



# The Pursuit of Excellence



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## USE YOUR GIFTS!

Ephesians 4:7 says, "But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ." Grace is not just an ability to put up with someone or something, neither is it simply the favor of God.

Grace is an operation of God's power that influences your heart and motivates you for service. It often determines how you approach the affairs of life and how you relate to others.

We all have gifts (talents, abilities, qualities) that differ according to the grace that is given us (Romans 12:6) and we are commanded to use them.

We are the body of Christ and God has set the members in the body as it has pleased Him (1 Corinthians 12:18, 27-28). Each member has his own place and function. When "every" joint supplies and "every" part is working effectually, the church grows and builds itself up in love (Ephesians 4:16).

### **GOD NEEDS YOU TO USE YOUR GRACE.**

There is a divine influence upon your heart that is meant to be reflected in your life. God needs you to use your grace. He has given you abilities to function where He has called and placed you. He is counting on you to use what He has given you and fulfill your God-given responsibilities.

First Peter 4:10 says, "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

You are a steward of the grace that God has given you. As a steward, you are required to be faithful (1 Corinthians 4:2). You must faithfully use your divine endowments to minister to others and thereby supply your part in the plan of God.

You are to use the grace that God has given you

to produce increase in the kingdom of God. The master is looking for increase (Matthew 25:14-27). Faithful servants are those that use what the Lord has entrusted to them to bring increase to Him.

The Apostle Paul and others in the early church understood the importance of operating within the grace given them.

In Galatians 2:8-9, Paul says, "For He that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles. And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship, that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision."

In 1 Corinthians 3:10a, Paul declares, "According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon."

### **YOUR WORK WILL BE TESTED.**

Then, we are exhorted to take heed how we build upon the foundation (verse 10b). The foundation being Jesus Christ (verse 11). Your life's work plays a huge role in how you build your life in Christ.

Your eternal rewards are determined by what you do during your time on earth (verse 14). You either lay up for yourself "gold, silver, precious stones" or "wood, hay, stubble" as you go about your life's work (verse 12).

Every man's work will be tested by fire to critically appraise the worth of what each person has done (verse 13). Your work will be tested. You will be rewarded according to what survives the test.

Obviously, wood, hay, and stubble would be burned up during a test of fire. Only the precious stones and metals can survive such a test.

How can you be sure to lay up for yourself things that will stand the test? It is only by using the gifts that God has given you. The very context in which the Apostle Paul makes these statements has to do with him being a wise masterbuilder and using the grace given him.

You too must recognize the grace that has been given you and learn to be a master at using your abilities to increase the kingdom of God. Avoid becoming caught up in the busyness of life and



### **BRAD'S ITINERARY:**

Word of Faith Family Church  
Great Falls, MT - May 4

AFCM Overnighter  
Great Falls, MT - May 8-9

Word of Faith Family Church  
Great Falls, MT - May 11

AFCM Meeting  
Moorhead, MN - May 16

Eagles' View Church  
Thief River Falls, MN - May 18

Xtreme Life Training Center  
Willmar, MN - May 20-23

Word of Faith Family Church  
Great Falls, MT - May 25

Xtreme Life Training Center  
Willmar, MN - June 3-6

Word of Faith Family Church  
Great Falls, MT - June 8

Xtreme Life Training Center  
Willmar, MN - June 10-13

Xtreme Life Training Center  
Graduation Celebration  
Willmar, MN - June 14

AFCM Family Reunion  
Bloomington, MN - June 23-26

Word of Faith Family Church  
Great Falls, MT - June 29

Xtreme Passion Youth Camp  
Paynesville, MN - July 7-11

Word of Faith Family Church  
Great Falls, MT - July 13, 20

Lakes Area Word Fellowship  
Vergas, MN - July 27

being enveloped in whatever life throws at you. Ephesians 5:15 says, "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise." You are to live accurately and with purpose, faithfully functioning within your grace and fulfilling your divine destiny.

Since it is very important to use your gifts, how do you recognize the grace that has been given you? There are some simple questions that you can ask yourself that will help you determine your grace.

