

YOUUnique Ability

Craig Smith • October 1, 2017

In His grace, God has given all of us unique gifts and talents...

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.
(1 Cor. 12:4-6)

Then the LORD said to Moses, "See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts..." **(Exod. 31:1-3)**

☛ **Danger: putting your gifts/talents on the shelf instead of putting them to work** – *"The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money."* **(Matt. 25:16-18)**

Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act. Do not say to your neighbor, "Come back later; I'll give it tomorrow" – when you now have it with you.
(Prov. 3:27-28)

Stewardship of our gifts and abilities requires...

- **Honest self-assessment (Humility)** – *"Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you."* **(Rom. 12:3)**
- **Wise practice and training (Intentionality)** – *"If the ax is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed but skill will bring success."* **(Eccl. 10:10)**
- **God's help (Dependence)** – *"I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power."* **(1 Cor. 2:3-5)**
- **One eye on eternity (Accountability)** – *"After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them."* **(Matt. 25:19)**

We were given these gifts/talents to help others write the story God wants them to write...

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.
(1 Peter 4:10)

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men. **(Col. 3:23)**