### **Bible Study**

### **Tithing, Hiding and Hoarding**

### **The Parable of the Talents**

**14**“For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25%3A14-30&version=ESV#fen-ESV-24019a)] and entrusted to them his property. **15**To one he gave five talents,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25%3A14-30&version=ESV#fen-ESV-24020b)] to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. **16**He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. **17**So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. **18**But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. **19**Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. **20**And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ **21**His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant.[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25%3A14-30&version=ESV#fen-ESV-24026c)] You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ **22**And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’ **23**His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ **24**He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, **25**so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ **26**But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? **27**Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. **28**So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. **29**For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. **30**And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

**Matthew 25:14-20**

In this parable, Jesus taught that we must use our gifts wisely. A talent was a very large sum of money, about 80 pounds (36 kg) of silver. Before leaving on a journey, a wealthy man entrusted his fortune to his servants for the time he would be away. Two of the servants used the money wisely to earn income for their master. However, the third servant did not put the money to good use, and the master was very displeased.

The master represents God in this parable, and the servants represent us. The English word talent, meaning our natural abilities, comes from this parable. That is fitting because the lesson of the parable is that we must use our talents and abilities, as well as our wealth, in God's service. If we do not use our gifts wisely, God will consider us to be wicked and lazy like the third man in the parable.

Each of us has unique talents and abilities. Most of us are not dynamic preachers or wealthy philanthropists, but our contribution is just as important. Paul wrote:

*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.* (NRSV, 1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

Paul went on to mention some gifts that were given to the early Christians for the purpose of building up the Church:

*To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.* (NRSV, 1 Corinthians 12:8-11)

Tithing is important and critical to carrying out the gospel to all the world. Tithing represents 10% of your gross income. Depending on where you are (situation, circumstance, faith) you should seriously consider tithing or grow toward tithing if you are not giving consistently. Tithing is not giving your “money to the church”, it is investing into the kingdom of God. And it is needed to address the expenses associated with carrying out the message of the gospel, caring of the church building and supporting the clergy.

Tithing/our money is not the only thing that the Lord requires of us. He also wants our time, talent and gifts. There are too many Christians who are willing to tithe but not willing to work. Many continue to hide their talents and gifts by sitting on the pew or attending ‘bedside Baptist’. We tend to be content to watch 20% of the people do 80% of the work, not realizing that your gifts and talents would expand our efforts to spread the gospel by 100 fold. Many use all kinds of excuses why they do not want to work in the church and for the kingdom yet they throw away their talents when they invest it in worldly things.

And then there are those who hoard their gifts and talents. They attend bible study, listen to the preaching, recognize their gifts, toy around with their talents but never get to work. They take in all of the knowledge but never give it out. They know they could help but they go home instead. They have the ability to contribute but they choose to criticize, mumble and complain. They are just like the person who continues to buy and accumulate things, shoving all into their spiritual house and never sharing or purging anything. They are spiritual hoarders.

The parable of the Talent teaches us at least 5 important things about the biblical meaning of success while dispelling the cultural myths listed above.

### **1. We are not all created with equal skills, abilities and opportunities.**

The narrative says each man was given talents “according to his own ability.”

Everything we have is a gift from God. All good things are gifts from God (1 Timothy 6:17). Food and clothing (Matthew 6:25, 33), rain and fruitful harvests (Leviticus 26:4), faith (Ephesians 2:8), grace (James 4:6), wisdom (Proverbs 2:6, James 1:5), and life itself (Isaiah 42:5) are all gifts from God.

The master understood that the one-talent servant was not capable of producing as much as the five-talent servant. Initially we may read that and say “that doesn’t seem fair.”

But intuitively we know that diversity is woven into the tapestry of our world. We are all different in many ways. Not to say we should not treat everyone humanely, with respect and dignity. But, for example, we are not all created as athletically inclined and as such we cannot all be in professional sports. Again, not a bad thing, just a reality.

The apostle Paul phrased it this way:

*We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully*. (NIV, Romans 12:5-8)

The gifts we have received are not ours alone. God gave them to us for the purpose of serving Him and serving other people.

