



Spirit of Grace

Herald

THE MINISTRY OF DENNIS
& BENEDICTA POLLOCK

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Spirit of Grace Ministries
P.O. Box 2068
McKinney, TX 75070
(530) 712-4253

Email: grace@spiritofgrace.org
Website: www.spiritofgrace.org

Gifts & Differences

As we grow older and experience various failures and hopefully successes in our efforts to serve our Lord Jesus, we begin to recognize gift areas in our lives and other areas where we are definitely lacking in gifts. Some gifts are so obvious they appear quickly and are recognized and confirmed by nearly everybody. Other, more subtle gifts, take longer to see and appreciate. And then there are those gifts which are so underrated that almost nobody wants them or asks for them, and when we see them in others we tend to be thankful we don't have them ourselves.

Recently I have become aware of such a gift in my own life. Like nearly all God's gifts it was not something I asked for, prayed for, and desired. I have had this gift most of my adult life and it seems to be strengthened and increased as the years go by. There is no real Biblical name for this gift. Popular, fun-loving, spontaneous types almost never have it or want it. So to what am I referring? I speak of the ability and willingness to perform repetitive duties and non-exciting tasks day after day, year after year, and decade after decade.



Recently it dawned on me that I don't get bored nearly as easily as many others. For many years I have been sitting at a computer and writing articles and Bible teaching outlines. It is a quiet and not particularly glamorous act, but strangely I never tire of this. Sometimes it feels like I should be getting bored or weary of doing this, but amazingly I never do. The same is true with Bible reading. I have read the entire Bible through at least once each year since 1973, and have long ago lost count of how many times I have read through the New Testament, almost always out loud. "My wife likes to kid me about how she hears my voice so often coming out of the blue, saying, "Paul, an apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ..." Again it seems like I should tire of this, but somehow I never do. As I read, all sorts of ideas for articles and messages seem to come to me, far more than I can write or record. Day after day, month after month, and year after year I just keep on doing what I have been doing. Getting up in the morning, reading the Bible, exercising, and then having breakfast while watching one of the morning news shows is so much a part of me, I would hardly know how to stop myself from these routines established so long ago.

I am not writing this to encourage everyone to become as boring as I am. I shudder to think what the world would be like if everybody was as dull as me. But being me works for me! Articles get written, evangelistic outreaches are accom-

plished, and ministry is done as I do what Christ has called me to do and be what He has called me to be. I admit, I greatly admire people who are at the other end of the spectrum. The spontaneous, bubbly, "life-of-the-party" types are beautiful to behold and they certainly add a spice to our world that dull guys like me could never provide. But I don't waste my time envying them or trying to be like them. You would have an easier time trying to turn a farm horse into a Kentucky Derby winner than to transform me into a party animal.

The wondrous thing is that through Jesus we are free to be ourselves. We can walk in the gifts and callings that He has given us from the foundation of the world. There is room in the body of Christ for all kinds of personalities, along with every race, every nationality, and every temperament. Loud people and quiet peo-

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ple, funny people and serious people, outstanding athletes and clumsy folks, farmers and stock brokers, celebrities and common people, the brilliant and the simple, the black and the white, the dull types and the dynamic personalities, all are welcome at the foot of the cross of Jesus and in His harvest fields.

And once we are born again, we are not asked to check our personalities in at the door. Much will change, of course. Our language will change, our attitudes will change, our priorities, our convictions, our values, and our passions will all be transformed by the renewing of the Holy Spirit. But we will still be us – yet not us really, but rather Jesus Christ living His life in us!

Next Month: Kenya



Dennis and Benedicta are scheduled to minister in Butere, Kenya in July. They will be preaching the gospel in outdoor evangelistic meetings during the evenings and holding conferences for pastors and church leaders during the mornings.

We do these missions in obedience to our Lord's Great Commission:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you..." (Matthew 28:19, 20).

Please pray regularly for this mission, and consider giving a generous donation to help us to go. As of now, we have received \$1,000 toward this mission and are still in need of around \$9,000. We have a long ways to go, but God is faithful!

Included in our budget is money to provide at least 200 pairs of shoes (we hope more) for Kenyan orphans and poor children. *Millions From One Ministry* cites these statistics:

- The majority of the world's poor must walk where they go.
- An estimated 2 billion people are currently afflicted with parasitic diseases, most preventable with the right shoes.
- Every year over one million children die from preventable diseases caused by the lack of proper shoes.



PLEASE STAND WITH US AS WE GO TO KENYA TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND DEMONSTRATE HIS LOVE BY MINISTERING TO THE CHILDREN OF AFRICA.

