

Who Am I?
Doing What God Says I Can Do
Part 3

Intro: When we're young, we tend to believe we can do anything – Story of being 5 and getting kicked in the head by a horse. – Maybe you jumped off the porch / roof with your superman cape on...only to break something. Made a ramp for your bike...you still have the scars.

- As we get older, we experience more failure / disappointment / pain / and see our limitations. We stop believing we can do anything and we start defining ourselves by what we can't do rather than what we can do. We start using the words "I Can't" a lot more than "I Can." Maybe this is how many of you feel today.
- I am here to tell you that God wants to restore some of that childlike faith you once had in what you thought you could do. He wants to restore your identity from a person who says I can't to one who lives; I Can! God has things for us to do!

Once we start believing who God says we are and continue becoming who God say we can be, now we need to start doing what God says we can do.

- Doing what God says you can do is an amazing experience! Accomplishing things out of your secure belief of who you are with God and who you are becoming is a joyful experience. You are doing things for the Kingdom of God out of your identity and a transformed character. It is a liberating...it's fulfilling...it's humbling being used by God like this.

What does God say we can do? **Answer:** More than you ever dreamed!

Eph. 2:10 "He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing." (Message) He saved us for purpose. He saved us for partnership. He saved us to join Him! He saved us to do great things with Him! Wow!!! Let's discover some life changing truths.

What does God say I can do? 4 key truths.

1. God Says I Can Do What I'm Designed To Do

"Form determines function" "Design determines the doing" (Drill gun and a hammer) We are no different. Why would God design you in such a unique way and then completely disregard that design in what He wants you to do?

He doesn't!

- Know Your Spiritual Gifting Design

I Cor. 12:7 "A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other." (NLT)

I Cor. 12:11 "It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have." (NLT)

- Every follower of Jesus has been entrusted with a spiritual gift. These gifts are for the sole purpose joining Jesus in what He does in your unique way. The gifts help you serve in the body of Christ.

- Not everyone is gifted the same – The Holy Spirit decided who gets what gifts.
- God’s desire is for interdependence. I need your gifts and you need my gifts. No one is a total package. I am incomplete without other people
- Share what gifts I need around me. (I’m not good at everything. I need different gifts around me. (My gifts: Exhortation / Faith / Teaching – my gifts indicate what I should do. – I’m gifted to inspire people to follow Jesus)

- Know Your Unique Personality Design

Ps. 139:13-14 “You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother’s womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.” (NLT)

- These inner parts would include our personalities. There has been much study done over the past 20 years on the subject of personality types. I am fascinated with this topic.
- You and I literally look at and interpret life to a large degree through the lens of our personality.
- Knowing your personality is essential for doing what God would have you do. Why? Because it will match who He made you to be.
- For example – one aspect of my personality is I love to be with people. I would die if I had a job that isolated me from others.
- You may have a personality that likes to be alone. Nothing is wrong with you...it’s personality design. (Take personality inventories)

- Know Your Heart Passion Design

How do you discover a heart passion? What things do you light up over? I’m not passionate about everything. Some issues / causes / projects just light me up. ..others do not. Sometimes people think that if it’s something that lights me up it certainly can’t be from God. God wouldn’t want me to have that much fun. Really?

- Don’t discount things that don’t appear spiritual. Some of you like to make things / crafts / woodworking / mechanical / love the outdoors / fish / hunt / love to organize / love details / love numbers / others are more relational – you love food and feeding people / you entertain / This is your God designed heart.
- Homework: Make a list of things that excite you. This is one way to discover your heart passions. Give yourself permission to identify how God made your heart.

God says I can do what I am designed to do. If we try to do what we are not designed to do, what do you think will be the result? Frustration!

2. God Says I Can Do What I’m Empowered To Do

II Cor. 4:7 “We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not

from ourselves.” (NLT) God empowers His people to do what He leads them to do. There is power inside each of you. Sure, we are like fragile clay jars, but inside lives the Holy Spirit. *II Tim. 1:7 “For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.”* (NLT) The Holy Spirit is our power source to accomplish what God asks us to do. It’s not about our power but learning to live in His power.

How do we experience this power?

- Choose obedience

God will never empower disobedience to His word. Experiencing God’s power will always be connected to obedience. Story after story in the Bible gives us this example.

➤ God doesn’t empower our agendas / our plans / our independence from Him.

Josh. 1:8 “Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.” (NLT)

➤ Summarize the battle of Jericho and the next battle Ai.

