

## **If You're Bad At It....**

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### **... it shouldn't be part of your ministry.**

Regardless of where you are in your career as a minister, you first need to establish or remind yourself of a central aphorism of God's game plan for His servants:  
Build your ministry around God's sanctified gifts to you. It is only then that you produce fruit of worthy and excellent service. Only then do you please and glorify the One who designed you.

Define your ministry. Everything outside of you're your gifts is outside your ministry. You aren't motivated to do it, or aren't competent to do it, or both.

No whining, please! Yes, it's true that we all have to do things we aren't good at, or aren't motivated to do. It's true that sacrifice is part of the walk. But don't build your ministry around your weaknesses. Don't spend your time as a one-on-one pastor if you aren't one and if a day of counseling makes you so tense that it drives you to watching murder mysteries.

You don't bless those you serve by consistently trying to do what you aren't gifted to do. Get smart. How many hundred helpers are there waiting to share in the ministry, if only you match their gifts with the tasks that need doing?

Share your conclusions about your gifts with one or two trusted friends in your church both to reality- test and sharpen your findings. (If you need help, read our books.) Then think through how some of the critical parts of your ministry, which aren't your forte, could be performed by others on staff or in the congregation. If your part ends up kind of thin, consider going to work outside the church part time and freeing up funds to support others.

Present these facts to your governing body, along with Ephesians 2:10:" For you are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus, to devote yourself to the good works for which god has designed you".

You are God's idea and you'd better build your ministry around His intention because you are accountable for the use of what He gave you.

Don't back away from that destiny. Only through your giftedness can you serve and love God with all your heart, and with all your mind, and with all your strengths, and with all your soul. There is no Plan B.