

PURSUING OUR CAPACITY

A person with a backpack stands on a rocky mountain peak, looking out over a vast, hazy landscape of rolling hills and valleys under a clear sky.

What is God Given Capacity?

Why 'Pursuing' Matters?

To Pursue...

“Suggests a continuing effort to chase, reach, attain, or overtake someone or something.”

Synonyms: *Seek, run after, persist, search out, track down...*

Proverbs 15:9 NLT “The Lord detests the way of the wicked, but he loves **those who pursue godliness.**”

Why 'Capacity' Matters?

Capacity is...

“The amount that something can produce, or the maximum amount that something can contain.”

Synonyms: *Expanse, quantity, scope, size, space, extent, latitude, reach magnitude, measure, range, retention, carrying ability...*

Psalm 119:32 NLT “I will pursue your commands, for you expand my understanding.”

Why 'Our...' Matters?

Our, is...

“A pronoun that refers to possession and ‘belonging’...”

Implications:

Suggests *Personal (my)*, and *Church (collective)* ownership!

Ezra 10:4 NIV **“Rise up; this matter is in your hands. We will support you, so take courage and do it.”** *(Shecaniah challenged Ezra)*

**“Most human beings
have an almost infinite
capacity for taking
things for granted.”**

Aldous Huxley

1. Capacity is God's Gift... Needs Discovery

Judges 13:2-5 NLT

² In those days a man named Manoah from the tribe of Dan lived in the town of Zorah. His wife was **unable to become pregnant**, and they had no children. ³ The angel of the LORD appeared to Manoah's wife and said, "Even though you have been unable to have children, you will soon become pregnant and give birth to a son. ⁴ **So be careful**; you must not drink wine or any other alcoholic drink nor eat any forbidden food. ⁵ You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and **his hair must never be cut**. For he will be dedicated to God as a Nazirite from birth. He will begin to **rescue Israel from the Philistines.**"

2. Godly Capacity... Needs Ongoing Wisdom

Judges 13:24-25 NLT

²⁴ When her son was born, she named him Samson. And the LORD blessed him as he grew up.²⁵ ...**the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him...**

Judges 14:5-6 NLT

⁵ As Samson and his parents were going down to Timnah, a young lion suddenly attacked Samson... ⁶ At that moment **the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon him**, and he ripped the lion's jaws apart with his bare hands... as easily as if it were a young goat. But he didn't tell his father or mother about it.

3. Godly Capacity... Enemy Wants to Destroy it!

Judges 16:4-6 NLT

⁴ Some time later **Samson fell in love** with a woman named Delilah, who lived in the valley of Sorek. ⁵ The rulers of the Philistines went to her and said, “Entice Samson to tell you what makes him so strong and how he can be overpowered and tied up securely. Then **each of us will give you 1,100 pieces of silver.**”

⁶ So Delilah said to Samson, “Please tell me what makes you so strong and what it would take to tie you up securely.”

4. God's Grace... Capacity Can Be Restored

Judges 16:21-23, 28 NLT

²¹ So the Philistines captured him and gouged out his eyes. They took him to Gaza, where he was bound with bronze chains and forced to grind grain in the prison.²² But before long, his hair began to grow...

²³ The Philistine rulers held a great (*temple*) festival...

²⁸ Then Samson prayed to the LORD, “**Sovereign Lord, remember me again. O God, please strengthen me just one more time.** With one blow let me pay back the Philistines for the loss of my two eyes.”

**“The thief comes only to steal and kill
and destroy;
I have come that they may have life,
and have it to the full.”**

Jesus... John 10:10 NIV

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