was in German. He's really going at it.

I mean, he could out-preach me any day. And he swayed people by the thousands, by the hundreds of thousands, and almost destroyed all of Europe, and got the United States in it, and Canada, and just, you know, a man designed by God, but not living for God. And the devil used him to bring great anguish on the world and to destroy God's people, six or seven million of them, the Jews.

So, this is very true. Now, we've already read Romans 12, 3 to 8, so I'm not going to read it again, but I am going to come right down to the part where it names these seven motivational gifts. And it says, literally, having then gifts differing, and then it stops, have different gifts.

According to the grace that is given to us, let us use them. That's the way it should read. If prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith or service, let us use it in our serving.

He who teaches in teaching, he who exhorts in exhortation, he who gives with liberality, he who leads with diligence, he who shows mercy with cheerfulness. Now, let me ask you a question. Have you ever been fired? I have.

I've been fired a number of times. The one that hurt me the worst was when I got fired from a church where I was pastor. I was a young man.

That one really just about did me in, and I almost left the ministry over it, and God finally got through to me on that one. But before that, I got fired a few times, and I'm just going to share with you tonight a couple of times that I got fired. Total job failure.

Okay? Now, that's not to encourage some of you, because you've been there. Some of you are there. So this ought to help you.

I hope it will help you. Maybe you say, well, I'm not surprised he got fired. When I was 16, I was a senior in high school, and I needed to earn money at that time to buy clothes and books and all that kind of thing in high school because my parents simply didn't have the money.

And so I had a job in what was called a five and ten cent store. Remember those? Yeah, if you're not really quite old, you don't, but five and ten cents. Now we think a dollar store is a miracle.

Yeah. Five and ten cent store. So I was a stock boy in that store, and I worked hard, and I thought I did a good job.

But I only worked there one week, and the man who was the manager paid me and said, sorry, we don't need you anymore. And that was that. I was out on the street.

A number of years later when I was 22, I had been married for one year and just resigned my first pastorate, went south to Louisville, Kentucky, where my wife was from, and lived briefly with her folks. They're wonderful, wonderful people. Just received me with open arms instead of giving me a kick.

I went to work for Rex Air Vacuum Cleaners. Anybody ever hear of Rex Air Vacuum Cleaners? I think they're called something else now. But, oh, they're marvelous things.

I mean, really, I don't know why everybody in the world didn't buy one. The Rex Air Vacuum Cleaner sucked the dirt in, and it had a, instead of a bag to get the dirt, like almost all vacuum cleaners in that time, because there wasn't a central air, nothing like that. And instead of that, it had a thing that had water in it, and it sucked the dirt in, and there was a fan that churned it, and it blew it down into the water.

It was marvelous a demonstration you could put on with it, because where the air came out, because the air has to come out when it goes in. See, you could go into a house and you could say, do you have a vacuum cleaner? And they would say yes. And you had this photo floodlight with you.

And so you say, well, let's hook it up. And so they'd get it out, and you'd hook it up, and you'd have them do a little vacuuming, and then you'd put the floodlight where the air came out. It's awful.

I mean, a big stream of dust is coming out of the back end of that thing. Don't let anybody tell you it doesn't. I mean, it was horrible to look at.

Here's this swath of dust coming out, and you say, look what you're blowing all over your house. And then you'd take the Rex Air, and you'd turn it on, and let them vacuum a little bit, and hold the floodlight, and you could see the particles of dust in the air. And there's this white, perfectly clear swath coming out, because the water picked up all the dust.

Hey, it was a great vacuum cleaner. Anybody want to buy one? I went to the training, and I got all the training. I mean, these guys, they were out there selling two and three a day, and making 33 bucks on every sale.

Some of them were making, you know, over 90 dollars a day. I mean, this is a long time ago when that was a lot of money. It's not as long ago as you think, but it's a long time ago.

And so I thought, man, this is great. Let's go. And so I went out.

I have yet to sell my first Rex Air. I mean, you'd go in there, you know, and you'd set it down, and you'd say, why don't you open the box? They had good, I mean, good sales approaches. And they'd open the box, you'd say, take it out, and you'd let them take it out, and you'd let them put it together, and everything, you know.

