

Monday, February 4 – *“When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’” (John 8:12)* The “light of life” that John is referring to is the light of God in you. When you make the decision to follow Jesus you are filled with the Holy Spirit. A side effect of this indwelling is the “light of life” that shines out from you. One of the ways that this “light of life” shines out from you is in the use of your talents. When you do that which God has created you to do and gifted you to do, the “light of life” shines out from you. A talent is so much more than just musical ability or mathematical skills or writing. There is the talent of hospitality, making people feel welcome and comfortable. There is the talent of organization, making sense of the confusion in life. We could go on and on. Today isn’t about what your talent might be, but the question of whether or not you are letting the “light of life” shine out from you. Be you and be it boldly!

Tuesday, February 5 – *“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.” (Ephesians 5:8)* There is a change that happens when you decide to follow Jesus. You move from darkness to light. Even though this is a very good change, it is change none-the-less and change is hard. This is why we are instructed to “live as children of light”. What is so special about a child? Why don’t we live as grown, mature adults of light? One of the reasons is that children lack the fears that adults have picked up through years of life. When was the last time that a hairbrush and a mirror became your microphone in front of adoring fans? When was the last time you acted out of your gifts, your desires, your dreams, your talents that God has given you without any fear of what others will think? Good chance it has been a while. That is exactly why you need to start living as a child of light. Be you and be it boldly!

Wednesday, February 6 – *“He must become greater; I must become less.” (John 3:30)* The upside-down way of Jesus strikes again. In order for you to be completely and totally you in Christ, you must become less and Jesus must become greater. That is a real head scratcher. Making the decision to follow Jesus isn’t about losing yourself. Conversely, the only way to truly find yourself is to make the decision to follow Jesus. Yet, in order to find yourself you must lose yourself. In order to live as a follower of Jesus one must let Jesus take the wheel (Thank you Carrie Underwood). In order to truly follow one must surrender. It is through this surrender that we are set free to discover and to become the person God created. It is through this surrender that we begin to live as opposed to simply having a life. It is through this surrender that we are able to discover, embrace and use our talents. Be you and be it boldly!

Thursday, February 7 – *“For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.” (Philippians 2:13)* Notice that this verse does not teach that it is God who works in you to simply act. It is God who works in you to “will and to act”. This is very important for our reflection this week because what is a talent but a will to do something. Think of everything that you are good at doing. Have you been good at it since the moment of your birth? Or, did you have a will to get good at it thus you worked at it and practiced it? Think about everything that you want to get better at doing right now? How are you going to get better? You are going to will yourself to practice, to try new things, to get better. Even your desire to get better at something is a gift from God. God has given you a will, a desire, an interest for some things. Don’t ignore them, for these are the talents that God wants you to perfect. Be you and be it boldly!

Friday, February 8 – *“I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being.” (Ephesians 3:16)* Discovering, acknowledging and implementing your talents on a daily basis is a tough assignment. None of us can successfully accomplish this on our own. The good news is we don’t have to do all of this on our own. God is waiting to help. God has a purpose for you. God has placed you right here and right now for a reason. You are uniquely and wonderfully made and there has never been and there never will be another you. If you don’t know what your talents might be, slow down this weekend and take note of your likes and dislikes. Pay attention to what gets you excited and what bores you to tears. Ask yourself this question, “If I could get better at doing something what would it be?” All of these are ways for you to figure out your talents. Most of all, spend some time this weekend in prayer about your talents. God won’t keep them from you. God wants you to be you and to be it boldly!