

Can God Use Me? Will He?

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The answer is yes and yes. God can and will use you but only if and when we avail ourselves to be used by Him. There is a posture we must live in order to avail ourselves and that posture is humility.

Our greatest example of humility is found in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ: Read **Philippians 2:5-8**. How does this passage of Scripture speak to your heart?

In our relationships with one another and in our own personal walk with God humility is the vital key. I want to encourage you to look up the following Scriptures in your Bible or on [www.biblegateway](http://www.biblegateway.com) to see what God's word says about humility:

Proverbs 11:1-3
Proverbs 15:33
Proverbs 22:4
Zephaniah 2:3
Acts 20:19
Colossians 3:12
James 3:13
1 Peter 5:5

Which one of these Scriptures most speaks to you? Any changes that need to be made in your humility walk? Don't ignore it. Turn to God in prayer now and surrender that area over to Him.

There is a passage of Scripture in the book of Isaiah that causes my head and heart to bow before the Lord. I invite you to read Isaiah chapter 6 in your Bible. Below I want to reference a portion of it.

Isaiah 6:3-8 (NIV)

³ And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." ⁴ At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and

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the temple was filled with smoke. ⁵ “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.” ⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷ With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.” ⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

Go back and read verse 5 again. What do you see in Isaiah? _____

As a result of that humility we see something awesome take place in verse 8. The humility Isaiah showed in the presence of the LORD God Almighty was pleasing to GOD. Isaiah didn't act as if he was without sin as many often do but rather the presence of the LORD was so humbling to Him that he had to acknowledge his unclean lips. God dealt with that by accepting his repentance and removed his guilt. Isaiah's sin was atoned for and as such God was able to use him powerfully.

We must be careful about thinking that we can go into the presence of God in prayer asking Him for things without first allowing the Holy Spirit to deal with the areas of our lives that are not pleasing to God. Part of the prayer Jesus taught the disciples modeled for us repentance. We all struggle with wrong thoughts, words and behaviors. We all have emotions that need to be managed by the Holy Spirit and therefore we all have things DAILY that we need to take to God in prayer. Anyone who says otherwise is not being honest with themselves. God knows what we struggle with anyway. Why hide it. Go to Him with a humbled and repentant heart and allow Him to cleanse and restore you.

How does Isaiah's action affect you? How does God's response affect you? How does this passage speak to your personal life? Pause for a moment and ask God if you are living your Christian life with all humility. Is there anything that you need to repent for? Don't delay. This moment is the time. God will receive your genuine repentance through Christ.

Pause and pray...

I had a very difficult time believing that God had a divine purpose for my life. For many years, coming out of the childhood I had; I didn't see myself through God's eyes and as a result I certainly couldn't imagine He'd want to use me in any way. What did I have to offer? What could this used-goods female offer to God and His kingdom? I had no idea that when He looked at me He didn't see what the world saw or even how I felt about myself. He saw His Daughter; His child, a person made in His image, a person He created to do great things in and through the power of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

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After many years of struggling and then ultimately being healed from the hurts in my youth and early adult years, then I was able to see myself the way Abba Father viewed me and it was then I found myself responding to His call. My response was yes Lord.

He's been with me ever since guiding me through each day, helping me overcome every obstacle, keeping my feet to His righteous path, filling me with all wisdom and correcting me when I disobey Him or get off path. I'm so thankful for the loving Father that He is. He is the same for you if you desire that relationship with Him. Don't wait until you think you have it all together to begin to live in love with God. You need Him now while you don't have it all together because He's the only one who can help you.

If you are *ready* and *willing* to be used of God then He'll make you *able*. Trust Him.

Do you think that the people in the Bible whom God used in great ways were free of problems? Absolutely not! Do you think they didn't have character flaws and need God's wisdom, direction and correction? Of course. Do you think that even the ones counted as righteous didn't have times of struggle in their hearts and minds (thoughts)? Yes they did. They were human beings just as we are but the key to those individuals is that they lived lives of humility. They humbled themselves before the LORD realizing their need for Him and their hunger to love and please Him. They appreciated His heart and hand in their lives. Do you?