It was a great pitch. And so finally, they decided to send one of their best salesmen out with me, because I must be doing something bad. And so they sent their best salesman out with me for two days, and he didn't sell any.

That's when I got fired. He said, no way, I'm not going out with him again. Well, one of my problems was, well, there may have been a lot of them, but one of my problems was I'd be sitting in there talking to him about the vacuum cleaner and thinking, I wonder if these people are Christians.

Because, see, God designed me to do something different than that. He knew what he designed me for, and he wouldn't let me succeed. He just wouldn't.

I couldn't sell anything. In fact, my mother-in-law almost bought one. She didn't need it, but she almost bought one because she felt so sorry for me.

So I gave it up. But after a while, you know, I began to notice there was a pattern developing in my life, and I could see it had been developing from earliest childhood. Now, I was very, very bashful and very inward, introvert, or whatever.

The kind that would hide behind my mother's skirt, afraid to speak. But nevertheless, this pattern was in my life. I can remember going to summer camp, and as a little boy, getting the other kids and going out in the farmer's pasture and holding a church service.

The cows came to the surface. You know, cows, they're curious. These little kids are out there, and we had an orange crate for a pulpit, and I'm holding forth, you know.

But I didn't know anything about cows. So all the cows, curious, they all started coming over to see what we're doing, and as they walked toward us, they scared the life out of us, and we started throwing stones at them. And the farmer happened to be going through the field, and he didn't like that too well.

So pretty soon, the truck came out from the camp and broke up our church service and took us all into our parents. But that's the way it was going, nevertheless. When I was 12, though I didn't want it, I was elected president of our junior youth group, and when I was 16, I was elected president of our senior youth group.

I was offered an education by a lawyer's company in New York to send me to school and train me to be an attorney. I preached on our quartet tour from Bible college. I preached on the streets in New York City.

I became a pastor, and a counselor, and a leader, and a speaker, and writer, and artist, and poet, because that's the way God designed me. That's the way it is. God had designed my life to do certain things, and I couldn't really be anything but a misfit doing anything else.

Are you getting the point? I hope you are. This is very important stuff. Now, I want to say just a few things tonight about this matter of God's gifts.

First, God's gifts are natural. That is, there are motivational gifts. There are seven basic motivational gifts mentioned in Romans 12 that are the seven basic motivational gifts that God designed.

Seven is a God number, isn't it? God designs one of these gifts into every human being in the womb, because God is involved in the creation of every human being. You believe that? That's why it's so terrible to kill them in the womb. It's murder, and the reason it's murder is because they're a that God is creating and designing for a purpose.

And so, the motivational gifts, the seven that are listed there, every person is designed by God. It's the DNA that God has designed, the giftedness DNA that God has designed into each person. Let me give you a few scriptures now to back that up tonight.

Psalms 139, and I won't read it all, but it's a great psalm. Psalm 139, I'm going to read verse 1 and verses 13 to 16. Oh Lord, you know me.

Why? For you created my inmost being, right at the center of my being. God created my inmost being. You knit me together in my mother's womb.

Is that clear enough? I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Your works are wonderful. I know that full well.

My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, that is, in my mother's womb. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Can you get plainer than that? God designed every human being even before they were born, and in the womb he designed them. And the reason you didn't hear from from Bridie Sterling this morning is because she's in the hospital on the launching pad. And we'll have a beautiful new human being tomorrow that's already a human being, already designed by God.

So that's what the word of God says. Jeremiah 1 verses 4 and 5. Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, before I formed you in the womb, Jeremiah, I knew you. Even before that, I knew you.

And before you were born, I consecrated you, I have appointed you a prophet to the nations. Jeremiah, you might as well do it. That's the way God designed you.

One time he got so upset, he said, I'm not going to do it anymore. They won't listen. I'm not going to do it.

And God said, oh, you're not. But he was designed by God to do it, and he said, then God's word burned in my bones, and I couldn't hold it back. Yeah, it's plain, it's clear.