Each of us has something to give. We can give our money and our time to charity, be a friend to someone who is sick or lonely, do volunteer work, or be a peacemaker, teacher or minister. We may give unselfishly of our time to our spouse, children or parents. We may choose a service-oriented occupation, or we may just do our everyday jobs with integrity and respect for others.

It would seem that the more we give to others, the poorer we become, but just the opposite is true! Service to others brings meaning and fulfillment to our lives in a way that wealth, power, possessions and self-centered pursuits can never match. As Jesus said,

*Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.* (TNIV, Luke 6:38)

Related passages: Leviticus 19:18, Proverbs 12:11, 14:23, 28:8, Ecclesiastes 2:26, Matthew 20:25-28, 22:34-40, Mark 12:28-31, Luke 10:25-28, 16:10-13, 19:11-27, Acts 20:35, Romans 12:11, 13:9-10, 1 Corinthians 1:24-30, 14:12, Galatians 5:13-14, 6:9, 1 Peter 4:8-10, 2 Peter 1:5-7, Hebrews 6:10-12, James 1:22-27.

### **2. Success only occurs when we take action.**

* Adam and Eve were put in the garden to work it and take care of it (Genesis 2:15)
* Paul told the church in Thessalonica that if someone did not work, they should not eat (2 Thessalonians 3:10)
* Proverbs 12:11 tells us that“Those who work their land will have abundant food, but those who chase fantasies have no sense”

It does not matter whether we have been given great talents, abilities and wealth, or very little. What matters to God is whether we make good use of what we have been given, whether large or small:

From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded. (NRSV, Luke 12:48)

Jesus made the same point in a different way when he spoke to His disciples about a poor widow's charitable offering:

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything - all she had to live on." (TNIV, Mark 12:41-44)

Related passages: Luke 20:45-47, 21:1-4, John 9:40-41, 15:22, Acts 3:6, 9:36, 13:1-3, 1 Corinthians 3:7-9, 7:7, 12:27-31, 13:8-13, Ephesians 4:10-12, James 1:17-18, 3:13, 1 Timothy 3:1, 5:17, 2 Timothy 2:24, 4:1-2.

A farmer has to work the land to get crops, but he cannot guarantee the outcome of that planting. But without working the land, he will definitely not reap a harvest.

The man receiving only 1 talent did not work, and as a result he earned nothing in return. Out of fear he kept his talent buried, the passage says, and thus guaranteeing it would not be lost, or, put another way, he would not fail.

It’s our job to be faithful with all God has given us, which means we need to leverage our opportunities.  We are to work; using our talents to glorify God, to serve the common good, and to further the Kingdom.

Biblical success is working diligently, in the here and now, using all the talents God has given us to produce the return, expected by God.

### **3. When we do work, our efforts are to be aimed toward God and not our own self-pleasure or agenda.**

It was not uncommon in those days for masters to entrust possessions to their servants in their absence. If we are followers of Christ, we are His servants—we chose to die to self, and follow Him. The Bible teaches us that everything we have—whether acquired or given at birth—is Gods.

Paul says in I Corinthians (6:20), that we are not our own, we have been bought with a price of His life. So Christ has a claim to everything which belongs to us—everything which may be turned to good. We are told to glorify God as we use our bodies in our work. Our end is not self-satisfaction, but God-satisfaction.

However, that does not mean that “winning” is wrong—if God gave you the ability to win when competing with others, and, you give God the credit.

Winning is relative to what others have: Your success is relative to what you have.

We are not all winners—contrary to current cultural lies.

Winning depends on who else is playing the game.

But we can all be successful when we do the absolute best we can. Both servants were successful, even though one ended up with a greater return

Because we live in a fallen world, we may not always *“feel His pleasure”* when we are being faithful to do the work God has given us—or at least not the pleasure we will feel in Heaven. But to the degree that we remind ourselves that we are here to honor God, we can find peace in our faithfulness. Seeking to win to honor Him.

### **4. God always gives us everything we need to do what He has called us to do.**

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13). The Master, in the parable, expected his servants to do more than passively preserve what had been entrusted to them. God expects us to generate a return by using our skills and abilities toward a productive end

The servant who received 5 talents had everything necessary to produce 5 more. The servant who received 2 talents had everything necessary to produce 2 more. The servant who received 1 talent had everything necessary to produce 1 more. But out of fear, he chose to do nothing. Fear – False Evidence Appearing Real

Fear trumps faith, if we let it.

