

Review:

- The church is God's idea.
- Pastors are equippers—**Ephesians 4:11-13 (NLT)**
- Saved for a purpose, good works, which He planned for us to do.
- Everyone who is saved is to serve in the body of Christ.
- We are His Masterpiece. What makes you a masterpiece?
- We are knit together in our mother's womb. The Holy Spirit lives in us. We have spiritual gifts given so we can build up the body of Christ.

Ephesians 2:8-10 (NLT) ⁸ God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. ¹⁰ For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things He planned for us long ago."

One More Thing: Experiences and Testimonies—Ephesians 2:10 (NLT)**1. God shapes us through life experiences, good experiences.**

- God puts us in places where we can learn and experience success that is transferable to the plan He has for us.
- Moses: Pharaoh's court and becoming a shepherd in the desert.
- David: Shepherd and the warrior who wins battles.
- My own experiences: **Proverbs 16:9 (NIV)** — ⁹ "In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps."

2. God shapes us through tough times.

- David and Saul.

2 Corinthians 1:3-5 (NLT) — ³ "All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all comfort. ⁴ He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us. ⁵ For the more we suffer for Christ, the more God will shower us with His comfort through Christ."

The Example of Jesus.

- **Hebrews 12:17-18, 4:14-16 (NLT)**

Hang in there when things are tough. We must make the choice to trust.

- **Hebrews 12:4; 1 Peter 4 (NLT)**

Hebrews 10:36-39 (NLT) — ³⁶ Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that He has promised. ³⁷ "For in just a little while, the Coming One will come and not delay. ³⁸ And my righteous ones will live by faith. But I will take no pleasure in anyone who turns away." ³⁹ But we are not like those who turn away from God to their own destruction. We are the faithful ones, whose souls will be saved."

3. God even uses our poor choices if we come to Him for forgiveness.

- **1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:15-16; Acts 9:20-22 (NLT)**

God works out all things for good.

- **Romans 8:28; Genesis 50:18-20 (NLT)**

The purpose of all of these gifts is for good works. Jesus' greatest work.

Matthew 10:38-39 (NLT)—³⁸ "If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. ³⁹ If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it."