God designed him to be a prophet to the nations. That's the way he was designed by God. Galatians 1, 15 and 16, Paul speaking, but when it pleased God who separated me from my mother's womb and called me by his grace to reveal his son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen, immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood.

So he says, God separated me from my mother's womb and called me by his grace. He wasn't a Christian, but he was designed by God. And he wasn't functioning very well, until he got in the slot where God meant for him to be.

And then he almost changed the world. There was. Let me give you a quick, a few definite other people.

Adam, a farmer, Genesis 2, 15, and the Lord God took the man, Adam, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. So he was a fruit gardener. That's what God put him in there to do.

Eve, homemaker and farmer, Genesis 2, 18. Then the Lord God said, it is not good for the man to be alone. I will make him a helper suitable for him.

Cain and Abel, Genesis 4, 1 and 2. Now the man had relations with his wife, Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain. And she said, I have gotten a man child with the help of the Lord. And again, she gave birth to his brother, Abel.

Here we go. And Abel was a keeper of flocks, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. So you had a shepherd and a farmer, the first children designed by God.

That's the way God designed them. The first civilization, Genesis 4, 19 to 22. This is the first civilization, great city.

Lamech took to himself two wives. The name of the one was Adah and the name of the other Zillah. And Adah gave birth to Jabal.

He was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock, a herder. And his brother's name was Jubal. He was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe.

You descended from him. As for Zillah, she also gave birth to Jubal Cain, the forger of all implements of bronze and iron. And the sister, he gives her name, a herder, a musician and a metal worker designed by God.

They weren't godly, but they were designed by God. And all those things took place. The first theocracy, that is Israel led by God, their king was God.

Exodus 35, they're talking about now they're going to build the tabernacle in the wilderness. Exodus 35 verses 30-35. Then Moses said to the sons of Israel, see the Lord has called by name Bezalel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur of the tribe of Judah.

And he has filled him with the spirit of God in wisdom and in understanding and in knowledge and in all craftsmanship to make designs for working in gold and in silver and in bronze and in the cutting of stones for settings and in the carving of wood so as to perform in every inventive work. Did you know that was in the Bible? God came on these men and made them to do this work, designed them to do this work. He has also put in his heart to teach both he and Aholiab, the son of Ahissamak of the tribe of Dan.

He has filled them with skill to perform every work of an engraver and of a designer and of an embroiderer in blue and in purple and in scarlet and in fine linen and of a weaver as performers of every work and makers of designs. See I'm just giving you some of these scriptures tonight to make it clear to you that the word of God teaches that the almighty God who is infinite in all his wisdom and power designs every human being with a basic motivational gift and he intends them to fit into the slot that he has ordained for them. Are you with me? Okay now I will be done in a little bit I think.

Hang in there. Frank is a Christian farmer in Kansas. He farms several thousand acres.

He said to a visiting minister, I am trying to be the best Christian layman I can be. I farm to make a living but my whole life is wrapped up in the work of the church. That sounds like a wonderful way of life, his friend answered.

I am sure that your pastor and the people in your congregation are glad you feel that way about your work. No they aren't. There's one problem, Frank said.

When you are simply doing what any faithful layman ought to be doing, everyone tries to make you feel you were called to preach. See it's so unusual for a layman to live totally for God that everybody's convinced obviously God's called him into the ministry. That's awful.

They make you feel guilty because you're still farming. I know that I am supposed to be a farmer. That is what I have been trained at the university to do.

That is what I like to do. Ah that's a big secret. And that is what I am successful at doing.

If I were to listen to my friends, I would simply take one good farmer and try to make him into a poor preacher. That would be a shame, said the minister. We need good farmers and we already have enough poor preachers.

That's true. No it's absolutely true. I know it's true.

I've sat on a lot of ordaining councils over the years and I remember one man in the Christian Ministry Alliance, a pastor, and he got saved when he was in his late 40s. By the time he was 50, he was one of the finest lay soul winners that you'd want to meet. He was bringing people to Christ just about every week and the church was growing rapidly and everybody said, oh God must have called you into the ministry.

