

GOD'S GIFTS ARE IRREVOCABLE NO MATTER WHAT

ser4046 God in the Movies, Pt 1

June 6, 2021 E & L

I. (HOOK) POINT OF INTRIGUE

A. Have you ever sat next to a person who has had too much to drink, or is blatantly living in sin, or whose



language doesn't sound exactly Christian? Yet, they are talking about God profoundly. Now, granted, Satan can speak of God profoundly; he did so when he tempted Jesus—*Matthew 4, Luke 4 & Mark 1*. (show photo) But this person next to you isn't Satan; he, or she, is not trying to trick you or lead you into sin. They are speaking sincerely about spiritual things, with keen insight.

B. You ask, "How can that be?" The answer can be found in numerous illustrations both in Biblical text and narrative, history, and yes, even in the movies.

II. (BOOK) TODAY'S TEXT

A. Let's begin today's text; it's the heartbeat of the sermon.

Romans 11:28-29 (KJV)

²⁸ Concerning the gospel ... ²⁹ For the *gifts* and the *calling* of God are **without repentance*.

NOTE: The NKJV uses the word **irrevocable*. Literally, this verse reads, "... the gifts and the calling of God 'are not taken back.'"

In ***Psalms 139: 7-10 (NCV)***, we read:

Where can I go to get away from Your Spirit?

Where can I run from You?

⁸ If I go up to the heavens, You are there.

If I lie down in the grave, You are there.

⁹ If I rise with the sun in the east

and settle in the west beyond the sea,

¹⁰ even there You would guide me.

With Your right hand You would hold me.

III. (LOOK) THERE ARE AT LEAST *TWENTY-ONE GIFTS, OFFICES, AND MANIFESTATIONS OF THE SPIRIT* (NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH THE *NINE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT*).

A. Time does not allow us to look at all these gifts this morning, so I'd like to mention ten of them.

1. Serving (Romans 12:7)

2. Teaching (Romans 12:7)

3. Encouraging (Romans 12:8)
4. Contributing (Romans 12:8)
5. Leading/leadership (Romans 12:8)
6. Wisdom (I Corinthians 12:8)
7. Faith (1 Corinthians 12:9)
8. Discernment (I Corinthians 12:10)
9. Administration (I Corinthians 12:28)
10. Pastoring (Ephesians 4:11)

NOTE: Just like a gift must be opened to appropriate its value, the same is true of God-given gifts—they must be pursued, honed, and exercised to be perfected. But they are ALWAYS there and cannot be taken away.

FURTHERMORE, as shocking as this may sound, sin does not remove the gift; the gift is still within us. However, because of our own guilt and disobedience, we cease to operate in our God-given gift. (Remember Gina referencing ***Romans 6:23:*** “Sin may not kill us, but it will kill our dreams.”)

B. There are numerous Biblical illustrations:

1. *Moses.* Although he was a murderer and later in life, profaned the name of God in front of an entire nation—his gifts of *leadership* and *administration* were never taken from him.
2. *Tamar.* Although she prostituted herself to her father-in-law—her gift of *faith* was never taken from

her. In truth, she is named, because of her faith, in the genealogy of Christ.

3. *King David.* Although he was an adulterer and murderer—his gifts to lead, show mercy, and exhort were never taken from him. In fact, he wrote more Psalms after his sin with Bathsheba than before.

4. *Simon called Peter.* Although he denied Jesus and was rebuked by Paul for siding with the Judaizers—his gift to *preach* and *evangelize* was never taken from him.

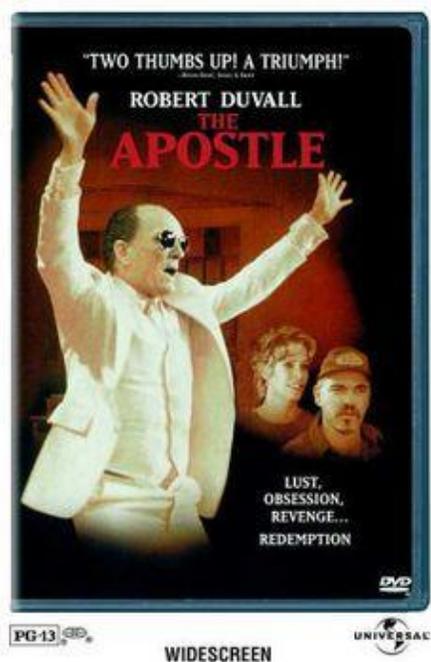
C. (TOOK-1) Grasp this! Don't let your pride stand in the way. You may feel as if whatever gifts God gave you are now trashed because you've blown it, they are not. Are you an adulterer, murderer, blasphemer, denier ... "whatever?" Get up! Dust off your gifts. Open them up! Use them for the Kingdom.

