

“Defrost Your Frozen Assets”

Texts: Ephesians 2:10 and 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

November 9, 2008

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Oakland, California

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I was looking at my wedding ring this week and was quite impressed with the intricacy of the writing design we had done on the inside of my ring. I would never be patient enough to carve out something so small and beautiful. The intricacy of the handiwork and workmanship quite astounded me.

This reminded me of a verse that tells us we are God's workmanship. You are intricately designed. The Bible says in Ephesians 2:10, *“You are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*

- God prepared in advance what you would do with your life and what you'll feel most fulfilled doing when you get in the center of His will for your life.
- The Bible says you were formed, you were shaped, you were created uniquely by God for a purpose. He put you on earth for a reason. You're not here by accident. You are His workmanship.

Today, as we continue the series on “You Are Shaped for Significance” we are looking at the third part of your S-H-A-P-E, the A - Abilities God has given you to perform service. We'll be looking at your abilities as God's workmanship.

PRAY!

Exodus 35:31 is an example of how God gives each of us abilities in life. *“The Lord has chosen Bezalel... and has filled Him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts...”*

What can contribute to our abilities and God's workmanship is our physical shape. Physically we're all shaped differently.

- Some of you were never meant to be basketball players. On the other hand, there are some of you who were meant to be basketball players who were never meant to be jockeys on a race horse.
- Some of you were made to be body builders. You've got the form and physique that you can pump iron and you blow up enormously. Others of us can pump iron for the rest of our lives and we'd never look like Arnold Schwarzenegger.
- Many of you are never going to be ballerinas. You're just not made that way.

Because we're different we need to accept that. You are meant to be you and nothing else.

I. FACTS ABOUT YOUR ABILITIES

1. Every ability is given by God.

- A. Romans 12:6 (Living Bible), *“God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well.”* The context of this passage is spiritual gifts. If you’re a Christian, the source of spiritual gifts and natural abilities, comes from God, and it’s all to be used for God.
- B. The Bible says that God has given us different abilities. It’s all important. God gives the ability to do carpentry just as much as He gives the ability to preach. They are both God-given abilities.
- C. Let me give you some specific abilities that God gives us in the Bible: athletic ability, artistic ability, architectural ability, administering, baking, barbering, boat making, candy making, debating, designing, embalming, engraving, fishing, gardening, managing, masonry, needle work, machinist, sailing, selling, teaching and writing literature. God says, *“I give them to the world. I give them to people.”*
- D. We need to recognize where that ability came from—God.

2. Every ability can be used for God’s glory.

- A. If God gives it; it should be used for His glory. 1 Corinthians 10:31, *“Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”* And this includes abilities. Abilities should be used for the glory for God.
- B. Researchers have said that the average person has between 500 and 700 abilities. Each can be used for the glory of God.
 - You can repair a car to the glory of God.
 - You can balance financial books to the glory of God.
 - You can make a meal to the glory of God.
 - You can manage an office to the glory of God.
 - You can make a sale to the glory of God.
 - You can catch a football to the glory of God.
- C. How do we use our abilities for God’s glory?
 - Acting ethically and morally. You don’t cheat people.
 - Provide a legitimate service or product that can help people.
 - You bring God glory when you give back to Him the first ten percent of your income from profits. Deuteronomy 8:18 says, *“Remember the Lord Your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth.”* God gives you the ability to get wealth in the first place. It’s not that God gets 10% back; He’s letting you keep 90%. It all belongs to Him and He gave you that ability. So you bring glory to God by giving the first 10% to the Lord.
- D. Every ability is given by God and every ability can be used for God’s glory.

Now, everybody has unused talents too. All of us do. What I want to share now is how to defrost your “frozen assets.” How to get those talents out of neutral, and start using your abilities.

II. HOW TO DEFROST YOUR FROZEN ASSETS

1. Estimate them. Evaluate yourself. Assess your abilities. “What in the world am I good at?” Do an evaluation and estimate what you’re good at and what you’re not good at. Maybe make a list. Romans 12:3, “...*think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.*” Know what you’re good at.

A. There’s a myth that says most of you are aware of your abilities. That’s not true. Let me give you two other ways to estimate your abilities.

1. What really helps is when you find somebody who recognizes ability who says to you, “Do you know what you’re good at?” and then they go ahead and tell you what they see in you. It really helps.

- Staff

2. One book I recommend is *Finding a Job You Can Love*, by Art Miller. It’s published by Thomas Nelson. The author has spent many years helping people discover what God has made them to be.

2. Dedicate them. Give them back to God. Romans 12:1 “*Offer yourself as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to His service and pleasing to Him.*” Offer and dedicate. Say, “*God, I recognize that You gave me these abilities. They all come from You. I now willingly dedicate them back to You because You not only gave them to me, You must have a plan and purpose for them. As I dedicate them to You, help me understand that. I give them back to You to be used the way You want them to be used.*” Offer them back to God.

3. Cultivate them. Proverbs 19:8 “*Those who get wisdom love their own lives; those who cherish understanding will soon prosper.*” Abilities require cultivation. You’ve got them, now do something with them. Learn all you can. Practice. Develop. Take training. Improve. God has made an investment in your life by giving you abilities. He wants a return on that investment. He’s given you some skills. He wants you to sharpen those skills and use them.

- If you’re good at computers and you’re a believer, you’d better be as good as you can possibly be.
- If you’re good at making things with your hands, you’d better be as good as you can possibly be.
- Tele-coaching network

III. If we’re all unique in our abilities, what are the implications?

A. The implication for your career is build on your strengths so that your limitations become irrelevant. Maximize who you are.

- Team up with people who compliment you. When one person is weak then another person shores it up. Together we’re more effective than we would be individually.
- If you’re an employer figure out what people’s abilities are and put them where they’ll work best. You won’t have to motivate them.

- B. The implication for marriage is that we come into marriage with different abilities. As a couple, we enhance each other's strengths and compensate for each other's weaknesses. That's God's plan for marriage. Don't try to make your mate like you. When you come together, people with different abilities need to work it out.
- Whoever has the ability to do budgeting in your family ought to do the budget. The one who can't add, better stay out of the checkbook! What you're good at do it. What you're not good at let your partner do it.
- C. What's the implication for your family? As a parent, I think one of our primary goals needs to be to help our children discover the abilities God gave them; not the ones you want them to have but the ones God gave them, and to help them maximize those to their fullest potential.
- D. How about your ministry? The Bible says that if you are a believer, God expects you to offer your abilities to be used in your church family. He's very clear about it. That's your ministry. There's a myth that say, "My abilities, the ones I use at work, the ones I use to make a living, really aren't needed or are unnecessary or don't fit or are of no value to my church family." That is wrong. The fact is, you are needed. Your talents and abilities are valuable. The very skill you use Monday through Friday can be used in the ministry—the very same one.
- I believe that God places in each church the exact people He wants to be there, knowing their abilities, so that the church can accomplish exactly what He wants for that church.

Consider two questions:

1. Of all people, why has God brought you to this church? God knows that what you have to offer is needed at PBPC to be what God wants our church to be.
2. How could offering what you have make a difference? What do you have to offer your church family? I'm not talking about just money or time. What do you have to offer in your ability? If you're here, God has a place for your abilities at PBPC.

PRAY!