

SOUL FOOD

MARCH 20, 2017

EXODUS 31:1-11 CALLING AND GIFTING

When I was in college, like most students that age, I was working through what vocation I would choose. My freshman year was a wonderful time of spiritual growth and growth in sharpening my mind. It was an intense time of prayer and seeking the Father's face. During this time the pastor of the church I was attending and some other members of the church asked me over a period of time if I considered going into pastoral ministry. While I had not been focusing upon that option, the encouragement of many gave me pause to think and consider what they were saying. I set up a meeting to meet with the pastor and he encouraged me in many ways and told me two things that I have never forgotten. He said, "God's callings are God's enablings, and God's will cannot take me where His grace cannot keep me."

In the passage before us, we find God talking about some specific people whom He had gifted to contribute needed parts for the building of the Tabernacle. **"See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, to work in every craft."** God has specifically gifted Bezalel with spiritual empowerment, ability, intelligence, knowledge and craftsmanship in order to accomplish with excellence the crafting of wood, stones, silver, and bronze elements or usage in the Tabernacle and tent of meeting.

God is the source of all things, gifts, and blessings. He equips and raises up specific people to accomplish various tasks that enable His Church to accomplish the work of ministry. This applies not just to the public gifts of preaching, teaching, etc. But, this also applies to many gifts that are used behind the scenes, such as administration, service, faith-driven financial giving, mechanical and carpentry skills, etc. As Paul teaches in the New Testament, all the gifts are needed and necessary. No one gift is superior to the other gifts.

No matter what kind of gifts you have, public or private gifts, you are needed and wanted. Every believer in Jesus has at least one gift. When offered up to Father in service to His glory even the so-called ordinary gifts result in extraordinary fruit for the Kingdom.