

# “Talent”

BEYOND Sermon Series | Week Four | Newbreak Church

May 23rd, 2021

**This week is about how we steward our talent.** Many popular reality T.V. shows highlight people’s talents; American Idol, The Voice, Survivor, etc. When the Bible speaks about talents, however, it isn’t for the purpose of trying to win some prize money. Instead, our gifts and talents are meant to live according to our purpose and for the glory of God. This message answers the question: How do I use my gifts to make a difference?

For more insights relating to this week’s sermon, see <https://newbreak.church/blog/>. We post a new blog every Sunday which coincides with the sermon passage or theme from that day.

## Start Here

- What is your favorite T.V. (or Netflix, Disney+, etc.) show right now? Why that one?
- Are “talents” synonymous with “gifts”? If so, how so? If not, why not?

## Going Deeper Into the Message

Read: Romans 12:3-13

### **Point 1 – Discover my God-given gifts.**

Romans 12:6a (NLT) In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well.

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV) Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.

In Romans 12:4-5, Paul uses the metaphor of the Body to describe the nature of the Church. In this metaphor, Paul compares the Church to a human body which is made up of multiple, and yet equal, parts. In this passage, and in 1 Corinthians 12, Paul highlights that just as the body has many members (eye, ear, nose, etc.), the body

members must come together to work efficiently. In a similar way, the Church is one, yet has many members with unique gifts which must be used for the greater good of others.

1 Corinthians 12:7 NLT “A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.”

Part of being stewards of our God-given gifts is to recognize that we have been uniquely designed and uniquely created gifts to serve others. Once we discover the gifts that God has bestowed upon each of us, we must then look to Him to find the right avenues to use those gifts. Whether it's inside the church or outside the church, God wants to use His gifts that He has given to us to begin making an impact everywhere we go. Your leadership capacity, the quickness of your mind, your ability to problem solve, your heart to serve, your compassionate nature, your willingness to care for those who are suffering, and your supernatural ability to share Jesus with others are just a few examples of God-given gifts and abilities.

### Questions for Group Discussion or Personal Reflection

- What gifts do you think God has blessed you with? How did you discover them?
- Have you ever had anyone point out or confirm one of your gifts?

#### —ADDITIONAL INSIGHT—

In 1 Peter 4:10-11, Peter highlights three ways to utilize God's gifts.

*<sup>10</sup> Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. <sup>11</sup> If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.*

1. Use your gifts to serve others (vs.10). The disciple of Jesus realizes that their gifts

come from God. They are not earned. They are gifts from God for the specific purpose of enhancing the lives of others. His desire is for us to use those gifts to bless and serve other people.

2. Use your gift with authority from God (11a). When you use your gifts to speak into someone's life or to serve another through an act of love, recognize that you are representing God to them. Your act of kindness and service flows from the very heart of God.

3. Use the strength that God provides so that God will be glorified (11b). Not only is God the origin of our gifts but He also provides the strength and resources needed to use our gifts to serve others. This a great reminder to look to Him for everything needed to use the gifts for the work of serving others.

## Point 2 – Develop my God-given gifts.

1 Timothy 4:14-16 (MSG) And that special gift of ministry you were given when the leaders of the church laid hands on you and prayed – keep that dusted off and in use. Cultivate these things. Immerse yourself in them. The people will all see you mature right before their eyes! Keep a firm grasp on both your character and your teaching. Don't be diverted. Just keep at it. Both you and those who hear you will experience salvation.

Paul exhorts Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:14-16 to not **neglect** the gift given to him (vs.14), to **be diligent** in it (vs.15a), and to **give himself** wholly over to it (vs.15b). To neglect is to be careless with something and to think lightly of it. In this context of gifting, Paul is encouraging Timothy to do the opposite of neglect. He wants Timothy to recognize the importance of the gifts that God specifically gave to Timothy and to think very highly of them. To place great value on them. In a similar way, we need to also recognize that God's gifting is an important part of who we are and that we shouldn't treat it with indifference or neglect. We need to greatly value God's gifting in our lives. How many of us are either too afraid to use our gifts or have given up looking for ways to use them?

Paul also encourages Timothy to be **diligent** with his gifts. Being diligent means either practicing those gifts, and/or meditate on them. Paul is challenging Timothy to practice using his gifts so that he would mature and develop them. Paul was challenging Timothy to find new ways to put them into practice so that he might grow in using the gift. In what ways are you practicing your gifts? Becoming the next world-class soccer player like Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo doesn't happen by chance. It takes hours and hours of time practicing the sport of Soccer to become world-class. It's the same with the gifts that we have been given. We need to seek out new ways to use the gifts that God has given us to get everything they can out of our gifts.

Paul also encouraged Timothy to **give himself wholly over** to the gifts. This idea implies totally immersing yourself into something. Timothy was to make it his ultimate aim to immerse himself in developing and practicing his gift. Whether you are a Little League baseball coach or the owner of a baseball team, God wants you to give your very best to those you serve.

### Questions for Group Discussion or Personal Reflection

- How can you apply your gifts to your daily life and what can you do to practically develop them more each day?
- In what ways are you currently using your gifts to build the Body?

#### — GROUP ACTIVITY—

As a group, discuss the last time you witnessed someone living out their gifts in service to God. How did that inspire and influence you?

What are some gifts that you see in one another? Set a goal to live out one or more of the gifts identified in service to others this week. For example, if someone pointed out that a group member has a beautiful voice, that person is much more likely to sing in worship to God due to that encouragement.

Report back as a group next week how you put those gifts into practice.

### **Point 3 – Dream about the difference my gifts can make in the world.**

Ephesians 3:20-21 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

God gives us the gift of dreaming, dreaming for things to be better, for those around us to be better, healthier, happier, smarter. These are ideas He plants within us to give us opportunities to use our gifts and talents for His kingdom. He wants us to see shortfalls in the world and strive to make them better. He gives us a vision for what life could be.

This cannot be done under our own power. We need God to give us strength and persistence. We need Him to increase our faith when we feel like we can't change things. We need Him to take the gifts and resources that we have and use them miraculously to change hearts and minds.

### Questions for Group Discussion or Personal Reflection

- What do I see around me that I yearn to be better? What ideas do I have to make it better? Are these God-sized ideas?
- In addition to Ephesians 3:20-21, what Scriptures speak to making a positive change in the world?
- If there were no barrier for entry to solve a problem that bothers my heart, what would I fix around me? What's one step I can take today to work toward that goal? Make a phone call, send an email, talk with a friend about my ideas.

### —SUMMARY—

How do I use my gifts to make a difference in the world?

- 1) Discover my God-given gifts.
- 2) Develop my God-given gifts.
- 3) Dream about the difference my gifts can make in the world.

### —FINAL CHALLENGE QUESTIONS—

1. How are you going to think differently in light of what you have read, heard, and discussed this week?
2. What is one thing you are going to change in your life in light of the sermon?
3. BONUS: For those of you with kids or around kids: What is one truth from this message that you can share with your kids?