

Little Old Me

Do you ever wish you could do something BIG for the world? I mean something with lasting influence? You may feel as if what you do through your day doesn't amount to much in the big scheme of things. You look at your friends or family or those in the Christian spotlight who seem to have exciting jobs and callings, while yours pales in comparison. Well, I'd like to suggest that perhaps the problem doesn't lie with you or your calling.

The problem is how you see yourself.



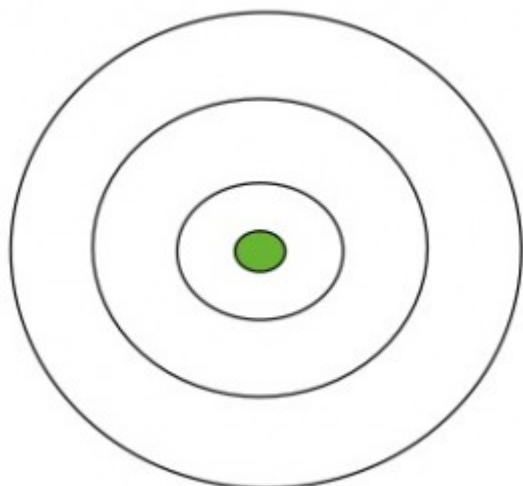
You're looking at yourself with your "worldly" eyes, rather than through your spiritual eyes as God sees you.

You see, the Bible tells us that God has given us all spiritual gifts that He wants us to use—not just during special times or events—but everyday (see Romans 12:3-8; 1Corinthians 12:8-10, 28; Ephesians 4:11). In the ordinary, in the boring, in the busy, in the slow, in the crazy times of our lives, He wants us to use these gifts. But how many of us are really doing that?

Recently, I've been challenged to rethink how I look at my days and my gifts.

I'm working through a Bible study called *Acts: An Invitation to Courageous Living*, written by two women at my church, Corinne Gunter and Julie Meiners. In Week 6, I was asked to

think about those people that God has placed in my sphere of influence, and the authors included a diagram (like the one below) in the Bible study. They said to put myself in the place of the green dot in the middle of the circle and then add on the circle the names of people in my life that I may have some influence over.



As I did that, I realized that there were a lot of names on the circle, people of various ages and stages of life, some even of different cultures. Some live close to me, some live farther away.

I then sensed God asking me how I might be able to minister to or influence these people He has put in my life, using the gifts He has given me. For example, I realized I could encourage the first-time mother on my list with a home-baked meal (using the gift of hospitality) to help her after she came home from the hospital. Intercession is another gift of mine, so I could certainly pray for a young person I know who is wandering far from the Lord. Exhortation is another gift, so I could schedule to meet with a teen girl I know to be a sounding board as she struggles with some decisions in her life.

Corinne and Julie challenged me to look at my life and open my eyes to the people God has put there. **What have I been missing? Who is God calling me to help, and what is He asking**

me to do?

I'd like to challenge you to do the same thing. Fill out your circle of influence. Ask God to show you who may be right under your nose that could benefit from some of your time and resources. What are you missing, maybe because you're looking for the "big" thing?

Well, God does has something big for each of us to do, and often times He has us start right where we are. What's He putting on your heart today?

Pray on!



Jane