

1 Samuel 16:7

But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.

Our ability to be used by God to bring glory to his name is not based on what “man” deems successful, outward strength or mental ability. God’s pleasure in us only comes from our heart. It is our desire to serve and please him and the offering of the abilities that we have that is acceptable to Him.

Matthew 5:14-16

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Everyone who God calls into fellowship has a gift from God to share, a light that can shine brightly for him, and the ability to bring glory to His name. His gifts are not given as a result of our abilities or goodness, but they are given because of who He is and his love for us so that His name is glorified.

John 9:1-3

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.

This scripture reminds us of the great work that God and Christ can do in a life and why he does it. Even though today, we may not see the miracle of healing, we still see God at work and showing his power and glory in the lives of those with disabilities. Through the lives of families impacted by special needs, we see God’s great provision, we see what “the joy of the Lord” looks like, and we see emotional healing. These works of God are amazing and can only be contributed to Him. It strengthens those who witness His provision and care and faithfulness.

Psalm 139:13-16

For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made
Wonderful are your works;
my soul knows it very well.
My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes saw my unformed substance;
in your book were written, every one of them,
the days that were formed for me,
when as yet there was none of them.

God is not surprised by us or unknowing of us. Even before we were conceived, we were a thought in his mind. He knew our strengths and weakness, our places of struggle and where we would fail. He does not love us because of our strength, our knowledge, or our works; He loves us because He is good and faithful and merciful. Life comes from him alone and He loves all that he has made.

1 Corinthians 12:18-27

But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

It is God who has brought the members of our church together. Each person brings value to God's kingdom and plan. Although the world judges on ability, the church recognizes that it is God's work in us that brings honor to His name, not our work. The Church is this – all parts rejoicing together, suffering together, caring for each other and reaching the nations in the name of Christ.