

## Knowing Your “A” Game

By Dr. Gregory Wiens



This last week I had an old friend tell me that I must really hate my job! That was because we were discussing a thorny credentials issue. I quickly responded to him that I actually love the opportunity I have to work with Florida Church of God Ministries. This is because there is real convergence between my gifts and the resources needed to be a part of leading this ministry. Now to be honest, there surely are some parts that go along with this position that don't fully excite me, but that is true of any position. No matter what our jobs are we always have:

1. Some roles we really enjoy—our A-game,
2. Some roles we can tolerate—our B-game, and
3. Some roles will simply drive us crazy—our C-game.

So what about you? Do you have a passion in the calling that you are fulfilling? Usually it isn't completely all one way or the other. In other words, we usually don't get to spend all of our time in our A-game, nor our C-game; but it most often is some combination of the three. So answer how much time in a typical day do you spend in each of these three categories? Passion usually comes from the time we spend in our A-game.

However, we all have to spend time in activity that would fall into either our B or C game categories. The problem is if we are not spending enough time in our A game generating energy, passion and fulfillment in our lives, the time in our B game becomes laborious. Then, we simply try to survive the C game activity.

Effectiveness comes from operating out of our passions. We will be doing our best work, seeing the most fruit and significantly expanding the Kingdom of God when we operate in our giftedness. Ironically what entails our A, B or C game activities vary considerably for each of us. Our gifts, personalities, history, strengths and calling shape what would fall into each of these areas.

If you are struggling in your sense of calling it may be that the role in the church that you are currently serving simply requires activities that are not in your A game. This is one of the reasons that God calls specific individuals to specific churches at specific times. Their A game is what is most needed in that church at that time.

From my experience, your ability to fulfill your calling has a lot to do with your giftedness. When we are in the first half of our ministry we spend a lot of time figuring out what activities fit into each of these three categories. As we age we should become clearer on what fits into each of these categories. We then clarify where these activities lie, and our concept of a call becomes more clearly defined.

I would suggest that it would benefit you (and others who work around you) to spend some time identifying which kinds of activities fall into each of these categories. I have done this and it has allowed me to thoroughly enjoy the ministry of Florida Church of God Ministries. I have learned

to hire staff more precisely to the areas of my B and C games. I have also learned to know what drains me and what enervates me, and to plan my calendar accordingly.

Within the past few years I have heard pastors say they can't leave to find another pastorate because they are upside down in their home mortgage. Others have said their wives have too good of a job and can't afford to leave it. Still others have said their children are several years away from completing school and they want to stay until their schooling is completed.

As I hear this from pastors, I wonder how in touch they are with their own A game and God's sense of call on their lives. *Matthew 6.25-34* is quite clear that as we are obedient to the call of God, he will take care of many of these things. Pastoral Ministry is a risky business for sure. I have gone long periods of time not being paid, I have had to leave homes that I did not know how the mortgage would get paid, and my kids did have to change schools in their high school years. There are simply no guarantees that everything will work out perfectly with every move you are called to make.

However, there is a guarantee that God will be with us, and that as we walk by faith and not by sight (*2 Corinthians 5.7*) we will experience the blessing of God. The advantage of getting older according to Dr. Robert Clinton (*The Making of a Leader*) is that eventually you reach a point where the ministry requires what your A game offers. This is called convergence and leads to fruitful and effective ministry. However, according to Clinton many of us will never experience convergence in ministry because we refuse to continue to change and grow. When we refuse to allow mentors to speak into our lives or we stop learning through God's Spirit, convergence becomes farther away.

I love working with the staff at Florida Church of God Ministries. Yes there are some B game and even some C game activities that I have to do. However as a team, we work together to allow each other to focus where we are strong and avoid where we are weak. As we continue to grow in this process we allow God to more clearly define our callings.