

teach us emphatically not to try and go beyond our skills and callings--that really brings frustration. They also teach us, although indirectly, but in keeping with Romans 12:1-2, that what we have is what God wants...the giving of ourselves is our reasonable service and, if you will not think me crude to say it bluntly....He knew what we were when he saved us.

4. Limitations: how are they met?

Well...surprisingly, some may actually be overcome. That is, prayerfully, we may ask for special help and in keeping with God's plan and purpose it may be given us. It is not wrong to ask for such help but it becomes wrong to "order" God as if you ran the universe and he was a "helper". They are also met with cheerful resignation to the hand of God. Paul cannot individually save the Jews..but he communicates his desire to God...he preaches the Gospel to everyone who comes under his voice.. and he trusts God to overcome obstacles. They are also met by a re-direction of energy till the concerned Christian finds where his gifts and skills will best let him serve the work of the Lord.

C. Conclusion

It is easy to be misunderstood in this area and some will think we are merely think we are offering alibis for poor performance. Not so... the personal limitations constitute a beautiful means of training and discipline. One learns to devote himself and energize his total gifts for the Lord. He does not become defeated...in fact he is less likely to be defeated. He lives daily in the sense of the blessing, direction, and providence of a Father who is training him for glory.

IV. The Discipline of Testing.

Basic Scriptures:

1 Corinthians 10

James 1