USE OF OUR ABILITIES

Intro: *Ability* is “the capacity to do something, a special talent or skill.”

I. WE ALL HAVE ABILITIES
   A. Some say that they cannot do anything, but God has given each person certain abilities.
   B. 1 Pet. 4:10 “As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”

II. WE DO NOT ALL HAVE THE SAME ABILITIES.
   A. While I believe the following passages specifically apply to the spiritual gifts (miraculous) of the first century, I also believe there are principles for us.
   B. 1 Pet. 4:10-11 “As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”
   C. Rom. 12:4-8 “For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. 4Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; 5Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching: 6Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.”
      1. prophecy
      2. ministry
      3. teaching
      4. exhorting
      5. sharing or giving
      6. taking the lead or ruling
      7. showing mercy
   D. 1 Cor. 12:12-21 “For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. 13For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Gentiles, whether ye be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. 14For the body is not one member, but many. 15If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 16And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 17If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? 18But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. 19And if they were all one member, where were the body? 20But now are they many members, yet but one body. 21And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.”
      1. Paul describes us as the body of Christ.
      2. Just like in a physical body, each Christian has different functions.

III. WE MUST USE THE ABILITIES THAT GOD HAS GIVEN US.
   A. 1 Pet. 4:10 “As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.”
   B. 1 Cor. 12:22 “Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary.”
   C. If parts of the body don’t work, then the body is hindered or destroyed.
   D. When we use our abilities God will increase our abilities.
      1. Mat. 25:14-30 “For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. 15And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to
another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. Then he that
had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. And likewise
he that had received two, he also gained other two. But he that had received one went and digged in the
earth, and hid his lord’s money. After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with
them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou
deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto
him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee
ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. He also that had received two talents came and
said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. His
lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will
make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Then he which had received the one
talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and
gathering where thou hast not strawed: And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo,
thou hast that is thine. His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou
knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: Thou oughtest therefore to
have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.
Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that
hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that
which he hath. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and
gnashing of teeth.”

2. God makes grace abound to the Christian:
   a. 2 Cor. 9:8 “And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all
      sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:”
   b. This is so we can do all things; Phi. 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ which
      strengtheneth me.”

3. If we do not use them then we lose them.
   a. Notice Moses in Pharaoh’s court.
   b. Acts 7:22 “And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and
      in deeds.”
   c. Exo. 4:10-12 “And Moses said unto the Lord, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore,
      nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue. And the
      Lord said unto him, Who hath made man’s mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing,
      or the blind? have not I the Lord? Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee
      what thou shalt say.”

IV. WE WILL BE JUDGED BY THE USE OF OUR ABILITIES.
   A. Mat. 25:14-30
   B. 2 Cor. 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things
done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”

Conclusion: When we use our abilities, we will glorify God and in glorifying God here on earth, we
will be given a home with Him in heaven.