








## Does God Have A Special Place For Me?

A book cover with a dark background and a glowing light source on the left. The title "Does God Have a Special Place for Me?" is written in white text.	<p><b>“Does God Have A Special Place For Me?”</b></p> <p><b>A Sermon on Gift-Oriented Ministry by David Newman</b></p>
A logo for Chicago-Kent College of Law featuring a group of people and a book.	<p>Several years ago, two students graduated from the Chicago-Kent College of Law. The highest ranking student in the class was a blind man named Overton and, when he received his honor, he insisted that half the credit should go to his friend, Kasprzyzak. They had met one another in school when the armless Mr. Kasprzyzak had guided the blind Mr. Overton down a flight of stairs.</p> <p>This acquaintance ripened into friendship and a beautiful example of interdependence. The blind man carried the books, which the armless man read aloud in their common study, and thus the individual deficiency of each was compensated for by the other. After their graduation, they planned to practice law together.</p>
A diagram of a human body with a glowing blue aura. The text "You are part of the body of Christ." is written in white.	<p>Does God have a special place for you? Yes, He does. It may not be quite as unique as the partnership of Kasprzyzak and Overton but God has a special place for you in His overall purpose. Have you found it? Do you know what God has called you to? You are part of the body of Christ and as you know a body has many different parts all working together.</p>
A diagram of a human body with a glowing red heart. The text "ROMANS 12:4" is written in white. Below it, a quote reads: "Each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function.".	<p>“Each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,</p>



## Does God Have A Special Place For Me?

	<p>so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others” (Romans 12:4-5).</p>
	<p>The great violinist, Nicolo Paganini, willed his marvelous violin to Genoa -- the city of his birth -- but only on condition that the instrument never be played upon. It was an unfortunate condition, for it is a peculiarity of wood that as long as it is used and handled, it shows little wear. As soon as it is discarded, it begins to decay.</p> <p>The exquisite, mellow-toned violin has become worm-eaten in its beautiful case, valueless except as a relic. The moldering instrument is a reminder that a life withdrawn from all service to others loses its meaning.</p> <p>Now I am sure that no one here wants to become a worm-eaten violin. Everyone who has a heart for Jesus wants to be involved in some way in serving Him but how do we find that place?</p> <p>“How do I know what God’s place is for me?”</p>
	<p>One of the ways we have done this in the church is to encourage you to discover your spiritual gift, to attend a spiritual gifts seminar, to take a spiritual gifts inventory. We go to Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12 and discover that God has given spiritual gifts to all His people. But after finding out what our gift is we sometimes have difficulty figuring out what to do with it.</p> <p>We forget that a spiritual gift is an expression of the Holy Spirit at work through us in carrying out a God-given assignment. The gift is not nearly as important as recognizing the work of the Holy Spirit in us. And how do we do that? We look and see what assignment God has called us to do for him. God calls a person first and then</p>





## Does God Have A Special Place For Me?

	<p>He equips them to fulfill that assignment. We often equate gifts with talents and we look to the past to see what we are good at. Then when God calls us to a ministry that we feel that we are not equipped for we often turn it down because we do not feel competent.</p>
	<p>When we take this approach we actually become self-centered rather than God centered. God is creating this great mosaic, a gigantic puzzle. Each piece is important in that puzzle. There is nothing more frustrating putting a puzzle together than finding there is one piece missing. Every piece counts.</p>
	<p>Let's look at an example in the life of Moses. Moses had run away from Egypt when he got into trouble trying to do things his way rather than God's way. He spent the next forty years leading a flock of sheep.</p>
	<p>One day he is out on the mountainside watching the sheep, day dreaming a little, when his eyes notice a fire burning off to one side. He doesn't take much notice of it expecting it to soon die out. There is not much to burn out there. But the fire keeps raging as if it is being supplied an inexhaustible source of fuel.</p> <p>He walks closer and sees that it is an ordinary bush, crackling away, flames shooting into the sky, but the bush does not turn into ash. He has never seen anything like this before. He comes closer and suddenly a voice commands,</p>
	<p>“Moses, Moses, do not come any closer. Take off your sandals for the ground you are standing on is holy ground” (Exodus 3:4-5). Moses almost jumps out of his skin. Forty years of shepherding sheep have made him used to</p>


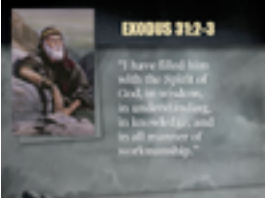
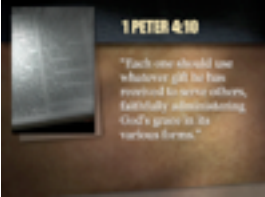
## Does God Have A Special Place For Me?