When we you attempt to follow what God has entrusted to you it is not always easy. That’s why it is so important to stay faithful and let God take care of the success. Never so true as when a new life has been entrusted to you, called a baby. Even though God gives us everything we need, to be the parent he wants us to be, the role of a faithful parent will have plenty of pushback and opposition until adulthood is accomplished—sometimes beyond!

The key is to stay faithful and let God take care of the success. Just like the servant who—out of fear—did not invest his talent, so too with parenting, fear of our child’s response can make us back away from the mission.

 Fear trumps mission if we let it. Fear makes cowards of us all, if we listen to its message more than God’s Words.

In Ephesians 2:10 Paul says we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works which God has prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

God does not NEED us, but He has chosen to use us in this thing called life.

In Ezekiel 3, the Lord told Ezekiel to take His word to heart, and then to share it with the Jewish exiles in Babylon—where Ezekiel himself was an exile. God told him in to speak the words “whether they listen or not”. In other words, determine to be faithful in speaking the Word, not worrying about the success of them receiving the Word

### **5. We will be held accountable.**

The unfaithful servant in the parable did not waste the masters money, he wasted an opportunity.

As a result he was judged wicked and lazy. I am sure we have all felt that wasted opportunity from time to time as it relates to sharing the gospel. We are responsible for what we have been given, and one day we will be held responsible.

The introduction of sin has corrupted all areas of culture.

But one thing is clear, we are told to make disciples of all nations, and, we are not here to merely wait for our fire insurance to kick in.

* We are here as ambassadors of the Creator
* We are created beings, placed into God’s created world
* We work at the pleasure of our Lord and our work is to be driven by our love of our master
* Our only desire should be to hear Him say, when He returns, “well done my good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of the master”

A man who was a committed Christian and the most successful college basketball coach in history, the late John Wooden, when asked how he defined success, said this: “Success is peace of mind which is a direct result of self-satisfaction in knowing you made the effort to become the best of which you are capable”

Success is when you lay your head on the pillow at night, knowing you were faithful to do what you were called to do. And certainly the proper balance is to ensure that we do our best to glorify God, and not to just make ourselves look good.

### **Application**

* Think back to the parable of the talents to see which servant might best represent your life.
* In your quiet time, inquire of God as to what areas of your life He is calling you to increase your faithfulness.

### **Conclusions**

The essence of the Christian life is in obeying and worshiping God and helping others. God has given each of us important gifts for those purposes. Like the three men in Jesus' Parable of the Talents, our gifts may be great or small. But no matter how great or small our talents, abilities and wealth, we are required to put them to good use.

**Questions to ask yourself:**

* What are spiritual gifts (the gifts of the Holy Spirit)?
* How should I be spending my life?
* What things should I be doing to serve God?
* How can I know what plans God has for me?
* Is it wrong to spend my free time on hobbies or playing video games?
* Does God care how we spend our money?
* What does the Bible say about helping people who are taking advantage of me?

**Here are just a few of many ways to use the gifts God has given us:**

* Donate money to a good quality charitable organization.1
* Take a public service job.
* Become a minister, deacon, priest or Sunday School teacher.
* Volunteer at a social service agency, school or hospital. They always need help.
* Volunteer at church.
* Pray for the sick and suffering.
* Babysit for a friend or neighbor.
* Invite someone lonely to share a meal.
* Help someone who is sick or elderly. Visit, run errands, give a ride to appointments or help with chores.
* Give hugs and attention to your spouse, siblings, children and parents.
* Don't hold a grudge; forgive everyone who has treated you badly.
* Smile and be patient and kind to the people you encounter every day.
* Find a creative use for your own special talent!

# Scriptures on Using your Talents:

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### [1 Peter 4:10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+4%3A10&version=ESV) **ESV / 995 helpful votes**

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

### [Romans 12:6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12%3A6&version=ESV) **ESV / 434 helpful votes**

Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith;

### [1 Peter 4:10-11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+4%3A10-11&version=ESV) **ESV / 415 helpful votes**

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

### [1 Timothy 4:14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Timothy+4%3A14&version=ESV) **ESV / 359 helpful votes**

Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you.

