



Lessons for Life

USING YOUR ABILITIES
Making A Difference - 4
October 29/30, 2011
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"God's hands shaped me and made me." Job 10:8 (NIV)

Two Clues To Understanding Your Abilities ...

"God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well..." Rom. 12:6 (NLT)

"God ... will equip you with all you need for doing His will." Heb. 13:21 (LB)

Six Cautions Regarding Your Abilities ...

1. They are to be used to **HONOR** God.
"... whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." 1 Cor. 10:31 (NIV)

2. They are to be used to **SERVE** others
"God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other, passing on to others God's many kinds of blessings." 1 Peter 4:10 (LB)

3. They are to be used to make a **LIVING**
"Remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you the ability to produce wealth..."
Deut. 8:18 (NIV)

4. They should be an **EXAMPLE** to others
"Put these abilities to work; throw yourself into your tasks so everyone may notice your improvement and progress." 1 Tim. 4:15 (LB)

5. They should provide **MONEY** to share
"Begin using your hands for honest work, and then give generously to others in need." Eph. 4:28 (NLT)

6. They should build up the **CHURCH**
"Why is it that God gives us these special abilities to do certain things best? It is that God's people will be equipped to do better work for Him, building up the Church, the body of Christ, to a position of strength and maturity." Eph. 4:12 (LB)

"Take the talent from him (who didn't use it) and give to the one who has ten talents." Matt. 25:28 (NIV)

If I don't use them, **I MAY LOSE THEM** _____

Three Challenges Related To Your Abilities

1. You **ESTIMATE** them

"Try to have a sane estimate of your capabilities by the light of the faith God has given to you."

Rom. 12:3 (Ph)

2. You **DEDICATE** them

"Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to His service and pleasing to Him."

Rom. 12:1 (GN)

"If you stay away from sin... Christ Himself can use you for His highest purposes." 2 Tim. 2:21 (LB)

3. You **CULTIVATE** them

"If the ax is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed but skill will bring success."

Eccl. 10:10 (NIV)

"Jesus said, 'When the Master comes back and finds his servant doing his work, that servant will be blessed!'" Luke 12:43 (NCV)