

Stewards by God's Design: The Three R's of the Christian Steward

Relationships – Responsibilities - Resources

Use whatever gift
you have
received to
serve others
1 Peter 4:10



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Waldo Werning writes in *Christian Stewards Confronted and Committed*, "To understand properly the stewardship of abilities and talents, we must realize the principles upon which such stewardship is established:

1. God has made us and redeemed us.
2. God owns all things.
3. God meets all our spiritual and material needs.
4. He gives us possessions to be administered for Him.

The talents God gives are a sacred trust that He has committed to our care. God expects us to use them, but He does not force us to do so.

How are you stewarding the talents and abilities God has given you?

The Resource of Talents

In his book, *Adventures in Christian Stewardship*, R. C. Rein writes, "People, as they come into the world, are endowed by God with many natural talents, or gifts. They have a body and a soul, reason and senses. In addition, though in varying degrees, God endows each individual with special skills and abilities."

All such talents and abilities are special gifts of God. None of us acquires them by himself or herself, for we brought nothing into the world. Jesus tells the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25:14-30. What do we learn in the following verses about our responsibilities toward the gifts God entrusts to our care?

Matthew 25:14
Matthew 25:15
Matthew 25:16-17
Matthew 25:19
Matthew 25:20-23
Matthew 25:24-28
Matthew 25:29-30

God entrusts us with temporal abilities and skills.

Genesis 4:2
Exodus 35:30-35
1 Samuel 16:14-23
Isaiah 41:6-7

What other kinds of abilities and skills does God provide for our world today?

God entrusts us with spiritual gifts to use to His glory and for His purposes.

1 Corinthians 12:1-11
Ephesians 4:11-12
1 Corinthians 12:14-27
2 Peter 1:3-8

How do you determine what spiritual gifts God has given you?

What do the following passages say about talents?

Matthew 25:15
1 Corinthians 7:7
Ephesians 4:11

In His wisdom, God has wisely distributed His gifts among people.

Romans 12:6-8
Matthew 25:16-17