### [Romans 12:6-8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12%3A6-8&version=ESV) **ESV / 326 helpful votes**

Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

### [Matthew 25:14-30](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25%3A14-30&version=ESV) **ESV / 301 helpful votes**

“For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. ...

### [Matthew 5:14-16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+5%3A14-16&version=ESV) **ESV / 234 helpful votes**

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

### [Proverbs 18:16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+18%3A16&version=ESV) **ESV / 163 helpful votes**

A man's gift makes room for him and brings him before the great.

### [2 Timothy 1:6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Timothy+1%3A6&version=ESV) **ESV / 150 helpful votes**

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands,

### [Colossians 3:23-25](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+3%3A23-25&version=ESV) **ESV / 149 helpful votes**

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

### [Matthew 25:29](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25%3A29&version=ESV) **ESV / 130 helpful votes**

For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.

### [Daniel 1:17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Daniel+1%3A17&version=ESV) **ESV / 129 helpful votes**

As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

### [1 Corinthians 12:4-6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+12%3A4-6&version=ESV) **ESV / 81 helpful votes**

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.

### [Luke 19:11-26](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+19%3A11-26&version=ESV) **ESV / 80 helpful votes**

As they heard these things, he proceeded to tell a parable, because he was near to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately. He said therefore, “A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return. Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, ‘Engage in business until I come.’ But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, ‘We do not want this man to reign over us.’ When he returned, having received the kingdom, he ordered these servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by doing business. ...

### [1 Corinthians 12:1-31](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+12%3A1-31&version=ESV) **ESV / 75 helpful votes**

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ...

### [James 3:17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+3%3A17&version=ESV) **ESV / 55 helpful votes**

But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.

### [Ephesians 4:7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+4%3A7&version=ESV) **ESV / 50 helpful votes**

But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

### [Romans 12:3-8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12%3A3-8&version=ESV) **ESV / 49 helpful votes**

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ...

### [1 Corinthians 4:2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+4%3A2&version=ESV) **ESV / 46 helpful votes**

Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.

### [Matthew 25:15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25%3A15&version=ESV) **ESV / 46 helpful votes**

To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

### [Romans 12:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12%3A11&version=ESV) **ESV / 43 helpful votes**

Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.

### [1 Corinthians 10:31](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+10%3A31&version=ESV) **ESV / 40 helpful votes**

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

### [1 Corinthians 12:7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+12%3A7&version=ESV) **ESV / 39 helpful votes**

To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

### [Colossians 3:17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+3%3A17&version=ESV) **ESV / 38 helpful votes**

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

### [Ephesians 2:10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+2%3A10&version=ESV) **ESV / 38 helpful votes**

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

### [Exodus 35:10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+35%3A10&version=ESV) **ESV / 36 helpful votes**

“Let every skillful craftsman among you come and make all that the Lord has commanded:

### [James 1:17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+1%3A17&version=ESV) **ESV / 35 helpful votes**

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

### [2 Corinthians 8:8-9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+8%3A8-9&version=ESV) **ESV / 34 helpful votes**

I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

### [1 Corinthians 14:12](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+14%3A12&version=ESV) **ESV / 33 helpful votes**

So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.

### [Matthew 25:19](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25%3A19&version=ESV) **ESV / 33 helpful votes**

Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them.

### [Matthew 25:14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25%3A14&version=ESV) **ESV / 33 helpful votes**

“For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property.

### [Matthew 25:24](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25%3A24&version=ESV) **ESV / 28 helpful votes**

He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed,

### [Ephesians 4:11-16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+4%3A11-16&version=ESV) **ESV / 27 helpful votes**

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ...

### [1 Corinthians 4:7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+4%3A7&version=ESV) **ESV / 27 helpful votes**

For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?

### [Luke 12:48](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+12%3A48&version=ESV) **ESV / 27 helpful votes**

But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.

### [Matthew 25:21](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25%3A21&version=ESV) **ESV / 27 helpful votes**

His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’

### [Colossians 3:23-24](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+3%3A23-24&version=ESV) **ESV / 26 helpful votes**

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

### [1 Corinthians 12:27](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+12%3A27&version=ESV) **ESV / 26 helpful votes**

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

### [Matthew 25:30](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25%3A30&version=ESV) **ESV / 25 helpful votes**

And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

### [Proverbs 1:1-33](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+1%3A1-33&version=ESV) **ESV / 25 helpful votes**

The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel: To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight, to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity; to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth— Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance, ...

