

BE HUMBLE AND ACCEPT YOUR GIFT

In the recent weeks, I felt that I am being stretched in many ways from work, family to church; trying to do a balancing act to sustain and go with the flow in my life. Despite all that, I give thanks to God for being alive and that He has always been with me. The latter is a blessing by itself and better than many other good things that happened to me and around me. You will agree with me that without Jesus Christ, we would not have been saved and for us to be here today.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”
(John 3:16)



The title of this article came into my mind after a Cell group session a few weeks ago. Uncle Roy told me, “Accept your gift. It is alright to let others know what we are doing.” Something in me just snapped and then clicked. Is it the humility in us that we do not announce or admit what we are good at or it is just our upbringing that we are taught to be modest in expressing the better side of ourselves? Well, I am challenged by my own thoughts and behaviours as a result.

Be humble? Accept your gift?

Do you struggle with all these thoughts below?

I really do not know what to do! What is happening? I can't do it as I am scared that it will not turn out right. Oh no, I don't think I am good enough to get this done. Ask others who are better and more experienced. I am not sure. Do the above sound familiar to you? Were there moments that you reacted like this? Or you are always on the roll and feel that you are on top of the world; nothing can stop you in doing what you want to do? Thoughts like, “I am good and I know I will do well. No worries, God is with me. I am better than many others and I can help others. I can do it even if others cannot or are unable to do so.” Be careful if all these statements described you.

All the above are not about humility or about not knowing our gifts. It is about ourselves and how complacent we are. We are trying to play down what it should be. Humility is not about denying or suppressing what we can do or cannot do. The use of humility as our excuse for not trying makes it “pseudo”

humility in disguise, to get around what God has created for us to be who we are in Him.

“Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you. Such a person also goes into great detail about what they have seen; they are puffed up with idle notions by their unspiritual mind. They have lost connection with the head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.

Since you died with Christ to the elemental spiritual forces of this world, why, as though you still belonged to the world, do you submit to its rules: Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch? These rules, which have to do with things that are all destined to perish with use, are based on merely human commands and teachings. Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence.” (Col 2:18-23)

Be humble. Accept your gift.

Ironical and hypocritical at times, isn't it? How we react sometimes reveal the opposite of what we want to show. It is about recognising that the gift is from God and allowing God to work the gift through us for the glory of God! The using of our gifts after recognising them takes work and effort with God's wisdom and strength. Sometimes, it requires us to take risks to develop our gifts and move forward even if the outcome may not be favourable or we do not know how it will turn out to be.

“We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve, if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.” (Rom 12: 6-8)

Let us learn and re-learn what God is teaching us at the different stages of our lives; accepting our gifts and be ready to take on the role that we are called to perform. Say “Yes” humbly in the sight of God and men with His wisdom. The outcome of all recognition and responses will be to His glory!

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you.” (1 Pet 5:6)

Joyce Tan