Pause and pray and thank God for His heart and hand at work in your life.

There are many examples in the Bible of men and women that either felt unqualified or unworthy to be used by God yet, He used them. David as a young shepherd boy probably never saw himself as king. Moses couldn't believe God wanted to send him to free God's people from slavery in Egypt. I'm sure Noah was a bit surprised at the mega assignment put into his hands by God to build an arc.

Let us not forget Esther (an entire book was written about her), who took a stand for her Jewish people. She called for a fast for three days and determined herself that at the end of the time of fasting and praying she would approach the king and if she died she died. This was a time when the king's wife could not approach him without permission. Esther had a God-ordained assignment and nothing would stand in the way!

I'm often touched by Hannah and the character she displayed to pray to conceive a child with her husband even in her anguish over being barren she pressed in and trusted God. With all faith and humility she told God she knew He would open her womb and give her a son and as a result she dedicated her son back to the Lord to be used in His service **EVEN BEFORE** she conceived and guess what? God touched her womb and when she and her husband came together Samuel was born. He ultimately became a powerful prophet for the Lord. By the way, it was Samuel who ultimately anointed David the young shepherd boy, as king.

We all are incredibly humbled by the Virgin Mary engaged to be married and faced with a precious and powerful privilege to bring forth the life of the Son of God through the Holy Spirit

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coming upon her and causing a virgin birth. All during a time when women would be stoned to death for conceiving a child while engaged to a man and the man is not the father! In the face of all of that what was Mary's response? "I am the handmaiden of the Lord. Be it unto me according to Thy word." Talk about being used by God for His glory!

We certainly can't forget Paul. Once known as Saul, a murderer of Christians, but once he had a visitation from Jesus on the road to Damascus his name and his life changed forever. The Apostle Paul was used by God, inspired by His Holy Spirit to write the bulk of the New Testament! A powerful witness for the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the life and legacy of Paul.

I'd like to share a woman with you in the Bible who is often overlooked by people but was especially known to GOD. I pray her life will encourage you that at any age or stage in life we can be used by God in great ways. **Let's look at her life together:**

If you don't look closely you may just overlook one of the most precious women in the Bible. She is not often spoken of or revered. She was very old (84 yrs old) and had lived with her husband for seven years after their marriage and then became a widow when we come upon her in **Luke 2:36-38**. She never remarried and remained celibate all her days.

She is not often used as an example for women to follow after but in fact this woman of years was also a woman of great wisdom because she held the key to God's heart. She was consistent, reliable, gracious and serious about her relationship and time with God. In His eyes she was a worshipper with a heart for prayer, someone who loved Him with her whole heart and knew His love intimately.

Her name is Anna. Her very name means grace. The Bible calls her a prophetess.

As a woman who loves God and loves my time with Him in prayer I have often read the short verses about Anna. I have also been married over 20 years and like anyone else I don't want to be a widow but I'm drawn to Anna. What a true heart of worship she had not to complain about her stage in life. Since the Bible indicates she was married for seven years we know she was a much younger woman when that took place therefore she had been a widow for a long time. She had made the decision not to remarry but to remain celibate and committed to GOD in worship, prayer and fasting at the temple day and night. God indeed was using Anna's life for His glory and she understood the privilege of her relationship with Him.

Anna also received the great honor of laying her eyes on then "baby" Jesus (Yahweh saves) when Joseph and Mary brought Him to the temple. Anna received what she had desired most---to lay eyes on the Messiah and to tell others that He had come to redeem his people! She had a mission to last her the rest of her days.

Anna's life was not in vain. In her older years she continued to bear fruit for GOD. She didn't allow her circumstance of being widowed early and for so long to hinder her but rather she understood the call of God on her life. She knew that God was using her life for His glory and she embraced her God and her call. She's a woman not to be avoided but to be respected.

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There are endless examples. I hope you will take the time to go to your Bible and read about the people above and many others to encourage you. Can God use you? Yes! Will He? Yes! Avail yourself to Him and walk with all humility and watch the incredible ways He uses your life! If you need prayer please visit with me at www.lisashawministries.org

I'm praying for you.

With compassion,

Lisa Shaw

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