



Super Heroes!

Who is your favorite superhero? Why? I'm guessing that I just started a rather heated discussion with a few of you! Some of you said: "Superman." After all he is the oldest and truest of superheroes, and the one for whom the term was created. He first appears in

comics on June 30, 1938. Some of you said: "Batman." Those Superman fanatics would fight you over that answer. They would contend that he is not even a superhero, that he doesn't have any superpowers. He's just a rich guy with a bunch of cool gadgets. But if that's the case, forget Batman, he and Bruce Wayne's 9 Billion dollars are not even in the top 3. The richest is Black Panther who boasts 90 Trillion in assets. Then there are the "dark-themed-only" people who for whatever reason seem to like only the villains. And, of course, there are the historians who claim that just because Superman was the first "so-called" superhero, he wasn't first. That honor goes to Gladiator, who appeared in 1930. Some say Superman is based on this character.

So, what even makes a superhero? Super-powers? Adventures? Appearance in a comic strip? Fighting skills? Archenemies? A cool costume? Even those could be debated – but this one I think I know.... NONE OF IT IS REAL. They are "people" on paper. They are fictitious. They are made up. Bruce Wayne's 9 Billion or The Panther's 90 Trillion are just words. There isn't a penny actually owned by either (So, why not toss another couple of zero's after the character's financial statement if you're creating one?). They are made-up characters. You are not.

You were created by God for a purpose! God did not create anything by accident or without a purpose and the human species is the only thing He created to be like Him (Genesis 1:27) and your ultimate purpose is to become like Him again (1 John 2:6; 1 Peter 2:21; Ephesians 4:22-24; Philippians 2:5; 3:10). One really wise man said it this way in Ecclesiastes 12:13 "...fear God and keep His commandments for this is the whole duty of man"

If you had a super-power what would it be? Ability to fly? Transport in time? Read minds? Lift cars or busses? How about Invisibility?

Listen! You will probably never lift a car (Matchbox cars don't count), but in a very true sense, you have super-powers! Let me be clear, not the kind that came from the "laying on of the apostles' hands" (Acts 8:18; 2 Timothy 1:6). But hear me out. James is solid, every good gift is from above (James 1:17). If anything good happens to you, God is always the source (Acts 17:25; Romans 11:33-36). And if you have a talent, God gave it to you (1 Corinthians 12:18). If you have what we'd call a natural ability that can be grown or a trait that can be developed, or a skill that can be honed, it is from God.

To be sure, you can misuse it (Acts 26:19; Matthew 25:14-30), but it was given to you to give back to God's service within God's Will (i.e. God would not give you a skill for the purpose of disobeying His revealed Word or Will). But that, that thing, that pull, that thrill, that excitement, fulfillment, that is your super-power. Use it well (Colossians 3:17). A very large part of the puzzle of lifelong faithfulness is finding this passion, skill, talent, "super-power" and then developing it and using it in your service to God. And when you do that you will find tremendous fulfillment.

Discuss

1. Who have been the super-heroes in your spiritual life?
2. Every good gift is from God. It appears the sin that lead the people in Romans 1 to the debased lives they chose began with a lack of thankfulness (Romans 1:21). What are some of the good gifts God has blessed you and the youth with you with?
3. Discuss the difference in the Gifts of the First Century and the gifts of today. Discuss the similarities.
4. What does it mean that “God would not give you a skill for the purpose of disobeying His revealed Word or Will?”
5. How can you figure out what your talents are and how to use them for God?
6. In what way(s) is it fulfilling to find your talent and use it?

-Dale Jenkins

