

MY BEST

LESSON 6 – TALENTS ARE TO BE USED

Dig out your Bible for this lesson. You will need to look up the Bible verses to find the information you need.

While you are trusting God to meet your basic needs and encouraging people around you, sharing your story, use your talents to communicate to others, and to meet their needs.

BENEFITS OF MY TALENTS #1 - Look up Psalm 37:3-4

Trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

1. "Trust in the Lord and do _____." "Enjoy _____ pasture."
2. "Take _____ in the Lord." "God will give you the _____ of your heart."

GOD PUTS INNER DESIRES, STRENGTHS, AND SKILLS WITHIN US AT BIRTH. THESE ARE TALENTS. THEY ARE NOT NECESSARILY DESIGNED TO HELP ANYONE BUT OURSELVES. WE MIGHT DRAW, DO BACK FLIPS, HAVE MUSICAL TALENT, EXCEL IN CREATIVE WRITING - STUFF LIKE THAT. Any human can have these.

3. What strengths did you grow up knowing how to do or easily learning to do.

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4. Yes No Our talents can be used for good purposes or evil purposes.
 5. Yes No People notice our talents and most likely are attracted to us.

Look up 1 Corinthians 12:7-10

The Holy Spirit displays God's power through each of us as a means of helping the entire church. To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; someone else may be especially good at studying and teaching, and this is his gift from the same Spirit. He gives special faith to another, and to someone else the power to heal the sick. ¹⁰ He gives power for doing miracles to some, and to others power to prophesy and preach. He gives someone else the power to know whether evil spirits are speaking through those who claim to be giving God's messages—or whether it is really the Spirit of God who is speaking. Still another person is able to speak in languages he never learned; and others, who do not know the language either, are given power to understand what he is saying.

AFTER WE BECOME A CHRISTIAN, THE HOLY SPIRIT (GOD) GIVES US ABILITIES AND INSIGHTS. THESE ARE GIFTS. THEY ARE DESIGNED TO HELP OTHER BELIEVERS PRIMARILY.

6. Some of these gifts are: (refer to red underlined words in the text above)

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| a. _____ | d. _____ |
| b. _____ | e. _____ |
| c. _____ | |

The letter to the Corinthian church listing the "Gifts of the Spirit" was written around 56 AD.

The letter to the Romans church listing the "Gifts of the Spirit" was written around 57 AD.

THE GIFTS OF MIRACLES, HEAL THE SICK, OTHER TONGUES & THE INTERPRETATION ARE INCLUDED. (see the black text in the verses above)

7. The Gospels were written later (Matt - 85-90 AD, Mark - 65-70 AD, Luke - 85-90 AD, John - 95-100 AD). Romans & 1 Corinthians were written in 56-57 AD.
 - a. Yes No Jesus gave the Apostles the power to use these gifts to prove to man that He was speaking to them.
 - b. Yes No Apostle Paul used these gifts himself. (This was several years before the Gospels were written.)

AS SOON AS THE GOSPELS WERE WRITTEN, GOD DID NOT HAVE TO EMPOWER THE BELIEVERS TO PERFORM MIRACLES SUCH AS HEALING THE SICK AND THE USE OF TONGUES ANYMORE. THEY COULD READ IT IN THE GOSPELS TO BE CONVINCED THAT GOD WAS INDEED SPEAKING.

The Spiritual Gifts by Categories

The Sign Gifts	The Speaking Gifts	The Serving Gifts
Apostle	Prophet	Faith
Prophet	Evangelist	Helps/Ministering
Word of Wisdom	Pastor-Teacher	Giving
Word of Knowledge	Exhortation	Administration/Leading
Use of Tongues		Mercy
Interpretating Tongues		
Discerning of Spirits		
Healings		
Miracles		

Ephesians 4:11; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10; Romans 12:6-8

There are a variety of views on the "sign gifts". God would have to do something miraculous for sign gifts to be used. We do not need those gifts anymore since God's Word demonstrates the presence of God now.

- If the "Speaking Gifts" are your strength, what are the four gifts or functions?
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
- If the "Serving Gifts" are your strength, what are the five gifts or functions?
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____

A QUICK SUMMARY OF THE GIFTS

Speaking	• PROPHET	An incredible ability to know & teach the truth of God's Word (as confirmed by believers around you).
	• EVANGELIST	An incredible ability to preach the Gospel of salvation and see results (as confirmed by believers around you).
	• PASTOR	An incredible ability to lead/care for a group of believers to grow in their faith (as confirmed).
	• TEACHER	An incredible ability to teach the Bible with accuracy/organization so that believers will grow & teach.
	• EXHORTER	An incredible ability to detect people's needs and to guide, teach, and advise them in their faith.