	<p>solitude, of quietness. And whoever is speaking to him knows his name. The voice continues,</p> <p>I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.’ At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God” (Exodus 3:6). Moses was startled. What did God want with him. He was content with his life. He had a wife, children, and an occupation.</p>
	<p>Then God unveiled his vision for Moses. He wanted Moses to return to Egypt, confront Pharaoh, tell him that he must allow the Children of Israel to leave Egypt. This was some heavy duty assignment.</p> <p>Moses did not exactly jump for joy at God’s vision for him. He did not say “Yes God, I am excited about the vision you paint. Yes, get me there right away. Yes, I can hardly wait to begin.” Instead he told God that he did not have the right qualification, the gifts, for such a ministry.</p>
	<p>“Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?” (Exodus 3:11). God told him not to worry. He, God, would be with him. Moses desperately tries to wiggle out of this assignment. He did not want to leave his sheep. Sheep may be dumb but they don’t answer back. They don’t fight you. They don’t argue with you.</p> <p>Moses was sure that the Israelites would not believe that God had sent him and the Egyptians certainly would laugh at him. God answers these objections.</p>

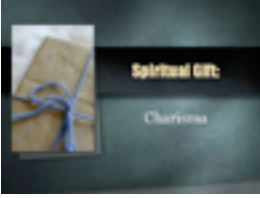





## Does God Have A Special Place For Me?

 <p><b>Moses still doesn't want the assignment</b></p> <p>I have been away from Egypt so long I hardly speak the language any more. I was never much of a speaker in the past and I am even less of a speaker after forty years with dumb sheep. I have no communication skills. I am not the man you want.</p>	<p>Moses still does not want the assignment. He finds an excuse that will surely stump God, one that God will have no answer to.</p> <p>He says “I have been away from Egypt so long I hardly speak the language any more. I was never much of a speaker in the past and I am even less of a speaker after forty years with dumb sheep. I have no communication skills. I am not the man you want.”</p> <p>Have you ever felt like Moses when God calls? Do you think of all the reasons why you should not go, accept the assignment? And then when you do sometimes your work is not appreciated.</p>
 <p><b>240 days of work</b></p> <p>All day and many nights he labored to create this brief section.</p>	<p>In 1934, Ward Kimball was a young artist working with an upstart named Walt Disney. They were working on a major project called <i>Snow White</i>. Kimball worked on a four and one-half minute sequence for 240 days. All day and many nights he labored to create this brief section where the dwarfs showed affection for Snow White by making her some soup. Once Kimball had completed his work, Disney called him into his office and said,</p>
 <p><b>240 days of work</b></p> <p>"I don't know how to tell you this, because I love the sequence, but we're going to have to cut it out. It's getting in the way of the story."</p>	<p>“I don't know how to tell you this, because I love the sequence, but we're going to have to cut it out. It's getting in the way of the story.”</p> <p>Ouch! As we exercise our gifts in God's kingdom, the goal is to use our gifts in such a way that they complement the picture God is making and never get in the way.</p>
 <p><b>EXODUS 4:14</b></p> <p>"Begin a team with your brother Aaron. He will speak for you. He knows the language."</p>	<p>But in the case of Moses he did not want to use even the minimum of gifts that God had given him. God began to lose patience with Moses. This conversation was taking far too long. God said to Moses, “Begin a team with your</p>

