52 Days of Building a Second Wall with the Word and Wisdom

**Fashioned by God for His Purposes**

Day 31 – June 13, 2013

**Psalm 119:73** “Thy hands made me and fashioned me; give me understanding, that I may learn Thy commandments.”

**In the beginning, God created… EVERYTHING!**  Still to this day, He is our Creator.

**Revelation 4:11** "Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; **for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created**."

We were fearfully and wonderfully made by the Creator, Almighty God. He made and fashioned each one of us in the wombs of our mothers. (**Psalm 139:14-15**) We are all unique, yet made in His image. Our uniqueness is very evident when we look at people. We all come with different hair, eye, and skin color; different shapes and sizes, and different languages. As different as we are on the outside, the differences inside each one of us are even more strikingly different. I wish we could see what God has put into each person. We were all given different personalities, temperaments, talents, abilities, likes and dislikes… Then when we accept Jesus as our Savior, He gives us the Holy Spirit to live inside of us. He comes with an even greater variety of gifts, ministries, and callings.

**1 Corinthians 12:4-11** “Now there are **varieties of gifts**, but the same Spirit. And there are **varieties of ministries**, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, **distributing to each one individually just as He wills**.”

These gifts of the Holy Spirit, along with the Fruit of the Spirit, are not given to us in a full-grown state. Just as our outsides have to grow up and mature, so too do our insides. We might have been born with a fiery temperament; but as we mature, we cannot let it go into anger, but it must be shaped and molded into its true purpose- passion to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

God makes us all very different, giving each of us different combinations of these “inside things”. **Psalm 139:16-17** tells us that as God created our entire body, inside and out, He had a plan and a purpose for every trait and talent and gift He placed there. He puts much thought into the uniqueness of each individual He creates; because He loves us so much and because He has great purpose for our lives. He not only created us, He also is heavily involved in our maturity. Let’s look at our first scripture more closely.

**Psalm 119:73** “Thy hands made me and fashioned me; give me understanding, that I may learn Thy commandments.”

The Hebrew word for **fashioned** is ***kun*** – to stand up erect, to grow up, to be established, to be prepared.

David is acknowledging that God created Him, but that He also is the one who shaped and molded him to be the man God created him to be. David was the youngest of eight sons, and he had the least prestigious job growing up – tending his father’s sheep. In this time, he learned to be humble, he learned how to lead those who did not want to be led, and he learned to be a valiant warrior, all the time leaning on the Lord for his instruction. It took many years to actually be king after he was anointed to be the new king. God had much more “fashioning” to do in his life to prepare him for his purpose.

**Psalm 138:8** “The LORD will accomplish what concerns me; Your lovingkindness, O LORD, is everlasting; do not forsake the works of Your hands.”

**The Lord is actively involved in all of our lives**, even when we mess with His plans with our rebellion, ignorance, and disobedience. David’s cry for understanding of God’s Word should be our lifelong cry. **The wisdom we need to grow up to God’s purposes for our lives is found in His Word.**  Are we willing to trust God and His plans for our lives?

Our next scripture is addressed to a man whose purpose is to be a farmer. Notice his partnership with God.

**Isaiah 28:23-29** “Give ear and hear my voice, Listen and hear my words… For his God instructs and teaches him properly… This also comes from the LORD of hosts, who has made His counsel wonderful and His wisdom great.”

The Holy Spirit was given to us to be our teacher; to open up the Word of God to our hearts and minds, to train us in righteousness, to mold our character into the image of Jesus Christ. God also uses the trials and testings of our lives to mature us, all the time preparing us for His purposes.

**Isaiah 46:9-11** "… I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good …Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it.”

God has great purposes for every person He has created, not just the ones who love Him. King Nebuchadnezzar was a very evil king in Babylon. He conquered and destroyed Jerusalem and the entire country of Israel. He enslaved God’s chosen people all for God’s purposes. They had strayed into idolatry. They had not listened to the prophets, so He sent King Nebuchadnezzar. This evil man captured a young man named Daniel, and eventually through their God-ordained relationship, King Nebuchadnezzar bowed to God and declared that He is the only God! God had several purposes for this man, and He does for us too.

