

ncff Engage YOUR TALENT



Last Sunday, NCFE began a 4-week Biblical message series called “**ENGAGE**.” The point of the study is to help us see how vitally important it is for every follower of Jesus to fully engage in and with the Church of Jesus Christ! One way to do this is through the use of our talents. You see, when you were physically born into this world, the Lord gifted you with unique DNA. God also saw to it that you were supplied with various teachers and experiences along-the-way for the development of your personal skills and abilities. The result is that you’ve grown a set of **natural talents** which have allowed you to become proficient at getting certain necessary things done in your life. Additionally, when you were spiritually born again by surrendering your life to the Lord Jesus as your God and Savior, at that moment, the Holy Spirit supernaturally equipped you with one or more **spiritual talents** referred to in the Bible as “spiritual gifts” (1 [Corinthians 12:1-11](#)). It is this unique mixture of our natural talents, combined with our spiritual talents, that is a big part of God shaping who we are and how we are to be relationally involved in **JESUS’ CHURCH**. In today’s message, we’ll focus on using our God-given talents as a crucial way of becoming truly immersed in the life, mission, health and joy of Jesus’ Church.

WHY WE ENGAGE WITH JESUS’ CHURCH

1. ([Acts 20:28](#)) Nothing matters more to Jesus than ...
2. ([Revelation 19:7](#)) If we’re going to be like Jesus, then His Church ...
3. (1 [Peter 2:5](#)) Spiritual sacrifices are our ...
4. ([Matthew 25:21](#)) The more we engage in Jesus’ Church ...

ENGAGE OUR NATURAL TALENTS

1. **Principle:** (1 [Corinthians 12:1, 4-7](#)) The Holy Spirit gives each Christian at least one spiritual gift to help Jesus’ Church be and do all we can ...
2. **Examples:** (Exodus 35:10, 36:2; Acts 9)

ENGAGE OUR SPIRITUAL TALENTS

1. **Principle** (1 [Corinthians 12:1, 4-7](#)) The Holy Spirit gives each Christian at least one spiritual gift to help Jesus’ Church be and do all we can ...
2. **Examples:** ([Romans 12:6-8](#); 1 [Corinthians 12:8-10](#); 1 [Peter 4:9-11](#))

EXPERIENCE SUPERNATURAL IMPACT

1. ([Exodus 31:1-11](#)) On Oneself:
2. ([Acts 9:40-42](#)) On Others:
3. ([Matthew 26:6-13](#)) On One’s Legacy:

FOR THOUGHT & TALK

In your small group take 5-10 minutes to review the main points of Pastor John’s message. Discuss the following questions, taking your time as the Spirit leads, realizing you don’t have to cover them all.

1. Read aloud 1 [Peter 2:5](#). This message series is called “**ENGAGE**.” What is the difference between fully engaging in Jesus’ church versus just showing up for “the show” and merely attending Jesus’ church? What are the four spiritual sacrifices that Pastor John keeps drawing our attention to and why is it important that *all* believers are offering *all* four, not just some of them? How has being engaged with Jesus’ Church made you happier?
2. Did you realize that while God has given you **natural talents** so you can work and enjoy life, the #1 reason He gave them to you is to for service to Christ & His Church? What are some of the natural talents and abilities that you believe God has blessed you with? Now read aloud [Colossians 1:18](#); [Ephesians 4:16](#) and [Exodus 35:10](#). How do you suppose Jesus wants you to engage at NCFE by using your natural abilities to do what these verses talk about? Think specifics.
3. What is a spiritual gift and how do these **spiritual talents** differ from natural talents? Who are some of the folks in our church family that can be readily seen utilizing their spiritual gifting? What do you think your main spiritual gift/talent is? How do you think the Lord wants you to use that gift at NCFE? Why does it matter that you do or don’t? And by the way: Are those using their gifts for Jesus, generally speaking, happy or sad to be doing so?
4. Think about Bezalel, Tabitha, and the never-to-be-forgotten woman. What did you learn from them about the **supernatural impact experience** of devoting your natural and spiritual talents to the service of Christ and His Church? What do you think the Holy Spirit was trying to specifically say to you, personally, through this message?