



June 26, 2008

Thought For the Day

Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here.

Exodus 33:15

As Moses spent time in the special presence of God on Mt. Sinai, in addition to receiving the law of God, he also learned a great deal about the character of God. The more he learned, the greater became his conviction that he and the people should go forward on their move to the land of promise only if God went with them. To do otherwise would mean certain disaster as only God could meet all their needs.

The third great truth that Moses discovered about God – a truth that made him realize how important it was to go forward only with the assurance of God's presence - was that God was a giver of gifts. After God had given Moses the plans for the tabernacle, he said this:

"See, I have chosen Bezalel ... and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts — to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of craftsmanship. Moreover, I have appointed Oholiab ... to help him. Also I have given skill to all the craftsmen to make everything I have commanded you...."

Exodus 31:2-6

God had called and gifted people to do the necessary work to fulfill all the things needed by the people. God was caring for his people by providing the gifts they would need to fulfill his expectations. They would have no reason to fail. What a marvelous provision by God! What a marvelous expression of his grace!



In the New Testament, Paul, while writing to the Philippians, says ***“my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.”*** (Philippians 4:19) Like the ancient Israelites, we have no reason to fail. God in his grace has gifted each one of us, and as we join the fellowship of the church we find that collectively God has gifted us together so that we can fulfill all of God’s expectations of us. Again, what a wonderful expression of his grace! Can you imagine wanting to move forward without the knowledge and assurance that God was going to meet your every need?

What gift has God given you? How can you and your brothers and sisters in Christ use your various gifts to build the kingdom of Christ? Encourage the people around you to join in using your God given gifts to His glory.

Through the gifts you give me I can enrich the lives of others. Through the gifts you give others you enrich my life beyond all deserving! What a wonderful gift we can return to you, O God, as together we offer the exercise of our gifts back to you.