### [James 3:1](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+3%3A1&version=ESV) **ESV / 24 helpful votes**

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

### [1 Corinthians 12:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+12%3A11&version=ESV) **ESV / 23 helpful votes**

All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

### [Luke 19:1-48](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+19%3A1-48&version=ESV) **ESV / 23 helpful votes**

He entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.” ...

### [Revelation 1:1-20](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+1%3A1-20&version=ESV) **ESV / 22 helpful votes**

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near. John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood ...

### [Luke 16:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+16%3A11&version=ESV) **ESV / 22 helpful votes**

If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?

### [1 Samuel 25:3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+25%3A3&version=ESV) **ESV / 22 helpful votes**

Now the name of the man was Nabal, and the name of his wife Abigail. The woman was discerning and beautiful, but the man was harsh and badly behaved; he was a Calebite.

### [Hebrews 3:13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+3%3A13&version=ESV) **ESV / 21 helpful votes**

But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

### [Ephesians 4:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+4%3A11&version=ESV) **ESV / 21 helpful votes**

And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers,

### [Matthew 25:1-46](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25%3A1-46&version=ESV) **ESV / 21 helpful votes**

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. ...

### [2 Corinthians 8:12](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+8%3A12&version=ESV) **ESV / 20 helpful votes**

For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.

### [Romans 12:4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12%3A4&version=ESV) **ESV / 20 helpful votes**

For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function,

### [Matthew 25:16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25%3A16&version=ESV) **ESV / 20 helpful votes**

He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more.

### [Exodus 35:30-35](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+35%3A30-35&version=ESV) **ESV / 20 helpful votes**

Then Moses said to the people of Israel, “See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft. And he has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan. ...

### [1 Corinthians 12:18](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+12%3A18&version=ESV) **ESV / 19 helpful votes**

But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.

### [1 Corinthians 12:5-6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+12%3A5-6&version=ESV) **ESV / 19 helpful votes**

And there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.

### [Luke 19:11-27](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+19%3A11-27&version=ESV) **ESV / 19 helpful votes**

As they heard these things, he proceeded to tell a parable, because he was near to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately. He said therefore, “A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return. Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, ‘Engage in business until I come.’ But his citizens hated him and sent a delegation after him, saying, ‘We do not want this man to reign over us.’ When he returned, having received the kingdom, he ordered these servants to whom he had given the money to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by doing business. ...

### [Matthew 25:25](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25%3A25&version=ESV) **ESV / 19 helpful votes**

So I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’

### [Exodus 36:1-2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+36%3A1-2&version=ESV) **ESV / 19 helpful votes**

“Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whom the Lord has put skill and intelligence to know how to do any work in the construction of the sanctuary shall work in accordance with all that the Lord has commanded.” And Moses called Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whose mind the Lord had put skill, everyone whose heart stirred him up to come to do the work.

### [1 Corinthians 13:1-13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+13%3A1-13&version=ESV) **ESV / 18 helpful votes**

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ...

### [1 Corinthians 12:4](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+12%3A4&version=ESV) **ESV / 18 helpful votes**

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;

### [Romans 12:1-21](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12%3A1-21&version=ESV) **ESV / 18 helpful votes**

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ...

### [John 3:16-17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+3%3A16-17&version=ESV) **ESV / 18 helpful votes**

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

### [Matthew 25:13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25%3A13&version=ESV) **ESV / 18 helpful votes**

Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

### [Matthew 24:45](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+24%3A45&version=ESV) **ESV / 18 helpful votes**

“Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time?

### [Ephesians 4:12](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+4%3A12&version=ESV) **ESV / 17 helpful votes**

To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

### [Romans 12:3](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12%3A3&version=ESV) **ESV / 17 helpful votes**

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

### [Luke 19:13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+19%3A13&version=ESV) **ESV / 17 helpful votes**

Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, ‘Engage in business until I come.’

### [Matthew 25:26](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25%3A26&version=ESV) **ESV / 17 helpful votes**

But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed?

