

## QUALITIES GOD LOOKS FOR IN PEOPLE HE CAN USE – Part 2

Adapted from Qualities God looks for in People He Can Use by Rick Warren

### Introduction

Last week we look at 2 characteristics namely holiness and surrender. This week we will look at 2 other characteristics which are; believing people and people with foresight.

### Sharing

#### 1. GOD IS LOOKING FOR BELIEVING PEOPLE

People of faith. People who believe God's word and they act on it. Hebrews 11:6 *"And without faith it is impossible to please God because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him."* Romans 14:23 *"Everything that does not come from faith is sin."* So obviously God uses people of faith.

What did you do this week that didn't require faith? I did a lot. And the Bible says whatever is not of faith is sin. If you don't do it in faith, it's wrong. God is looking for people who believe Him. We limit God so much by our unbelief. Most of us have a faith that tries God rather than trusts God. You've never really believed God until you've attempted something in your ministry that can't be done in the power of the flesh. What is it that is about your ministry that cannot be explained except "God did it!" The way you live by faith is that you take risks. You step out on a limb. Don't be afraid to go out on a limb, that's where the fruit is. Don't be afraid to rock the boat if Christ is your captain. Step out and do things that you think, "There's no way I can do this."

Most ministries can be explained away simply by human effort. The only way this thing keeps going is God's power. He has to do it. William Carey, the first modern mission, his famous motto was "Expect great things from God, attempt great things for God." Expect and attempt. God doesn't sponsor flops. He knew he had a big God. He believed in a big God and he said, "I let the size of my God determine the size of my goal." God's given us tremendous power but we limit Him so much.

What do you believe God for in your ministry? What do you believe God to do in your family in the next six months? What do you believe God to do in your finances? He does what you expect Him to do. *"According to your faith it will be done unto you."* (Matt 9:29) God looks for believing people.

#### 2. GOD IS LOOKING FOR FORESIGHTED PEOPLE.

That means people who not only believe but they look toward the future. God is doing what you expect in your life and He's doing what you have your eyes on. God says, I want to use people who have their eyes on eternity, having eternal values. Colossians 3:2 *"Set your mind on things above not on things that are on the earth."* Living Bible: *"Let heaven fills your thoughts. Don't spend your time worrying about things down here."* Some people say, "He's so heavenly minded he's no earthly good." That can be true, but I also know people who are so earthly-minded they're no heavenly good. Have your values right. Take the long look. Have perspective. Live your life in light of eternity. I think the message that needs to be heard today by the Christian church is there is more to life than just here and now. Most people are only interested in what Christ can do for them here and now. There is more to it than just here and now. If we'd just wake up to that! *"Set your affections on things above. Lay not up for yourselves treasure on earth."*

*“Therefore since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith who for the joy set before Him endured the cross.”(Heb 12:1-2)* That last sentence tells us exactly why Jesus was able to go to the cross. It says He had a greater perspective. He looked for the joy set before Him. He looked beyond the cross and could see the glory on the other side. So He went through the problem because He had perspective. He was foresighted.

The tragedy is that most Christians are spending all their time and all their money and all their energy and all their effort on things that are going to burn up at the judgment. They're not going to last. Cars, stereos, nice clothes aren't bad but I've seen so many times people put on the shelf because they become preoccupied with the present. I hope you'll take seriously about figuring out what is going to last. God's word is going to last. *“Heaven and earth shall pass away but My word shall never pass away.”(Matt 24:35)* We build our lives on God's word. The Bible tells us that Faith, hope, and love are going to last so we build our lives on faith, hope and love. We know people are going to last one of two places – heaven or hell. Where I spend my time now may determine where they spend their eternity. We know that prayer is going to last. Revelation 5:8 says that the prayers of saints are stored up in vials in heaven. The Bible says God hears the prayers. There are prayers being answered today that were prayed 100 years ago.

God is looking for people who have their priorities right. They're foresighted and they seek first the kingdom of God. I really believe that Jesus, since He was perfect, never wasted a second. He knew when to relax. He knew when to have fun. He knew when to be serious. He was perfectly balanced. He knew when to be intense. He knew when to lighten up. When Jesus was twelve years old, His first recorded statement is, *“I must be about My Father's business.”(Luk 2:49)* When He died on the cross the next to the last words are *“It is finished.”(Joh 19:30)* Jesus completed the Heavenly Father's business. That's what I call a successful life. He was looking farsighted. He had a clear purpose. Some things are not necessarily wrong, they're just not necessary. We need to know what matters.

### **Discussion**

1. Discuss with the members about how we could step out of our unbelief and allow God to work through us.
2. How can be more far-sighted in our view to do God's will on earth? It would be good to challenge ourselves to give priority to serve God
- 3.

### **Conclusion**

If you desire to be used by God for His glory, start today to examine your level of faith and reevaluate what are the priorities of your life. It will help you to prepare yourself for God to use you in a greater way than what you think!