

Special Things

1 Peter 2:9-10, Exodus 19:5, Matthew 13:44, 1 Corinthians 15:10, Luke 12:48

God has put something special in you. God has put eternal, divinely planted purpose in our hearts and we are alive for something special. When we make Jesus Lord of our life, he connects with us and brings his eternity and special purpose alive in our lives. What may be dormant, buried, squashed or unrefined, Jesus brings to life, and transforms us into the living stones with which he is building his church.

We are on earth for a special reason. God uses us for a special task and a special reason. One of the greatest challenges to our life is when the special things within us are unrealized. We can trust God and know that it is God and not ourselves who makes us and positions us to accomplish our special God-given tasks. Through Jesus, God has done something special in you and calls us his special people so that we may proclaim his praises.

God treasures us. Jesus gave everything to redeem each of us. There is treasure inside you – to be found in Jesus corporately as his church and each of us personally. God uses people in our lives, who can see the treasure within us and gives them a special appreciation that unearths his possibilities in our lives, taking us from obscurity and bringing us into the special purpose that God has for you. Our God finds the precious, unique, rare, valuable special things in us and causes our hidden, uncut, unpolished treasure to emerge in new ways.

God's favour is towards us. Not just ordinary favour, but special favour. Sometimes we can feel like we just can't get ahead. But we can trust God has special favour for his promises to come alive in our life and he enables us with supernatural strength to overcome all that conspires against us to hold us back and keep us behind. We work hard to obtain his promises, but God's supernatural favour works in us and he strengthens us with his Holy Spirit.

God is with us and helps us. God gives us special abilities, special joy, and special rest to accomplish the special things before us. God gives us spiritual, natural and ministry gifts to carry the special responsibility before us. He gives us special joy and causes us to be a joy for those around us. Together, let us always partner with his Holy Spirit and trust him to complete the special work he began in us as we find our special rest in his beautiful presence.

Church Highlights

- Hillsong Conference, register online: hillsong.com/conference
- Hillsong Foundation Breakfast: On at your Campus 8am Saturday 18 April. See myhillsong for details.
- Mother's Day (Sunday 10th May) – We will be celebrating and honouring all the mums! Mobilise your group to bring mums to church on this special occasion.

Pray Together

- Salvations, that people come to know Jesus
- Pastor Brian and Bobbie Houston
- Colour Conference

Nation Builders

We can make a difference as a connect group by praying for the Nation Builders causes we support and by giving together. Our offering extends the reach of our church locally to reach and influence the world for Jesus.

Special Things

Connection and Action

Questions to promote conversation and connection

Q: Who are some particularly gifted people that you admire? What kind of gifts or special abilities do they display?

Q: Have you discovered your God-given ability? What is it?

Q: How did you discover your God-given ability?

Q: What have you done to develop your God-given ability?

Q: What specific things will you do this year to either discover or develop your gifts?

Bible and Belief

Questions to help believers develop a biblical world view

Read Luke 12:48

Q: When Jesus says “to whom much is given,” what do you think he is referring to?

Q: When he goes on to say “much will be demanded,” what do you think he means?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:10

Q: What does Paul mean when he says: “by the grace of God I am what I am?”

Q: What kind of “effect” did the grace of God have in Paul’s life?

Q: What do you think about Paul’s statement about “working harder than all of them?” How much is our hard work necessary for something special to be achieved? How do we guard against “hard work” falling into striving?

Q: How does this balance with grace?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Q: What kind of things, do you think, count as special or divine abilities (what Paul calls gifts, service, works)?

Q: How do we discover what our special gift or ability is?

Q: Are some people more specially gifted than others?

Growing Leadership

Questions to help people grow as leaders

Q: Do you consider “leadership” to be one of your special abilities? Why?

Q: Can someone who is not “specially gifted” for leadership grow as a leader? How?

Q: What is the relationship between a God-given gift and our hard work, between talent and practise?

Q: There are specially gifted people who don’t make it, and what would appear to be “averagely” gifted people who do. Why is this do you think?

Q: As a leader, how can we help a person uncover their gift or special ability?

Pastoral Care

- We have a pastoral care team at church to walk alongside people through life’s challenges
- With their permission, should anyone in your connect group have experience sickness, death of a loved one, marriage challenges, or surgeries, please contact our church office:

Sydney 02 8853 5353, Melbourne 03 9720 2099, Brisbane 07 3422 8500, Newcastle 02 4927 1888