

THE OVERLOOKED PIECE

Anything you want to be . . .

by Mary Sharon Moore

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The historic election of Senator Barack Obama to the presidency of the United States has given rise to new hope in the hearts of many young people, especially children and the marginalized, who awaken to the inspiring words, “You too can be anything you want to be.”

Whenever someone of prominence becomes the “first” in some new role, that hope seems affirmed—“*Yes, I too can be anything I want to be.*”

I have never felt comfortable with this notion, that I can be anything I want to be. I have achieved a certain age, old enough to know that I will never be “anything I want to be.” I tried, and failed miserably.

And that’s the point. “*Anything I want to be*” is about me. It’s up to me to go for it, to beat the odds, to achieve. Our world is full of celebrities who are famous for being famous. We mistake titles and trophies for something more important.

But the vocational question is: What does God want me to be? Baptized and anointed in the Holy Spirit, you are incapable of not becoming what God desires. Maybe not

fully in this moment or even this year, and maybe not in the way you pictured it. But God’s willing for your life ultimately cannot be thwarted!

What are some elements that ensure your success in God’s plan for your life? Obedience (listening with the ears of your heart), faithful friendship with Jesus, openness to new possibilities, and the courage to test those new possibilities in the light of faith.

Your vocation is the four-point intersection of (1) God’s desiring, (2) your desiring, (3) your spiritual gifts, and (4) your place in this world at this time.

Put your heart with the heart of God. If God calls you to lead a nation, like the prophets of old you will not be able to run from this calling. If God calls you to take leadership in your own community, your own household, you will not be able to not do it.

God’s Spirit is more sure than any plan you can dream up. In 2009, commit yourself to trust God’s Spirit, and then act accordingly.

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