

Stewardship or Squandering the Overlooked Riches of the Kingdom
Everyone Has Kingdom Capacities

Time

Issue is how much of the time your life's time is used under the directions or standing orders of God

How much of the time is used under your own understandings and the hope of God's blessings.

Talent

Capacities that have been given to us- natural affinities - a natural predisposition to be able to more quickly, more creatively, more proficiently, more skillfully do certain sets of tasks. For instance - one person might find it difficult to enjoy and do reading. Another person might find it difficult to do math calculations or financial accounting, while another person enjoys that kind of task.

These capacities are there whether you have a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ or not.

However how you see yourself in relationship to Christ affects how you use what God has given.

If a person lives in disbelief or ignorance of God, they will use their talent to achieve their own purposes.

If a person lives with belief but not under the Lordship of Jesus, they will use their talent and their faith to try to achieve their own purposes

If a person lives freely and gladly under the Lordship of Jesus. They will constantly be seeking from God how that they may use their talents and skills and creativity

Talent is the predisposition to be able to do

Skill is the developed proficiency in using talent

Creativity is seeing the best ways to make use of those skills and time opportunities to be a blessing to others, to help meet other people's life needs, and maybe a financial return to meet basic personal life needs

Acknowledgement gives credit for how these things come to be

Respect and blessing is the outcome of all one's efforts

In the contributor - respect for the talent and the fleeting opportunities God gives

In the recipient - respect for the skill, the willingness to use it, and resulting blessing - with or without money involved.

We live in a time where people are focused on money and not on skills. They focus on attaining money to buy skills, and the skills that are developed are often highly specialized and not easily usable outside the "career".

There is a wide spread apathy about exploring new skills or capacities. "If I earn enough money or will give away my future hoped for earnings, I can get someone else to do for me what I can't or am unwilling to do for myself. "

What we fail to realize and to develop is this -

Unexplored capacities for skills with the natural talents God has given

Undeveloped relationships that open up with the use of talents God has given

We..... in Christ have one career....to be a servant of God

How much do you care to know what God would have you do each new day?

Do you keep God in your heart in an “on call” emergency capacity or do you start the day, walk the day and work the day laboring “side by side” with God?

If we stopped at God’s office every morning to pick up His requested work assignments for the day, would our days’ activities and schedule look the same as they do now?

If we checked in with God’s office throughout the day or were on a Verizon or Nextel instant voice link with God.....would our days be different?

AND hasn’t God truly given us an instant voice link? - it’s God’s FPL - His Fulltime Prayer Link - use it anywhere and anytime you want.... It costs you nothing to use, but could cost you a great deal when you DON’T USE IT.

Are there people you know who have asked to re-join God’s work but really hope God doesn’t call on them with any kingdom work assignments - they’re too busy to be bothered with God’s requests?

By the way.... If we have desired and asked to become children of God’s household, shouldn’t we be stopping by His office every day and keeping in communications with Him throughout the day and night?

How many hours a day does a law enforcement officer stop being a law enforcement officer? But the greater tragedy in all this is not that time or talent gets squandered, but that we never discover that time and talent are useful, but never fully harnessed until a person who has come under Christ has submitted BOTH TIME AND TALENT.... And the area we’ve yet to talk about - Treasure to support roles for the calling we have in Christ

What I have learned over the years is this

Our time and talent does not determine the potential stewardship focus of our Christian faith

God determines that focus

But if you are serious in Christ -

There are people who run and there are runners

There are people who do athletics and there are serious athletes.

There are people who sing or play instruments and there are serious musicians

There are people who are people who are involved with Christ and there are serious Christians

The difference is prevailing focus and persistent effort

What makes the difference in all these things is an area of walking in the Lord we will talk about next - if the Lord doesn’t have other plans....

As we seek to master our whole lives to be servants of God, so are the mastery of these to make them servants of our calling in Christ a major need in every believer’s faith.

The calling in Christ to faith

Then to service is complemented by these natural riches that God gives us to use or squander.

Sanctimonious Selfishness in Christian community is I’m a King’s kid how can I acquire more of God richness for my pleasure.. Sanctified Service - how can I free more of what God has given me to manage for advancing His Kingdom’s Good and His Great Glory.

What you will find when you seriously begin to live in this manner is that in some strange quirk.....there are many confident “experts” within the family of God who can tell you how you should do it, who can’t put such sovereign servanthood into practice in their own lives.

I don't know about you.....but of all the people on earth, if you received a phone call from God....asking if you would be willing to serve in God's presence to make God's guests feel comfortable as they talk with God and learn to walk with God.....would you be honored or "put upon" for being asked? Would you resent the implications on your freedoms or gladly move into the challenge with the understandings of new freedoms before unknown?

What is so important in the use of our time and talents that God must take second place?

SKILLS WE DON'T WANT TO DEVELOP

Jeremiah 4:22 (NIV) ²²“My people are fools; they do not know me. They are senseless children; they have no understanding. **They are skilled in doing evil**; they know not how to do good.”

BE APPALLED BY EVIL AND AVOID BECOMING SKILLED IN EVIL WITH THE TALENTS GOD HAS GIVEN YOU

Bottom line - Serve God with your time and Talents and don't use them to advance evil or wickedness in your life or anyone else's life. Don't be silent in the face of watching or being made to agree with evil. Think carefully, speak gently, speak quietly, humbly and earnestly....be available to help if someone wants to change. Be ready to handle anger if they don't want to change. But if you have spoken truly the words of the Lord....you will deliver your soul from accountability for not warning those around you of God's perspective on their actions and activities. Seek conviction and change and not challenge and conflict in what you say and do and so walk in peace with God and will most mankind..

OUR RESPONSIBILITY AND AN AREA TO BECOME SKILLED

Ezekiel 33:1 - 11 (NIV) ¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²“Son of man, speak to your countrymen and say to them: ‘When I bring the sword against a land, and the people of the land choose one of their men and make him their watchman, ³and he sees the sword coming against the land and blows the trumpet to warn the people, ⁴then if anyone hears the trumpet but does not take warning and the sword comes and takes his life, his blood will be on his own head. ⁵Since he heard the sound of the trumpet but did not take warning, his blood will be on his own head. If he had taken warning, he would have saved himself. ⁶But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet to warn the people and the sword comes and takes the life of one of them, that man will be taken away because of his sin, but I will hold the watchman accountable for his blood.’ ⁷“Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. ⁸When I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked man, you will surely die,’ and you do not speak out to dissuade him from his ways, that wicked man will die for his sin, and I will hold you accountable for his blood. ⁹But if you do warn the wicked man to turn from his ways and he does not do so, he will die for his sin, but you will have saved yourself. ¹⁰“Son of man, say to the house of Israel, ‘This is what you are saying: “Our offenses and sins weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them. How then can we live?”’ ¹¹Say to them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, O house of Israel?’