

Things That are Needed in the Church
Learning to Use My Talents
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Introduction: Some say that 10% of the people in a local church do 90% of the work!

- A. Regardless of what others do, I must not be amongst those who do nothing.
- B. Those that those who are converted to Christ will be active in God's work.
 - 1. Because of His gracious gift, we will be zealous of good works. (**Titus 2:11-14**)
 - 2. That will make you a joyful debtor in His service. (**Rom 1:14-15**)

I. I Must see Myself as a Stewart

- A. What is a steward? (**1 Cor 4:1**)
 - 1. **oikonomos** - steward 8, chamberlain 1, governor 1; 1) the manager of a household or of household affairs 1a) esp. a steward, manager, superintendent to whom the head of the house or proprietor has entrusted the management of his affairs, the care of receipts and expenditures.
 - 2. How would my live change if I believed that all I have is God's? (**1 Cor 4:7**)
- B. Our attitude towards possessions may reflect a wrong attitude!
 - 1. We often become defensive when we are told what to do with "our" affairs.
 - 2. What kind of heart do you have? (**Mt 6:33; 1 Tim 6:17-19**)
- C. There will be a day of accounting for our stewardship. (**2 Cor 5:10**)
 - 1. We must be found faithful. (**1 Cor 4:2; Lk 16:10**)
 - 2. We have a greater responsibility in accord with greater blessings. (**2 Cor 8:12**)

II. I need the courage to try new things.

- A. How does God develop talents with each of us? (**Mt 25:14-30**)
 - 1. What did God call us to do? (**2 Thess 2:13-14**)
 - 2. I am to look for doors of opportunity and wisdom to better serve God!
 - 3. One door of faith leads to another! (**1 Sam 17:34-36**) (Ex. Lincoln, NE)
- B. We must remember what the work of the Lord is. (**1 Cor 3:11-16**)
 - 1. Let us pray for wisdom to see what we can do to build up others.
 - 2. What different abilities are needed in the work of the Lord? (**Eph 4:16**)
- C. Let us avoid the fruits of a faithless fear.
 - 1. **It will sell you short. (Matt 25:25)**
 - a. What was this man afraid of? What did he get?
 - b. We must act and not sit during difficult times.
 - c. Without proper leadership and example a church often follows the example of fear. "Let us avoid any trouble!" Often this means running from our problems and sitting and doing nothing.
 - d. How many churches are afraid or real leadership!
 - 2. **It will cause you to forsake reason. (Matt 25:25)**
 - a. Fear painted a picture here that blocked reason.
 - b. If he has laid out all options then he surely would have chosen the right path. Fear is blinding because it only sees the harm and stops all action.
 - 3. **Consider the power of this fear. (Mk 14:26; Matt 28:4; Lk 9:45; 21:26)**

III. I Need the patience that will not let me quit.

- A. Who are those who accomplish the most in the Lord's church? (**Jas 5:7-9**)
 - 1. It rarely is the ones who have the most talent. (Ex. Brother Painter)
 - 2. It is always those who do what they can every day and never quit.
 - 3. How do we maintain this daily strength?
- B. I must seek the praises of God rather than men.
 - 1. Pride will always seek men over God. (**2 Cor 10:12,18**)
 - 2. When we can really live as to please God, we will be consistent. (**1 Pt 1:7**)
 - 3. How consistent is the praise of men? (**Gal 1:10**)
- C. I need to be encouraged by faithful men. (**Heb 10:24**)
 - 1. fear as well as courage can be taught and shared by others.
 - 2. What was the great sin of the ten spies Israel sent? (**Num 13:32-14:4**)
 - 3. Sometimes the "leadership" of the church is like this.
- D. My steadfastness will reflect the quality of my faith. (**Lk 14:28-30**)
- E. How does the Lord view my abilities?
 - 1. For many of you there are things within your ability that you are afraid to try. (**Josh 1:7, 23:6**)
 - 2. Remember that the Lord will be with us. (**Matt 28:18; Acts 18:10**)
 - 3. This courage will help us overcome disappointment over the outward results.
 - 4. Some are following a pattern of failure and need to learn a better way.
- F. We need wisdom in the ordering of our personal lives. (**Mt 11:29-30**)
 - 1. When you give of your time you are giving of your life! (**Col 4:5**)
 - 2. We need to make these things a part of our lives and not something "extra."
 - 3. We need to be realistic in what work we can do.
 - 4. Here is where we must "weed out" worldliness and the ways we waste our time.

IV. Christians need to begin training and showing others how to do this work.

- A. **Good leadership will have the wisdom to provide training. (2 Tim 2:2)**
 - 1. It is not enough just to have a strong rebuke about the lack work. We need leaders! (**1 Cor 11:1**)
 - 2. How many businesses just "put one to work" without training.
 - 3. In God's work you learn best by seeing someone else do it.
- B. **Training should start as early as possible. (Mt 28:19-20)**
 - 1. When I first became a Christian I was trained immediately how to teach.
 - 2. New converts often have a large number of people who are willing to listen.
- C. **Training should give one experience in a controlled setting.**
 - 1. How does the navy teach its recruits to swim?
 - 2. I have found the best training occurs in the home and will simulate as much as possible the conditions he will later face.

Conclusion: How does God see the things in my life?

- A. The material things are only temporary. (**1 Tim 6:6-8**)
 - 1. He see things from beginning to end. (Ex. Looking at train on a high bridge)
 - 2. Jesus warned us about how God views our actions. (**Lk 16:10-12**)
- B. What work will last for an eternity? (**Heb 6:10-12**)