



A Twenty-One Day Digital Devotional

Day Eleven

Why do I have talents and gifts?

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. -John 13:34-35

Jesus is speaking with His disciples as He prepares them to continue with ministry when He is gone. Jesus gives them (and us) the command to love one another. This is at the root of who Christians are called to be, people who love God and love people.

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 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 Peter 4:8-11

So, we all have talents and gifts. We went over that the past couple of days. What we must consider now is what these are for and how to use them. If it is our command to love others, this should be at the very heart of everything we do. What does it look like to love others? How do we use our God-given gifts and abilities to do this?

I think a lot of us miss out on the opportunity to minister and love others with our talents. We think of the preachers and pastors as the people who are gifted to minister to people. Preaching and pastoring are awesome gifts to share but not the only gifts worth sharing. Verse 10 in 1 Peter 4 says "use **WHATEVER** gift you have received to **SERVE OTHERS.**" If you are good at math, use it to serve

others. If you like to do woodworking, use it to serve others. If you sing well, then use that ability to bless others. Sound scary or uncomfortable? Good. You cannot do it on your own. “You should do it with the strength God PROVIDES.”

Your gifts are worth sharing. These can and should be used to glorify God and serve others. If you are using your talents to serve yourself, boost your pride, get recognition, get what you want, then you might want to reevaluate. You serving others with your abilities causes the Lord to be praised. He is the Giver of all your gifts. How much joy does He get from seeing you use these for His purposes?

Imagine a parent giving their child a present. Now imagine how that parent would feel if they saw their child using the present to help their classmates, family, and friends. Glad and proud, right?

This is how God sees YOU.

Think about this quote from Desiring God writer John Bloom:

Steward your gifts to the utmost for the sake of others. Aspire to be the very best and most fruitful you that you can be for God’s glory. Don’t dishonor God by devaluing the gifts He’s given you. Don’t waste valuable time grumbling about gifts you don’t have or resenting others for the gifts they do have, or even for the sinful pride they might exhibit.

Questions To Consider

How have you misused your abilities and talents in the past?

How are you going to take those experiences and flip these to serve others?

Prayer Focus

Father, You are the giver of every gift. You are good to me in all circumstances. You told me to love others and to serve Your children with my gifts. I’m sorry for the ways I have misused what You have given me in the past. Lord, give me opportunities to use my abilities to love others today and every day. I’m asking You to put people in my path that would benefit from my specific gifting. Help guide me to them so I can show them Your love. Amen.

Written by Jenna Laza, Student Ministry Assistant