And he had a good job and he gave up the job, went to Bible college, didn't do very well there, and then went out into the ministry and did worse. And I sat on the council that examined him three times trying to get ordained and I said, fellas, we can't do it. This man is in the wrong place.

He was never called of God to do this. Why did they take him out of the place God had put him? Are you listening? God had made him a Christian layman with a good job who was a soul winner who was out in the world and he was bringing people to Christ. And as a pastor, he was a lousy preacher and a failure.

There are people who are lousy preachers. Do you know that? That's the way it was. I hated to do it but I knew that it was time to tell him and when they told him and he finally accepted it, he was happy once again where God put him.

A number of years ago, there was an interesting cover on the Saturday Evening Post. An obviously proud father stood outside the window of the maternity ward of the hospital. Smiling broadly, he looked at his infant son who was inside in his tiny crib.

In one hand, the father held a baseball glove. In the other, he held the ball. Under his arm was a bat and a catcher's mask.

There was no question about his plans for his young son. What will happen when the son decides to play the violin rather than swing the bat? Watch out. Will the father allow that to happen? Perhaps he will plant the ideas of athletics so firmly in his child's mind that the child will think the ideas are his own.

In that case, he will probably become a baseball player, not necessarily a good one, but a baseball player who always wonders what it would be like to play first violin and philharmonic orchestra. Will his unfulfilled dreams rub a blister on the happiness segment of his brain and will he be a misfit? Yes, he will. Yes, because I've seen it happen.

I saw it happen in Campbell River. Yes, not with baseball but with the God of Canada, hockey. Now, don't get mad at me.

Now, I have so much good material here tonight, so I'm not going to try to give it all to you, but God's gifts are natural, God's gifts are spiritual, and God's gifts are useful, so I'm not going to cover all that material, but I am just going to mention it. God's gifts are spiritual. God not only designs us with a motivational drive in our life, but when we become Christians, the Holy Spirit gives us spiritual gifts, and the spiritual gifts are given us by the Holy Spirit as he sees fit.

He knows what the motivational gift is in our life and how God's designed us, right? And so the Holy Spirit gives us spiritual gifts that complement our motivational gift, and God intends for those two kinds of gifts to put us in a place of ministry for the glory of God. That's the way it works. Let me read just one verse here, 1 Corinthians 12, for now there are varieties of gifts, that's spiritual gifts, but the same spirit.

There are varieties of ministries, that is, we have different ministries, the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, that's different methods, but the same God who works all things in all persons, and that is

wonderful. That is wonderful.

We become Christians, and we have within our life a motivational gift designed in us by God, and a drive that God has put in our life, and then the Holy Spirit adds spiritual gifts to it that complement it according to the will of God, and then God wants to use us in his ministry in some way, and he wants to put it all together. So there are different ministries, and there are different gifts, and there are different methods. Now, we have a wonderful new pastor coming, he preaches totally different than I do, but he is a wonderful preacher.

Why is that? Because that's the way God has designed us. Do you see that? I can't tell, because you sit there and stare at me, and I don't know whether you think I'm crazy or what's going on. Well, the gifts are useful.

Matthew 25, 15, Jesus said, and unto one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to every man according to his several ability, and straightway took his journey. God knows what our abilities are. He never asks us to do more than we can do.

Natural and spiritual gifts are coordinated by God in each individual, to every man according to his several ability, and I'm going to give you the references now quickly, but not take time to read the scripture. Before Solomon prayed, remember, God said to Solomon, what would you like? After he became king, remember, after he became king of Israel, God said to Solomon, what would you like? Remember? It doesn't hardly sound like the Bible, almost sounds like a, you know, a fairy godmother or something. God says, what do you want? And he said, I want one thing.

I want you to give me wisdom to rule your people. I'm just a little child. Give me wisdom to rule your people, and the Bible says that God gave him wisdom like the sand of the sea.

