

Saturday's WWAP Lesson /Living For God's Glory

The Two Ways God Wants You to Use Your Talents

Although God wants us to enjoy what He's given us, He didn't gift us with talents just for our own benefit. So how exactly does God want us to use our talents for Him?

What are we really good at? Painting? Counseling? Maybe we will never have a car problem that we can't repair, or we will an amazing chef. Perhaps we will have an opportunities to help people wherever we go.

Whatever our talent or skill is, guess what? God's behind it! But He didn't bless any of us with a talent or skill simply so we could look awesome or earn lots of cash.

God wants us to **steward those gifts for Him!** Maybe we thought stewardship was just for our money. Well, yes, that's a big part of it. But it's **so much** bigger than that. Stewardship is about everything in our lives—and that includes our talents.

If we want to please God - if we want to hear Him say, "Well done good and faithful servant" when we meet Him in heaven—then we must **faithfully use our talents** the way He wants us to.

Colossians 3:23–24 (KJV) ²³And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; ²⁴Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ

So how exactly does God want us to use our talents for Him?

Two ways:

1. **Blessing Others**
2. **Building His Kingdom.**

God Wants Us to Bless Others.

In **1 Peter 4:10**, we're called to use our gifts to serve others as faithful stewards of God's grace. Now, in that context, Peter was specifically talking about spiritual gifts like prophecy and healing. Those are supernatural abilities God gives each Christ-follower, but the general idea of blessing others also carries over to talents. God doesn't give us anything just for our own benefit. After all, we're blessed to be a blessing (Genesis 12:2)!

Just as with spiritual gifts, God wants us to use our talents and skills for the benefit of others.

How can you put that into practice? Maybe there's a ministry that uses your skill or talent to help others. If you love working on cars, volunteer to repair single moms' cars for free. Or if you paint, hold art classes for nursing home residents. If you look in your community, you're sure to find a need you can meet with the talents God's given you. And if nothing exists, you can always start your own ministry!

God Wants Us to Build His kingdom For His Glory.

God made us all different. That's great, because together, all of us make up the kingdom. In **1 Corinthians 12**, Paul compares the body of Christ to a human body: Each of us is unique, but together we make the body complete. And Christ is the head of the body (Ephesians 5:23), so everything we do points back to Him. He directs it all!

In other words, **God wants you to use your unique role in the body of Christ to glorify Him.** So if God made you an amazing singer, sing for Him. If your talent is a little less conventional—maybe you're good with numbers or with writing code—then find a way to translate that into a job for a God-honoring company or ministry. Use your God-given abilities to reach those who don't know Him—and give Him the credit for your talents.

Jesus gives us two commandments: **to love the Lord and to love others as we love ourselves** (Matthew 22:37–40). And when we steward our talents to honor Him and to bless others, we're doing just that.

Supporting Bible Scriptures: For Me

Colossians 3:23–24 (KJV) ²³And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; ²⁴Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ

1 Peter 4:10 (KJV) ¹⁰As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God

Genesis 12:2 (KJV) ²And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

Ephesians 5:23 ²³For a husband is in charge of his wife in the same way Christ is in charge of his body the Church. (He gave his very life to take care of it and be its Savior!)

Matthew 22:37–40 ³⁷Jesus replied, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind.” ³⁸⁻³⁹This is the first and greatest commandment. The second most important is similar: ‘Love your neighbor as much as you love yourself.’ ⁴⁰All the other commandments and all the demands of the prophets stem from these two laws and are fulfilled if you obey them. Keep only these and you will find that you are obeying all the others.”

Role Players (Just Different Readers Only)

1 Corinthians 12 Living Bible (TLB)

Speaker 1

12 And now, brothers, I want to write about the special abilities the Holy Spirit gives to each of you, for I don't want any misunderstanding about them. ²You will remember that before you became Christians you went around from one idol to another, not one of which could speak a single word. ³But now you are meeting people who claim to speak messages from the Spirit of God. How can you know whether they are really inspired by God or whether they are fakes? Here is the test: no one speaking by the power of the Spirit of God can curse Jesus, and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," and really mean it, unless the Holy Spirit is helping him.

Speaker #2

⁴Now God gives us many kinds of special abilities, but it is the same Holy Spirit who is the source of them all. ⁵There are different kinds of service to God, but it is the same Lord we are serving. ⁶There are many ways in which God works in our lives, but it is the same God who does the work in and through all of us who are his. ⁷The Holy Spirit displays God's power through each of us as a means of helping the entire church.

Speaker #3

⁸To 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. ⁹He gives special faith to another, and to someone else the power to heal the sick. ¹⁰He 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. ¹¹It is the same and only Holy Spirit who gives all these gifts and powers, deciding which each one of us should have.

Speaker #4

¹²Our bodies have many parts, but the many parts make up only one body when they are all put together. So it is with the “body” of Christ. ¹³Each of us is a part of the one body of Christ. Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But the Holy Spirit has fitted us all together into one body. We have been baptized into Christ’s body by the one Spirit, and have all been given that same Holy Spirit.

Speaker #5

¹⁴Yes, the body has many parts, not just one part. ¹⁵If the foot says, “I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand,” that does not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And what would you think if you heard an ear say, “I am not part of the body because I am only an ear and not an eye”? Would that make it any less a part of the body? ¹⁷Suppose the whole body were an eye—then how would you hear? Or if your whole body were just one big ear, how could you smell anything?

Speaker #6

¹⁸But that isn’t the way God has made us. He has made many parts for our bodies and has put each part just where he wants it. ¹⁹What a strange thing a body would be if it had only one part! ²⁰So he has made many parts, but still there is only one body.

(Continue Gift Lesson at the Next WWAP Meeting).

²¹The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you."

²²And some of the parts that seem weakest and least important are really the most necessary. ²³Yes, we are especially glad to have some parts that seem rather odd! And we carefully protect from the eyes of others those parts that should not be seen, ²⁴while of course the parts that may be seen do not require this special care. So God has put the body together in such a way that extra honor and care are given to those parts that might otherwise seem less important. ²⁵This makes for happiness among the parts, so that the parts have the same care for each other that they do for themselves. ²⁶If one part suffers, all parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad.

²⁷Now here is what I am trying to say: All of you together are the one body of Christ, and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it. ²⁸Here is a list of some of the parts he has placed in his Church, which is his body:

Apostles,
Prophets—those who preach God's Word,
Teachers,
Those who do miracles,
Those who have the gift of healing;
Those who can help others,
Those who can get others to work together,
Those who speak in languages they have never learned.

²⁹Is everyone an apostle? Of course not. Is everyone a preacher? No. Are all teachers? Does everyone have the power to do miracles? ³⁰Can everyone heal the sick? Of course not. Does God give all of us the ability to speak in languages we've never learned? Can just anyone understand and translate what those are saying who have that gift of foreign speech? ³¹No, but try your best to have the more important of these gifts.

First, however, let me tell you about something else that is better than any of them!