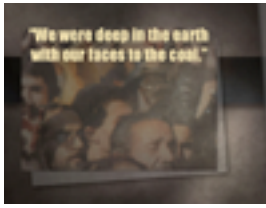



## Does God Have A Special Place For Me?

	<p>brother Aaron. He still lives in Egypt. He knows the language.</p>
 <p><b>EXODUS 4:15</b> ... I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to say."</p>	<p>. . . I will help both of you speak and will teach you what to say” (Exodus 4:14-15).</p> <p>And the rest is history. Moses became one of the most forceful speakers in the Bible and a gigantic leader for God. What God did for Moses and for me He can do for you.</p> <p>When it was time to build the tabernacle God told Moses exactly how it was to be built then he told Moses that He had called Bezalel to be the lead designer and craftsman. Then God made this promise,</p>
 <p><b>EXODUS 31:2-3</b> "I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship."</p>	<p>“I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship” (Exodus 31:2-3).</p> <p>Notice something very important here. God didn’t give a person some <i>thing</i>. God <i>Himself</i> was the <i>Gift</i>. The Spirit revealed His presence by equipping each individual to function where God had assigned him or her. The results reflected God’s activity. And God gives these gifts to lead people to Him. In the New Testament Peter makes it very clear.</p>
 <p><b>1 PETER 4:10</b> "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."</p>	<p>“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms” (1 Peter 4:10)</p> <p>The purpose of spiritual gifts is to lead people to Jesus, to understand His great Gift. The Greek inextricably links spiritual gifts and grace.</p>

## Does God Have A Special Place For Me?

	<p>The word for “spiritual gift” is <i>charisma</i>.</p>
	<p>The word for grace is <i>charis</i>.</p>
	<p>And the root of grace is <i>char</i> which means joy.          All assignments that God gives to His people are for the purpose of leading others to Him and letting them see Jesus and experience His forgiving grace. It does not matter what the assignment is everyone is vital in God’s plan.</p>
	<p>During World War II, England needed to increase its production of coal. Winston Churchill called together his labor leaders to enlist their support. At the end of his presentation he asked them to picture in their minds a parade, which he knew would be held in Piccadilly Circus after the war.</p>
	<p>“First”, he said,” would come the sailors who had kept the vital sea lanes open. Then would come the soldiers who had come home from Dunkirk and then gone on to defeat Rommel in Africa. Then would come the pilots who had driven the German air force from the sky.</p>
	<p>“Last of all would come a long line of sweat-stained, soot-streaked men in miner’s caps. Someone would cry from the crowd, ‘And where were you during the critical days of our struggle?’</p> <p>“And from ten thousand throats would come the answer,</p>

## Does God Have A Special Place For Me?

	<p>‘We were deep in the earth with our faces to the coal.’”          Not all the jobs in the church are prominent and glamorous. But the people with their “faces to the coal” play a vital role in helping the church accomplish its mission.</p>
	<p>Some of you listening to me may be a Moses trying to find every reason under the sun to avoid the assignment that God has given you. And if you say, “I do not know of any assignment that God has given” then you need to go to God and say to Him, “God I have given my life to you. I am here to serve. Show me what that service is.”</p> <p>Now there may be some here whose service is to wait. After all Moses waited for forty years for his next assignment. God was preparing him with those sheep. That was his assignment—to learn patience. God was going to make a new person out of the “old” Moses.</p>
	<p>Michelangelo, whom some consider the greatest sculptor who ever lived, was moving a block of granite down the street. A curious neighbor sitting lazily on the porch of his house called him and asked what he wanted with such an old piece of stone. Michelangelo answered, "Because there is an angel in that rock that wants to come out."</p>
	<p>We may compare God's fashioning of our spiritual gifts to sculpturing. The Spirit, may choose to release our "angels" as it were, by taking the raw material we possess (our God-given potential), and transfiguring it to achieve His own pleasure and design.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Does God have a special place for you? Yes He does. God called Moses to lead His people and He gave him leadership and speaking gifts. God called me to</p>



## Does God Have A Special Place For Me?

*Ministry* magazine despite no training in writing and editing and He supplied the gifts.

God called me to New Hope in a very special way. God is preparing this church to be a significant church of service in our denomination and to our community. And it will take all of us to serve God, to make the puzzle complete.