**The outcome of God fashioning us and teaching us His Ways, is that we become skilled in the giftings, talents, and abilities God has given us.** We do not become “skilled” to be famous, but to glorify God and prepare the church and the lost for the return of Jesus Christ, our Bridegroom. This is always God’s purpose.

When God instructed Moses to build a Tabernacle for Him, He gave Moses very detailed instructions. He even called out by name the lead craftsmen.

**Exodus 35:30-35** …"See, the LORD has called by name **Bezalel**… and **He has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, 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.** He also has **put in his heart to teach**, both he and **Oholiab**… **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 material, and in fine linen, and of a weaver, as performers of every work and makers of designs.”

Bezalel and Oholiab were famous in the skill they possessed in all work they accomplished. They were mature in their craft, and were called upon to do the important work they had been prepared to do for the Lord and by the Lord.

**Exodus 36:1-2** "Now Bezalel and Oholiab, and every skillful person in **whom the LORD has put skill and understanding to know how to perform all the work** in the construction of the sanctuary, shall perform in accordance with all that the LORD has commanded. Then Moses called Bezalel and Oholiab and every skillful person in whom the LORD had put skill, everyone whose heart stirred him, to come to the work to perform it.”

The Hebrew word for **craftsmanship** is ***melakah*** - deputyship, that is, ministry; abstract or concrete work. It is from the root word ***malak*** – to dispatch as a deputy, a messenger or ambassador to the king; a prophet, priest, or teacher.

A **deputy** is a person appointed or elected to act for another, especially a person sent with a special commission to act in the place of another.

A craftsman is not only an artist, but an ambassador of the Lord to a world that does not know Him. **A craftsman is a messenger of the Lord; operating as a prophet, a scribe, a priest, or a king.** (see message from Day 24) In order to be considered a craftsman, we must be filled with the Spirit of God in wisdom, understanding, knowledge, and skill to perform every work the Lord asks of us.

Don’t you see, this is what God has been doing in our lives, especially these 52 days. **He is building a wall of His forerunners who are to arise and go forth to prepare the way for His return.** But in order to do that, **we must be skilled** in what we have been given to do. And we must be willing to step out and operate in them. **God has been preparing us and is now calling us out by name to be His craftsmen.**

King Solomon undertook to build a house for God, the Temple. He contacted the King of Tyre, who had supplied quality building materials and laborers to King David. He ordered a huge quantity of wood and stone, and then asked for a recommendation for a man to head up the building project. These are the qualifications King Solomon asked for:

**2 Chronicles 2:7** "Now send me **a skilled man** to work in gold, silver, brass and iron, and in purple, crimson and violet fabrics, and who knows how to make engravings, to work with the skilled men whom I have in Judah and Jerusalem, whom David my father provided.”

He was very specific in the skills he required, and the King of Tyre responded with:

**2 Chronicles 2:13-14** "Now I am sending Huram-abi, **a skilled man**, **endowed with understanding**, the son of a Danite woman and a Tyrian father, who knows how to work in gold, silver, bronze, iron, stone and wood, and in purple, violet, linen and crimson fabrics, and who knows how to make all kinds of engravings and to execute any design which may be assigned to him, to work with your skilled men and with those of my lord David your father.”

This is what is going on in heaven right now. **Father God and Jesus are making plans for His return, and seeing who to send to accomplish the required work**. One king (Father God) is requesting what is needed and one king (Jesus) is recommending the perfect skilled person to do it. When God calls upon us to do a work for Him, will we do it, or will we make excuses that we are not ready? Please know this, God is preparing us and when He asks us to go and do for Him, we are ready. Remember, we are not left alone; the Holy Spirit dwells in us and He will empower and guide us in all we do.

**DIGGING DEEPER:**

There are many examples of God fashioning, raising up men and women for His purposes, and not all of them were His chosen people. God has purposes for all people. Please read about these men and women and the purposes He had for their lives.

Pharaoh - Romans 9:17, Exodus 10:1-2

Cyrus – Isaiah 45:1-3 (this prophecy was 175 years before he was born)

Esther – Esther 4:14

Nebuchadnezzar – Jeremiah 27:6-8

Think about how God prepared Moses to be the leader of His people.