There has never been a person ever lived before or after with the wisdom of Solomon except Jesus. Supernatural wisdom by the Holy Spirit, so that people from all over the world came to ask questions. But do you know that the scriptures teach clearly that he was already wise before that? God had already designed him that way in 1 Kings 3, 9 to 12, and 1 Kings 2, 6 to 9. David, his father, said he already had wisdom, and I have two passages here tonight.

I'm not going to take time to read them, where David said, you are a wise man. This was before he became king. He was about to become king, and his father David said, you are a wise man, and you will know what to do.

So God already had designed him a certain way. He was already recognized as a wise man, and then when he asked God, God poured the Holy Spirit into him and gave him supernatural wisdom to go along with the natural wisdom he had. Doesn't that sound like God? That's the way he worked with Solomon.

Moses, I really should read that one too, you know. Moses, he told God that he couldn't speak, he couldn't do anything. Acts 7, 22 to 29.

Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action. When he was out in the desert, he'd been out there for, he had been out in the backside of the desert for 40 years after he failed with... See, when he was 40 years old, he already had been gone through all the universities. I mean, he was the grandson of the pharaoh.

He had gone through the universities of Egypt. He had had military training. He had already led in military campaigns.

He was a man who was great in leadership and in speech. The Bible says, but he went to deliver Israel and did it the wrong way and killed a man and fled out into the desert. It took 40 years and then God went and apprehended him.

And when God said, I want you to go back and deliver Israel, he said, I can't speak. Moses, I guess you've forgotten. See, God designed this man from birth to lead Israel out of Egypt and then God anointed him to do it.

Daniel and his three friends, you read it later. Daniel, the first chapter of Daniel, read it. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, all four of them, God gave them wonderful wisdom so that they came out on top in all the examinations they had in that country.

Joseph had the gift of interpreting dreams when he was a teenager. Remember, he's a teenager and he had a couple of dreams that nearly cost him his life. Why? Because God had designed him to be an interpreter of dreams and to be a prophet.

You see, a prophet is the eyes and the mouth of the church. He can see and he can speak. And this young man, as a teenager, was already having dreams and knew how to interpret them.

Wonderful. And then later, after some tremendous times of sanctifying and God's great work in his life, God used him to save the land of Egypt and the nation of Israel. Well, God often selected those who already had the natural ability and motivation to provide particular services and gave them a supernatural abundance of the same ability.

For example, every wise-hearted man whose heart the Lord had put wisdom, even everyone whose heart stirred him up to come and do the work of the Lord. A college student, Lowell Wilson, operated a used car lot in Indiana. His low-key humor and high level of insight made him a fantastic salesman.

One day, a customer was looking at an automobile and asked, does this car have a radio? No, Lowell drawled, but it has a place to put it. I'd have never thought of that. When I was trying to sell Rex Airc, I went to the government and took a test to see if I could be a salesman, and I almost got a zero.

I flunked it. In fact, that's what convinced me to quit that. So God's gifts are natural, God's gifts are spiritual, and God's gifts are useful.

So I want to ask you again tonight, if money were no object, what would you want to do for the rest of your life? You really need to think about that. Next Sunday night, the Lord willing, I'm going to really get into that. What is it? How can I come to grips with this? How can I get to the depths of my heart and find out what it is that God has designed me for? See, we live in a culture where money is the most important thing there is, and so we work for money, but it's the wrong way to work.

And God can take us and bless us doing what he has designed us to do and enable us to make a living. Amen? You're not saying anything. Are you coming back next Sunday night? We're going deeper into this, and the Sunday night after that, we're going to really have fun.

Like next Sunday night, you're going to really learn some important stuff about how God's designed us and how we find that in our heart, right at the depths of our being. And this is a very important message next Sunday night. The Sunday night after that, I'm going to take you on a hospital call.

I'm going to take all seven people on a hospital call, and you're going to see how they handle it. And I'm going to take all seven people and put them in a church board meeting, and you're going to see how they handle it. And it's going to really teach you something.

And before you get done with that, you're going to try to do something that you never thought you would try to do. I'm not telling. So that's the way we're going.

Well, are we going to sing in closing? Do we have anything to sing? We do. Wonderful.

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