

Talented & Gifted

What does it mean to be talented?

We are not merely talking about a talent (money) – Pro. 18:16

We must learn to think in terms of ability and enablement – Mat. 25:15; 2 Cor. 8:12

Is talent all I need? NO

- ❖ You need to be saved
- ❖ You need wisdom and humility
- ❖ Talent requires development, training and cultivation

What is a gift?

Is the gifting all I need? NO

- ❖ The gift should point others to Jesus
- ❖ You need wisdom and humility
- ❖ Your gifts require maturity, nurturing and the power of God – 1 Cor. 2:1-5; Rom. 11:29

Why is it important to know your talents and gifts?

- ❖ They are God-given and should be God-purposed – Eph. 2:10; James 1:17; 1 Pet. 4:10-11
- ❖ They are intended for the Body of Christ and not just yourself – Rom. 12:1-8
- ❖ They cause you to stand out among others – Pro. 22:29
- ❖ Others will try to place you based upon their perception instead of your assignment from God – 1 Sam. 16:7; 2 Sam. 7:3

Can your talents and gifts be misused or misguided?

- ❖ Exo. 1:11: set taskmasters over them to afflict them (Exo. 3:7) with burdens (vs. 14; 2:11)
 - They used their talents and abilities to build treasure cities for the enemy
- ❖ 2 Tim. 1:6-7
- ❖ Mat. 25:14-24
- ❖ 1 Tim. 4:13-14

Scriptures for examination: Luke 19:11-27, Matthew 25:14-30

- ❖ Parable of minas – all same amount, same opportunity, same time, same tithe...
- ❖ Parable of talents – different giftings

Development is Necessary

One of the greatest enemies to your talents, abilities and gifts is ignorance

- ❖ Obviously, we need to know how to operate in whatever capacity God expects of us – Pro. 4:7; Psa. 33:3; Pro. 1:7
- ❖ Raw ability and knowledge go together – Pro. 24:5
- ❖ You can have the desire and ability and yet lack knowledge – Pro. 19:2-3 (KJV & MSG)
 - Note Paul's words concerning Israel: Ignorance of God's righteousness – Rom. 10:1-4
- ❖ As believers, we must grow to the point that ignorance is no longer an excuse or accepted – Eph. 4:17-22 (KJV & MSG); Acts 17:30
- ❖ As believers, we must grow to recognize the tactics the enemy deploys to keep us from walking in our giftings – 2 Cor. 2:9-11
- ❖ There is a certain knowledge that is gained from experience and training
 - We are cautioned about placing a novice in office – 1 Tim. 3:6

Powerful examples of developing in gifting

- ❖ **You cannot be developed if you won't stay in the place of development (get in position)**
 - Elisha – 2 Kings 2
 - Are you positioned to receive greater?
 - Are you gleaming and paying attention?
 - Are you procrastinating?
- ❖ **Are you willing to submit to God's process so that you can be established in your gifting?**
 - Samuel was set apart from birth and yet still did not understand God was speaking to him – 1 Sam. 3:10
 - Please note that Samuel's primary teacher didn't have it all together but God still used him to prepare Samuel – 1 Sam. 2:27-36
 - Samuel had to be developed – 1 Samuel 3:19-21
- ❖ God can take the strength of your rebellion and turn it into the impetus of your witness
 - The Apostle Paul – Rom. 10:1-4; Acts 26:9-29
- ❖ Apollos – Acts 18:24-28
- ❖ Jesus while in flesh as a child – Luke 2:40, 52

What are some of the areas we must be developed in? 2 Pet. 1:5-7

- ❖ Increased fruit and knowledge – Col. 1:10
- ❖ In grace and knowledge – 2 Pet. 3:18
- ❖ Discernment – Mat. 24:11; 1 John 4:1-2; John 16:13; Heb. 5:14

Development is Necessary (Cont'd.)