### [James 4:6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+4%3A6&version=ESV) **ESV / 16 helpful votes**

But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”

### [1 Corinthians 12:31](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+12%3A31&version=ESV) **ESV / 16 helpful votes**

But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

### [1 Corinthians 12:30](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+12%3A30&version=ESV) **ESV / 16 helpful votes**

Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?

### [1 Corinthians 12:28](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+12%3A28&version=ESV) **ESV / 16 helpful votes**

And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.

### [1 Corinthians 7:7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+7%3A7&version=ESV) **ESV / 16 helpful votes**

I wish that all were as I myself am. But each has his own gift from God, one of one kind and one of another.

### [Matthew 25:18](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25%3A18&version=ESV) **ESV / 16 helpful votes**

But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money.

### [1 Corinthians 12:1-11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+12%3A1-11&version=ESV) **ESV / 15 helpful votes**

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ...

### [Acts 3:6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+3%3A6&version=ESV) **ESV / 15 helpful votes**

But Peter said, “I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!”

### [2 Timothy 3:16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Timothy+3%3A16&version=ESV) **ESV / 14 helpful votes**

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

### [Ephesians 2:8-10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+2%3A8-10&version=ESV) **ESV / 14 helpful votes**

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

### [1 Corinthians 15:10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+15%3A10&version=ESV) **ESV / 14 helpful votes**

But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

### [Matthew 25:31-46](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25%3A31-46&version=ESV) **ESV / 14 helpful votes**

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ...

### [1 Peter 4:11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+4%3A11&version=ESV) **ESV / 13 helpful votes**

Whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

### [2 Timothy 2:15](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Timothy+2%3A15&version=ESV) **ESV / 13 helpful votes**

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

### [Romans 12:8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+12%3A8&version=ESV) **ESV / 13 helpful votes**

The one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

### [Matthew 5:16](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+5%3A16&version=ESV) **ESV / 13 helpful votes**

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

### [1 Peter 5:1-14](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Peter+5%3A1-14&version=ESV) **ESV / 12 helpful votes**

So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” ...

### [Galatians 2:6](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians+2%3A6&version=ESV) **ESV / 12 helpful votes**

And from those who seemed to be influential (what they were makes no difference to me; God shows no partiality)—those, I say, who seemed influential added nothing to me.

### [1 Corinthians 12:5](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+12%3A5&version=ESV) **ESV / 12 helpful votes**

And there are varieties of service, but the same Lord;

### [Matthew 25:23](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25%3A23&version=ESV) **ESV / 12 helpful votes**

His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’

### [James 1:8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+1%3A8&version=ESV) **ESV / 11 helpful votes**

He is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

### [Ephesians 2:8](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+2%3A8&version=ESV) **ESV / 11 helpful votes**

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,

### [Mark 12:28-31](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+12%3A28-31&version=ESV) **ESV / 11 helpful votes**

And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?” Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

### [Matthew 25:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+25%3A9&version=ESV) **ESV / 11 helpful votes**

But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’

### [Matthew 18:24](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+18%3A24&version=ESV) **ESV / 11 helpful votes**

When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents.

### [Proverbs 22:29](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+22%3A29&version=ESV) **ESV / 11 helpful votes**

Do you see a man skillful in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men.

### [1 Corinthians 12:9](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+12%3A9&version=ESV) **ESV / 10 helpful votes**

To another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,

### [Luke 21:1-38](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+21%3A1-38&version=ESV) **ESV / 10 helpful votes**

Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, and he saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. And he said, “Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.” And while some were speaking of the temple, how it was adorned with noble stones and offerings, he said, ...

### [Luke 16:10](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+16%3A10&version=ESV) **ESV / 10 helpful votes**

“One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much.

### [Matthew 24:1-51](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+24%3A1-51&version=ESV) **ESV / 10 helpful votes**

Jesus left the temple and was going away, when his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. But he answered them, “You see all these, do you not? Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.” As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the close of the age?” And Jesus answered them, “See that no one leads you astray. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Christ,’ and they will lead many astray. ...

### [1 Timothy 5:17](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Timothy+5%3A17&version=ESV) **ESV / 9 helpful votes**

Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.

### [1 Corinthians 13:2](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+13%3A2&version=ESV) **ESV / 9 helpful votes**

And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

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