First, what can you do? What abilities do you possess? If you have musical abilities, then use them to the glory of God. If you have organizational skills, then use them to promote the plans and purposes of God. If you are mechanically minded, then use your talents to build the kingdom of God. Whatever you are

capable of doing, do it.

Secondly, what do you enjoy doing? Most often, people enjoy the activities that they are good at doing. The Lord has given me the abilities to teach and organize and I very much enjoy doing both. It is easy to become frustrated and discouraged when you attempt to perform tasks that you are not equipped to do.

The different gifts that each of us possess, according to the grace given to us, should define our work. It does not define our entire life. Our life is defined by our love for God and others. However, if we love Him, we will serve Him by being good stewards of His grace and using our God-given gifts to positively effect others. We will supply our part and help build His church.

by Brad Brede



## UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS:

### AFCM Overnighter

There will be an AFCM Overnighter with Jim and Kathleen Kaseman hosted by Word of Faith Family Church in Great Falls, Montana. The dates are Thursday and Friday, May 8-9, 2008.

All ministers and AFCM members need to make a special effort to attend this meeting.

### Word of Faith Family Church

We are planning a special celebration on Sunday evening, May 11, 2008. There will be a time of fellowship and snacks beginning at 5:30 p.m. followed by a service with Jim and Kathleen Kaseman at 6:30 p.m.

We are asking area pastors and their congregations to join with us as we celebrate the establishment of a new church in Great Falls, Montana.

### Xtreme Passion Youth Camp

We are looking forward to another great youth camp at Lake Koronis Assembly Grounds near Paynesville, Minnesota. The dates are July 7-11, 2008. Please mark your calendars and make plans to attend - and bring lots of teenagers! It is a life-changing experience! Brochures and application forms are available.

### Xtreme Life Training Center

Our next term begins September 8, 2008 in Willmar, Minnesota. We are already busy preparing and ready to receive applications. The 2008-09 catalogs are available with all the updated information. Request yours today!

We remind you that our program is designed to

minister to "all" adults 18-30 years of age. If you or someone you know wants to be thoroughly equipped to succeed in life, then Xtreme Life Training Center is the place to be. Make plans to attend and send others our way.

### New Construction

Our new construction project is scheduled to begin very soon with site preparation and concrete work. We will be constructing a much needed building designed to handle our storage and maintenance needs.

Please agree with us in faith as we undertake this new endeavor. God is already providing the necessary means for us to begin the work. You may become a part of this project by helping us financially and volunteering your time to labor together with us.

Rev. Bradley and Patricia Brede hold ordination credentials with the Association of Faith Churches and Ministers. Brad Brede Ministries was established after twenty years of successful pastoral ministry.

Brad and Patty have faithfully served as AFCM Regional Directors since 1988. They travel extensively promoting the vision of AFCM, encouraging and equipping pastors, and strengthening churches.

Brad and Patty have established several youth camps beginning in 1994. They founded Xtreme Passion in 2005 and Xtreme Life Training Center in 2007 - ministries devoted to helping teenagers and young adults pursue the purposes of God.

You may become a ministry partner by joining our Par Excellence Club. Please, contact us for details.

The Pursuit of Excellence is published as a ministry of Brad Brede Ministries. Your prayers and financial support are greatly appreciated. If you have been blessed by this issue of The Pursuit of Excellence or desire prayer, we would like to hear from you.

If you desire additional information about Brad Brede Ministries or to receive a list of powerful teaching materials from Rev. Brede, please contact our ministry office.

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## Par Excellence Club

- Our Par Excellence Club is a financial vision. It is about raising finances to help us provide support, leadership, and oversight for pastors and ministers so they can reach their most effective potential in the ministry to which God has called them.
- It is about raising finances to help us impact more teens, young adults, and youth ministers through our Xtreme Passion Youth Ministry and Xtreme Life Training Center, preparing them with the ability to fulfill their God ordained destiny.
- The Par Excellence Club is an investment in yourself, your family, your church, your community, and your future! And the rewards are awesome!
- We encourage you to enlarge your capacity to envision and believe, and prayerfully consider partnering with us as we work together as a team to finish the work He has called us to do. Contact our office for details and join the Par Excellence Club today!