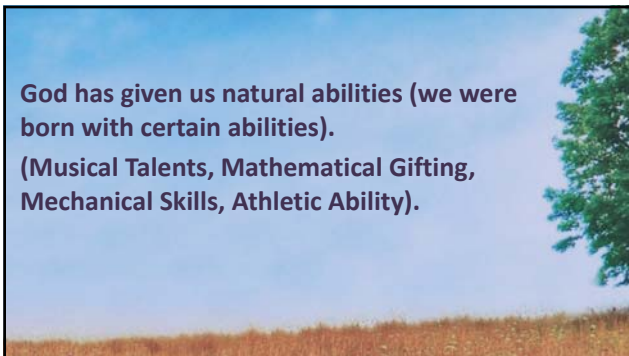
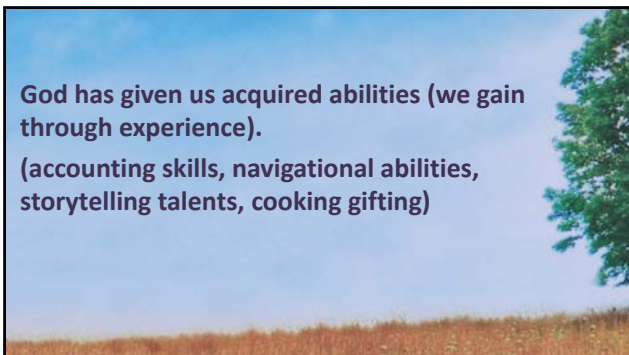




Romans 12:6 (NLT), "God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well."



**God has given us natural abilities (we were born with certain abilities).
(Musical Talents, Mathematical Gifting,
Mechanical Skills, Athletic Ability).**



**God has given us acquired abilities (we gain through experience).
(accounting skills, navigational abilities,
storytelling talents, cooking gifting)**

There is a distinct difference between abilities and spiritual gifts.

- When you were born, you had certain abilities.
- When you are reborn, you get a set of spiritual gifts.

2. God has a purpose for our abilities.

A. Honor God

- I Corinthians 10:31, "In whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God."

2. God has a purpose for our abilities.

B. Serve Others

- I Peter 4:10, "Each of you should use whatever ability he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."

2. God has a purpose for our abilities.

C. Make a Living

- “The abilities you do have are a strong indication of what God wants you to do with your life. They are clues to knowing God's will for you. God does not waste abilities because he matches our calling and our capabilities” (Rick Warren in “Purpose Driven Life”).

2. God has a purpose for our abilities.

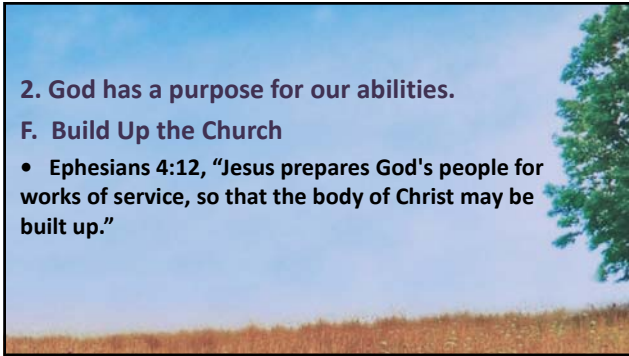
D. Be an Example to Others

- I Timothy 4:15 (NLT), “Put your abilities to work, throw yourselves into your tasks so that everyone may notice your improvement and progress.”

2. God has a purpose for our abilities.

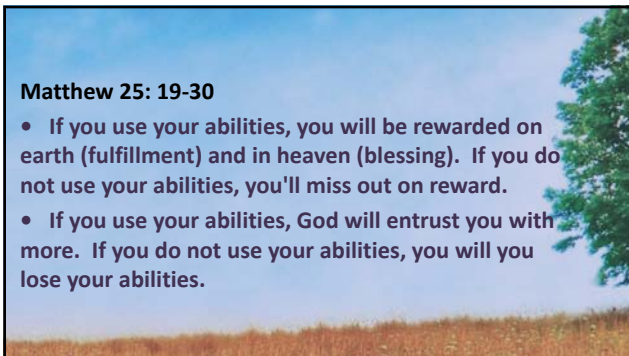
E. Have Resources to Share

- I Corinthians 8:1-3, “We want to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. They gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability.”



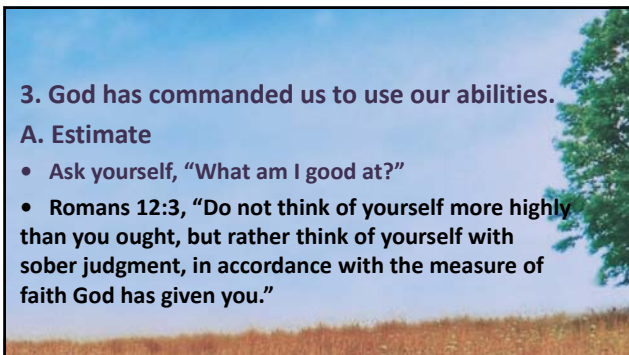
2. God has a purpose for our abilities.
F. Build Up the Church

- Ephesians 4:12, "Jesus prepares God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."



Matthew 25: 19-30

- If you use your abilities, you will be rewarded on earth (fulfillment) and in heaven (blessing). If you do not use your abilities, you'll miss out on reward.
- If you use your abilities, God will entrust you with more. If you do not use your abilities, you will lose your abilities.



3. God has commanded us to use our abilities.
A. Estimate

- Ask yourself, "What am I good at?"
- Romans 12:3, "Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you."

3. God has commanded us to use our abilities.

B. Dedicate

- Commit your abilities back to God
- **Romans 12:1, "Offer your bodies {abilities} as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God as this is your spiritual act of worship."**

3. God has commanded us to use our abilities.

C. Cultivate

- Any of our abilities can be developed and improved through use and practice.
- Sharpening your abilities is a spiritual responsibility.

- God has made an enormous investment in you (he created you, he died for you, he lives in you).
- He has hand-picked and given you special abilities and talents.
- He expects a return on his investment.
- One day, he will ask you what you did with what he gave you.
- **What will you tell him?**