Serving	• FAITH	An incredible ability to trust God for even miracles & to see results even when others do not join you.
	• HELPS	An incredible ability to keep track of people's needs, and step forward to help them whether alone or with others.
	• GIVING	An incredible ability to give money or other provisions when a need is brought to your attention.
	• LEADING	An incredible ability to organize people & to lead them to complete a task in the community of believers.
	• MERCY	An incredible ability to feel the pain & need in others, and to make yourself available for intimate support.

- If you are a believer in Christ, you have at least one of these spiritual gifts burning within you. Pick one: ___ Speaking Gift ___ Serving Gift
 Pick one in your category (Speaking/Serving) _____
- If you are not a believer in Christ yet, you do not have the Holy Spirit within you. So, based on this lesson, what can't you have yet: ___ Talents? ___ Gifts of the Spirit?

IF YOU ARE USING YOUR TALENTS TO DO GOOD, YOU ARE DEFINITELY HEADING FOR YOUR BEST. IF YOU ARE USING YOUR GIFTS TO PLEASE GOD & HELP PEOPLE, YOU ARE AT YOUR BEST. Remember, your "best" is not perfection; it is the process of continually moving toward God's plan (His best).

BENEFITS OF MY TALENTS OR MY SPIRITUAL GIFTS #2 - Look up Proverbs 18:16

A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men.

1. What happens when we are using our "spiritual gift" as we live our lives?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 2. If **makes room for him** means "enlarging our influence & opportunities" and If **"brings him before great men** means "meeting people who are serving God" - then, what could be the benefits of practicing our "spiritual gift" faithfully?
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BENEFITS OF MY TALENTS OR MY SPIRITUAL GIFTS #3 - Proverbs 22:29

Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will work for kings, not unimportant people.

3. Yes No People who are skilled at what they do are noticed by others.
4. Yes No Even though you may be quiet and reserved as you live your life, what you do and how you do it will be seen by many but will be appreciated by those who are looking for excellence.

**WHEN WE USE OUR TALENTS, GOOD THINGS CAN HAPPEN, BUT YOU WILL GET THE CREDIT.
 WHEN WE USE OUR SPIRITUAL GIFT, GOD'S PLAN HAPPENS, AND GOD GETS THE CREDIT.
 WHEN OUR TALENTS OR OUR GIFT ATTRACTS PEOPLE TO GOD, WE ARE AT OUR BEST.**

BENEFITS OF MY TALENTS #4 - Look up Matthew 5:14-16

You are the light of the world. A city located on a hill can't be hidden. People don't light a lamp and put it under a basket but on a lamp stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before people in such a way that they will see your good actions and glorify your Father in heaven."

1. What is the purpose of putting a light on the light stand? _____
2. As soon as you accepted Christ as your Savior (became a believer), you became a light for God in the world. Whatever "spiritual gift He gave you, He lights that gift up for all to see. If you are a believer, what light (gift) has He lit up in you? _____
3. Yes No When your "Spiritual Gift" instigates you to act, your talents may kick in here so that you can minister to some other believer.
4. Yes No If your "spiritual gift" prompts you to action, you may not have the talent to meet the need, but you may know someone who does.

I KNEW A WOMAN NAMED JUDY WHO HAD THE GIFT OF MERCY; SHE WOULD PEOPLE MEET IN NEED.(The truth is - she was looking for people who were suffering or who had physical needs.) **SHE MET A LADY WITH THREE KIDS WHO HAD VERY LITTLE FOOD. JUDY HAD VERY LITTLE MONEY HERSELF; AFTER PRAYING, SHE CALLED ONE OF THE CAR DEALERSHIPS IN TOWN AND ASKED THE OWNER/MANAGER IF HE WOULD CONSIDER GIVING A CHRISTMAS BASKET TO A NEEDY FAMILY IN TOWN. IT HAPPENED!!**

*A personal note: I have the gift of administration (leading & organizing). I am also good at teaching and some other "spiritual gifts". However, some "spiritual gifts" I do not have. God did not entrust me with those (giving, mercy, faith). I wish I had those strengths, but I honestly don't. **However, every time I let my spiritual gift help a believer, I'm at my best.***