- Choose risk -

Move outside your comfort zone – God does not empower our comfort. He empowers us to bring change and transformation. This always requires risk.

➤ God’s power is not for maintaining the status quo. We will never see the power of God playing it safe. Those willing to risk for the God’s purposes see God’s power.

➤ Peter walking on water. Summarize – He was the only one willing to get out.

- Don’t wait for power...expect it

Why should I expect God’s power in my life? Because power is promised. If you’re doing what God has called you to do you can expect all the power needed to accomplish it.

➤ I have seen God come through so many times I have come to expect it. (share)

➤ This has nothing to do with pride and everything to do with trust.

When you read the Bible, you see power. That power is still available today.

3. God Says I Can Do What I’m Called To Do

Eph. 4:1 “Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.” (NLT)

Every believer is “called” by God. Every follower of Jesus has a calling on their life.

➤ There are 2 very important truths about calling to understand.

- General things every believer is called by God to do

Matt 5:14-16 “You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.” (NLT)

Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (NLT)

- These verses describe a calling for every follower of Jesus. Everyone who calls themselves a believer should be light to the world/ let our good deeds shine out for others to see / we are all to be witnesses of the reality of Jesus in our lives.
 - This is not any special calling. It is the calling for us all! We all share this responsibility as followers of Jesus.
 - If we are unwilling to fulfill our general calling, don't expect God to show you your unique calling. Are you a light...are you serving...are you a witness...? If we cannot learn to trust God to empower us with these foundational issues, we will never trust Him enough to empower us with a more specific calling.
- Specific things each individual is called by God to do
 - There are specific things God is going to ask me to do that He is not going to ask you. He did not ask you to start a church in Molalla. BUT, He called me to do it.
 - You can discover what specific calling is upon your life, but it is a process. It comes as a result of obedience and faithfulness. There is a funneling process that God does with our lives – (Show a funnel – explain) You will have the confidence this is what God has called you to do for Him with your life.
 - Why is this specific calling so important? Because you must have the absolute assurance it is from God or else you will never be able to accomplish it. WHY? Because it is too hard...you'll quit if you doubt.
 - Foothills has been the most difficult thing / taxing / stressful / painful thing I have ever attempted...yet the most rewarding / fulfilling / satisfying. I would have quit without the 100% assurance it is from God. So will you!

You and I can do what we are called to do.

4. God Says I Can Do More Than I Think I Can Do

Eph. 3:20 "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us." (NIV)

We usually allow our limitations to define what we can do instead of the word of God. God sees more in us...He sees what we could become and what we could do if we truly surrendered to Him. He alone sees our potential for doing.

- How can we all discover what we could possibly do?
- Start the journey –
 - You have to get involved doing something for God to begin this journey. You eventually have to get off the sideline and in to the game. Stop telling yourself what you can't do and take a risk.
 - Get involved in ministry somewhere – Doesn't matter if it's a perfect match. Just get started and God can direct you as you move with Him.
 - Go on a mission trip to Guatemala with us this year
 - Give God a chance to stir something in you and use you in ways you never dreamed. Stop using the phrase; "I Can't." Easier to direct something that is moving than something that is sitting still.

- Stop focusing on your weaknesses
 - Stop letting your perceived weaknesses define what you can do. You really have no idea what you can do if you trusted God. Only God sees your real potential.
 - There are untapped / undeveloped skills – strengths – passions – gifts – and abilities that are waiting for God to bring to the surface.

- Learn to depend on God and His power for success
 - God wants us dependent upon Him. Therefore, if you never put yourself in a place where you need God’s power or else you will fail, you’re never going to truly see it.
 - Do you only attempt things that you know you could do in your own strength? This is what most believer do. This is why there is so little power. It’s not a power shortage on God’s end. It’s a trust issue on our end. Our lack of trust shorts out God’s power.
 - The way we learn to trust God’s power is to attempt things for God that are impossible without Him.

- Become a living example

I Cor. 1:26-29 “Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world’s eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you. Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God.” (NLT)

 - I love these verses. God purposely takes people like us (not many wise / powerful / wealthy) and uses us to do things for His glory that shocks this world.
 - I believe Foothills is a living example of this principal. Look what God is doing through a bunch of ordinary people who will be crazy enough to trust Him?
 - If you don’t think you qualify for God to use you in amazing ways read these verse again. This is exactly who God uses!

Just imagine what God could do through a bunch of ordinary people from Molalla if we just trusted Him. This already is our story. (Explain) Let’s continue the adventure. Let’s continue to shock people by our simplistic faith and trust in God and allow God to continue doing miracles in our midst.