

## Equality

Ponder: In what respect are we equal?

Scripture: "There are diversities of activities, but the same God who works all in all" (1 Cor. 12:6, NKJV).

"The world in which we live equally distributes talent, but it does not equally distribute opportunity." So states a television advertisement for an online university. Sounds profound, doesn't it? But the claim (especially the first half) is profoundly wrong!

In the first place, this nebulous thing called "the world" distributes neither talent nor opportunities. Christians know that talents (abilities) are gifts from God, and He does not distribute them equally. Our talents are different, and some have more than others. In ancient times, God gave some people supernatural abilities. Not everyone had them, and not all gifts were equal. Paul urged the Corinthians to "earnestly desire the best gifts" (1 Cor. 12:31).

Even natural talents are gifts from God. Our talents are not the same, but each of us must recognize God as the giver of our abilities and use them to glorify Him (1 Pet. 4:11). Some are talented speakers; they must realize that the gospel they proclaim is not their own, but God's oracles. Others have talents in various areas of service like helping the poor; they should humbly credit God with giving them this ability.

Likewise in secular matters, talents are not distributed equally. There's a reason I'm not a professional basketball player like Michael Jordan. If I practiced all day every day, I might become marginally less inept. But no amount of practice would give me Michael Jordan's talent! For similar reasons, I'm not a plumber. (I'll spare you the details!)

The TV ad is right that we don't have equal opportunities. I've had more opportunities than some people, but less than others. You could say the same. When God "opens a door" (Col. 4:3; Rev. 3:8), we must seize the opportunity and make the most of it.

Since our talents and opportunities are unequal, are we equal in any way? Yes, the Declaration of Independence correctly said, "all men are created equal." God values each person equally. Jesus died "for everyone" (Heb. 2:9). Whether your God-given talents and opportunities are many or few, He values you the same.

Hymn: "Footprints Of Jesus"

Prayer: Father, we thank You for the talents you give us and the doors of opportunity You open. Give us courage and strength to walk through those doors. In Jesus' name, Amen