The Development of Samuel

- ❖ Samuel was a true gift from God
 - God shut his mother's womb so she couldn't have children until Samuel – 1 Sam. 1:5
 - She received favor from her husband but only God could give her what she really wanted
 - Look at what Hannah, his mother had to endure to even have Samuel
 - Ridicule from Peninnah 1 Sam. 1:6-7
 - Worshipping yet not satisfied – 1 Sam. 1:7
 - Praying through tears – 1 Sam. 1:10
 - Consecrating a promise yet to be realized – 1 Sam. 1:11
 - Misunderstood by the priest Eli – 1 Sam. 1:12-16
 - Samuel is the answer to persistent prayer and worship by his mother – 1 Sam. 1:18-20

- ❖ Developing a Samuel requires sacrifice – 1 Sam. 1:21-23
 - Developing a Samuel requires weaning –
 - Wean – gamal: to deal fully with, to wean a child, to ripen
 - ➔ Before allowing Samuel to be exposed to everyone else, he was first weaned.

- ❖ Samuel's consecration resulted in his presentation to the work of God – 1 Sam. 1:24-28
- ❖ Samuel grew despite of other's errors – 1 Sam. 2:12-18
- ❖ The garments of his calling were on him as a child (1 Sam. 2:18) but he still wore the coat of his youthfulness (1 Sam. 2:19)
- ❖ Parents, nurture your Samuels because God will bless you for doing so – 1 Sam. 2:20-21

- ❖ Samuel had to be taught how to answer His call – 1 Sam. 3:1-10

- ❖ Samuel's calling required separation and commitment to God above all else – 1 Sam. 2:11-18
 - Your calling requires the same – Mat. 4:19; Mark 10:27-31

- ❖ Samuel was established by God – 1 Samuel 3:19-21
 - We must be established – Luke 6:47-48; 1 Thes. 3:13; 1 Pet. 5:10; Rom. 8:29-31

Appreciating the Gift

Our giftings and talents are given by God – James 1:17

Know how God values His gifts

- ❖ How God views the one he gave the gifts to –
 - You were chosen – Eph. 1:4
- ❖ How God views the gifts
 - They are expressions of His Grace – 1 Pet. 4:10-11
 - They are manifestations of the Spirit – 1 Cor. 12:7-11
 - They are God-purposed and irrevocable – Rom. 11:29

Know how you value your gift(s)

- ❖ How do you first see yourself – Psa. 139:13-14; Heb. 13:5
- ❖ We should not neglect the gift – 1 Tim. 4:14
- ❖ Your gifting is the result of God's Will – 1 Cor. 12:11
 - Your uniqueness is a part of God's Will – Rom. 12:4

Know how others value your gift

- ❖ The world is not qualified to properly assess your value – John 15:18; John 1:11-13, 1 Pet. 2:4
- ❖ When we don't realize our value, we can easily become dependent upon others evaluation – 1 Cor. 7:23 (KJV & MSG)
- ❖ How they value your gift doesn't determine the true value of your gift -
 - Know when enough is enough – Mat. 7: 6, 10:14
 - The pearl is still a pearl regardless of the pig's perception of it

God could have used anyone else but chose to gift you

Gifts that often go unappreciated

- ❖ Friends
- ❖ Family
- ❖ Love
- ❖ Christ – John 3:16; Romans 6:23

Sharing the Gift

Shared and operated in love – John 3:16; 1 John 3:17; 1 Cor. 13

For Kingdom profit and not selfish gain

- ❖ Selfishness –
 - Deprives the Body of the gift – Phil 2:4, 20-21; 1 Cor. 10:24
 - Deprives you of the blessing of being used by God – Acts 20:35; Heb. 13:16
 - Leads to bitterness – Acts 8:14-23
- ❖ Should be used not to draw attention to oneself – Mat. 6
- ❖ The gifts should be given with pure motive – Mat. 10:5-15; Mat. 21:13

- ❖ While the gifts are to be given and used freely, there are Biblical grounds for supporting the gift – 1 Tim. 3:1; 1 Tim. 5:17-25; 1 Cor. 9:1-16

Shared and operated in obedience – 1 Cor. 12

Shared and operated in to draw souls to Christ – 1 Pet. 4:7-11; Mat. 5:16