



**GIFTED**

Being the Gift

# God Gives Gifts to Others through Us

For example:

- Healing
- Prophecy



# Being Qualified

Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! <sup>25</sup> All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. <sup>26</sup> So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. <sup>27</sup> I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.

(1 Corinthians 9:24-27 NLT)



# *Disqualified*

*adokimos*

- Worthless
- Rejected as false
- Disreputable

# *Qualified*

*dokimos*

- Person of real worth
- Approved
- Showing exceptional worth or character



# Motivation Matters

Instead of:

- Anger
- Fear
- Self-promotion

I serve out of:

- Love
- Duty
- Passion
- Joy



# What If We Aren't Motivated?

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# What If We Aren't Motivated?

- Maybe we're afraid
- Maybe we're discouraged
- Maybe we don't believe God can transform us
- Maybe we choose to sin again and again
- Maybe we just want to slip into heaven eventually but be our own god now



# Falling in Love with Jesus

Nothing is more practical than finding God, that is, than falling in love (with Jesus) in a quite absolute, final way. What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning, what you will do with your evenings, how you will spend your weekends, what you read, who you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in love, stay in love and it will decide everything.

– Pedro Arrupe, S.J.



# Falling in Love with Jesus

- Camp Skylandia
- God's gift awakened in me a strong desire



# Seeking Jesus: God's Part and Our Part

- Seeking Jesus is the best thing we can do to fall more deeply in love with him
- We seek God because God first seeks us
- Being in love with Jesus is God's gift of grace
- Our efforts are necessary but not sufficient



# There Are Things We Can Do to Seek Jesus

- Spend time with God/Pray
- Fill our minds with scriptural truth
- Immerse ourselves in Christian community
- Practice spiritual disciplines, for example:
  - Service
  - Silence and solitude
  - Worship
  - Simplicity
  - Fasting
  - Celebration



# Invitation

Consider two questions:

- How much do you desire to fall more deeply in love with Jesus?
- What is one step you will take this week to seek Jesus?