THE OTHER WEDNESDAY AT GUARANTEED CHRISTIAN GROWTH, I said to one of our members, "I've missed you the last couple of weeks. Good to see you!" She corrected me and said it was three weeks, then went on to say, "I relapsed." I replied, "That was yesterday. You're here tonight, and that's what counts. The Bible says, 'A righteous man may fall seven times (completion), but rises again'." Everyone goes down one way or another more times than we'd like to admit. But the champions get up after they've fallen.

NEVER LET THE DEVIL (NOT NJ DEVILS) TELL YOU YOU'VE LOST YOUR GOD-GIVEN GIFT. That's what he wants you to think and believe. Listen to your heavenly Father, who says,

“Your calling and gifts can never be taken away.” You may choose to bury them, but that is NOT God’s choice. Get up from where you’re pouting, put a smile on your face and start living out your *calling* and exercising your *gift*.

IV. HOLLYWOOD GETS IT RIGHT. LET ME REWORD THAT -- ROBERT DUVALL GET’S IT RIGHT.



A brief background: “The Apostle” was years in the making. ([show photo](#)) Major movie studios said no to it. Old associates who promised to help, bailed, so Robert Duvall wrote, directed, and played the leading character. The late Roger Ebert, reviewing *The Apostle*, writes:

“Sonny is different from most movie preachers. He's not a fraud, for one thing; ... Sonny has a one-on-one relationship with God and takes his work seriously. In the movie's opening scene, the preacher pauses at an auto accident to ask one of the victims to accept Jesus Christ Sonny is flawed, with a quick temper, but he's a good man, and the film is about his struggle back to redemption after his anger explodes.”

Euliss F. “Sonny” Dewey is a down-to-earth Pentecostal preacher whose gifts build a church and bring people into the Kingdom. His wife (Farrah Fawcett) has taken up with the youth minister and wants a divorce. She’s shrewd and shady maneuvering Sonny out of a job and the church.

Sonny gets drunk, wades into a Little League game being coached by the youth minister and ... well, let’s pick up there.

(Video: *Billy’s Passed on to Glory*)



Sonny runs for his life and ends up in a tiny town in the Louisiana bayou where he changes his name to “The Apostle E. F.” **(show photo)** Here, he takes over a small rural church given him by a retired black minister. The primarily black congregation is

small—but the calling and gifts are irrevocable, and the church begins to grow because of a local 40-watt radio station. As fate would have it, AM Radio can travel miles, and God only knows where it lands. Let’s watch!

(Video: *Radio Waves in Texas*)

Apostle E. F. is taken to prison, where his calling and gifts are irrevocable. Here the Apostle E. F. is teaching those incarcerated that praise changes the atmosphere. Let's watch it!

([Video: Praise Changes the Atmosphere](#))

V. EVERY SERMON SHOULD HAVE A HOOK, BOOK, LOOK, AND TOOK.

A. Here's the "took." This is what I believe the Spirit wants to say to you:

1. No matter what you've done or where you are, your God-given calling and gifts are irrevocable.
2. No matter where you are or what you've done, praise changes the environment.

B. However, to operate in your God-given gifts, that Gift must live in you. Have you received Jesus for the remission of sins and asked Him into your heart? This is the starting place.

V. INVITATION

Admit– your sins have separated you from God.

(Psa 14:1-3; Rom 3: 23);

Believe – that God did something about your sins through Jesus Christ. (The final Pascal Lamb/Messiah.)

(Lev 17:10; Heb 9: 19-22);

Commit – yourself to His righteousness by confessing Jesus as Lord and Savior. (Isa 53:5; Col 1:22);

Do it today! (Isa 49:8; 2 Cor 6:2).

Father in Heaven, I'm sorry for the things I've done that are wrong: I am a sinner; forgive me. Thank You for loving me and sending your Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for my sin. Holy Spirit come into my heart; Jesus be my Lord and Savior. I give You my life. Amen.

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