

we lived fully expectant for God to use us?

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

Eph 2:10

Do you every look at other believers (either people that you know, or those with a prominent, public ministry) and think “I really want God to use me”? Do you sometimes think that your life is just routine and that you just do the same things day in and day out? When we live our lives according to His word, God is already using us just through the example that we set, but He can (and is willing to) use us to a greater measure as we submit ourselves more and more to Him.

How does God use Us?

Our daily living – The Bible tells us that true followers of Jesus will be recognised by the fruit of their lives (Mat 7:16-20) and that our love for each another is evidence that we are His disciples (John 13:35). God also gives each of us giftings to be used to serve God and others (Rom 12:4-8, 1 Pet 4:10).

Gifts of the Spirit – The Holy Spirit gives gifts (manifestations) to people according to His will (1 Cor 12:1-11). Paul teaches us to eagerly desire these gifts that build up the church and are a sign to unbelievers (1 Cor 14).

Specific things He calls you to do – God has planned works for us to do (Eph 2:10). This includes our daily living and the work of the Holy Spirit through our lives but can also be specific tasks or ministries He calls us to. These may be simple things like helping with practical needs, or it could something as radical as moving to another nation to preach the Gospel to people God has put on our heart.

Remember that God has created you uniquely and he has planned good works specifically for you. They are of equal value to His Kingdom as the good works He has planned for others.

How do I Know What to do?

God is not silent (John 10:27) and directs our lives in a number of ways:

The Bible – We have God's written word that sets out His standards for living (Psa 119) and reveals our main purpose in life (Mat 28:18-20).

The Holy Spirit – We have the Holy Spirit who walks with us (John 14:16-17). When we walk in step with him, His fruit is evident in our lives (Gal 5:16-25).

Prayer – The Bible tells us that we should pray in every situation as the Spirit leads (Eph 6:18) and to ask for wisdom (Jam 1:5). Prayer is a conversation so we also need to listen for His voice and trust in Him (Psa 143:8).

Other People – God created us for community (Rom 12:4-5) and, through the advice of other believers, can direct our plans (Pro 15:22).

Our Response

Desire – Ask God to use you!

Obedience – Say “Yes” to his call (Isa 6:8).

Surrender – Acknowledge God's Kingship and Lordship in your life and trust fully in Him.

This Month's Challenge... Ask God to show you anything specific that He is calling you to do (or be involved with). Speak to a Christian that you trust (for support/advice) about anything you feel led to do for God. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to reflect God more and more so that the His fruit would become even more evident to those around you.

At the end of the month, don't stop asking God to use you, continue to seek His will daily.