



*Colossians 3:23-24- Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.*

*Romans 12:4-8 – For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.*

*1 Peter 4:10-11- As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever.*

*1 Corinthians 12:4-11- Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.*

Talents. Skills. Abilities. Regardless of what we call them, these are all gifts from God, granted to us to build His kingdom and serve as a blessing to others. One way He enables us to use our talents is through employment, which allows us to fulfill our vocation within our families and society. We should be mindful that as we see to our labors for our employer, we do so by the grace of God and in His service, and we should labor accordingly (*Col. 3:23-24*)

The talents and abilities granted to you are unique to your vocation in life. God has a role for each of us in the body of Christ, and we should seek to use all our skills and talents to glorify Him. Some are called to be leaders, others as laborers.

Some are given physical strength; some great intellect. Some have mechanical aptitude; some technical prowess. Some are great speakers and motivators; some excel in the written word. Some have musical ability. Some are good listeners and mentors. Some provide care and comfort. Doctor, soldier, teacher, farmer, scientist, home maker, mechanic, accountant, public servant, salesperson, musician, chef, caregiver . . .the list goes on and on (*Rom. 12:4-8*). Our talents may change throughout the years and we may find new ways to serve as we mature in life. But regardless of the talent, and regardless of whether we use that talent in our careers or as volunteers in the church or in society to help our neighbor (*1 Peter 4:10-11*), we must recognize that we are stewards of the talents God grants us and we should strive to glorify Him through their use. (*1 Cor. 12:4-11*)

American author, professor, and motivational speaker Leo Buscaglia once said:

“Your talent is God’s gift to you. What you do with it is your gift back to God.”

What a fitting testament to stewardship! Giving back to our Lord with the very blessings He has granted us, in ways that further His kingdom and benefit our fellow man.

To God be the Glory!

**Prayer: Lord God Almighty, even as You bless Your servants with various and unique gifts of the Holy Spirit, continue to grant us the grace to use them always to Your honor and glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen (LSB p.311)**