

We may be all ready to accomplish much for the Lord, and an accident comes and makes it impossible for us to go further in that direction. That may happen to any one of us. If it does again I think the verse is important. What do you have that you have not received?

God has put us here to do certain things He desires to be done, but even more than ~~Q~~ that, God has put us here in order that this immortal spirit should be brought to a knowledge of Christ and be saved through Him, but then should grow and develop in certain ways that God desires. He has His plan for the development and progress of each one of us. What He does to us, what happens to us that makes it impossible seemingly to accomplish what we desire, may be the very thing that God has in mind in order to develop us into the ones that He desires us to be.

So we should neither be sad, discouraged, disconsolate, nor should we boast and be proud of what we've accomplished or how we have developed. But we should remember that it's God's desire that we prove faithful and use what we've received from Him in order to accomplish these two purposes.

I trust many of you saw the picture of Joni that was shown in this area recently. There was that girl--attractive, athletic, skillful, looking forward to an effective life, and then through an accident paralyzed from the neck down unable to use her fingers and having to write by putting a pen in her mouth and using it in order to write. And yet she has developed the ability to draw pictures that are sufficiently good to make her living; she has been able to reach a point where she could accept what the Lord has given her and even rejoice in it to where she has brought to many the assurance of God's love. And she has accomplished even with her difficulties a witness that is heard by many throughout this country beyond what many of us may ever accomplish.

What do you have that you did not receive? Are you being faithful with what you have received? Are you accomplishing what God wants you to accomplish. If things go wrong are you becoming despondent and discouraged, or are you rejoicing in the Lord, and realizing as Paul said in Gal. 5:22, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and its desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep step with the Spirit." Let us pray: Our Father we thank you for what you have brought into our lives. We thank you for these machines you've given us to get around and be aware of the world we live in, and to effect that world through that instrument. There is great difference among them, but we know that it is all part of your plan. We thank you for the situation in which you've placed us. We know you have a purpose in it for our accomplishment for you and for our development as you wish us to develop. Help us never to boast in what we've accomplished because all we have we've received from you. Help us not to become discouraged because of what we are or our situation but to be faithful and step forward to accomplish your purpose for us. We ask...Amen.