

THE WOODLAND HILLS PROCLAIMER

"how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you"

Acts 20:20

SERVICES

SUNDAY

9:30 AM – BIBLE STUDY
10:30 AM – A.M. ASSEMBLY
6:00 PM – P.M. ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY

7:00 PM – BIBLE STUDY

Woodland Hills church of Christ
410 Woodland Hills Drive
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Telephone: 936/756-9322

ELDERS

WAYNE REED HARROLD
STARR

DEACONS

JAMES COST
JIM COOK
VERNON RIEHL

VOLUME 2 WEEK 40

To our visitors – "WELCOME" - Thank you for choosing to visit with us

OCT 4, 2009

"I Was the One-Talent Man"

Author not known

It is the Lord, Who gives talents, abilities, and skills (I Peter 4:11; I Timothy 1:12). It is a foolish, proud, and arrogant man who looks upon his blessings and gives credit to himself, rather than His Creator (Daniel 4:28-37; Habakkuk 1:5-2:4). Of course, this does not imply that man has no part in the matter. Just as salvation is a gift from God, bestowed by grace, but still requires the acceptance and obedience of man; likewise, talents and abilities are gifts from God, but still require diligence and faithfulness on the part of man. This leads well into your second question.

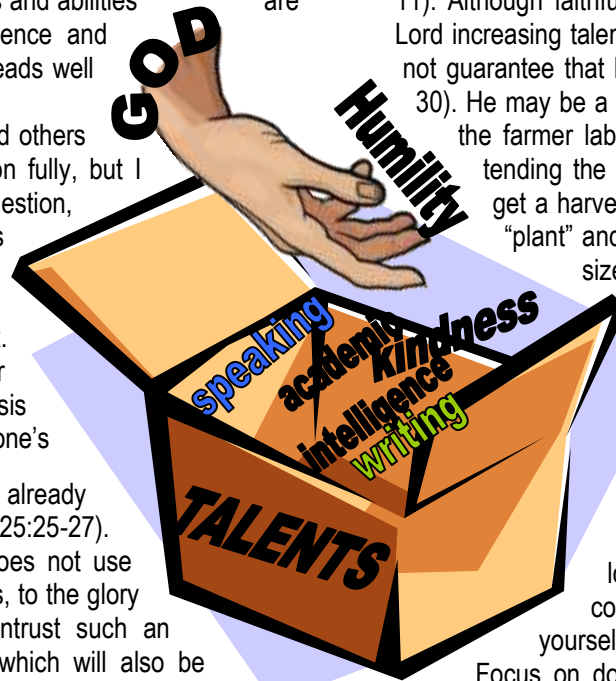
"Why do some people have talents and others do not?" I cannot answer this question fully, but I have learned some things about this question, which may be helpful to you. Since it is the Lord who provides these talents, we know it is the Lord who chooses for some to have talents and others not. Although there is much we will never know, we do know that part of the basis for His decision is the exhibition of one's

diligence with the talents that he already possesses (I Timothy 1:12; Matthew 25:25-27). Everybody has some talent. If one does not use that talent, which he already possesses, to the glory of the Lord, why would the Lord entrust such an unfaithful servant with more talents, which will also be wasted (Luke 16:10-12)?

At this point, I am sure you would ask, "But, I have seen those who worked hard for the Lord, and they did not receive any talents or abilities." "Why not?" I also used to wonder about this difficult question, and although I cannot answer with certainty, please consider these thoughts: Part of the answer lies in the misconception that talents are limited to academic intelligence, speaking, and writing – things we usually associate with public teaching. Not everybody's talents are of the same type (I Corinthians 12:12-26). Talents also include the Christian virtues,

such as patience, humility, meekness, kindness, and love (II Peter 1:2-7). These latter things are far more important and effective than the former. Anybody can learn to speak and write, but it is a special person who learns humility. Moreover, if a Christian flourishes in these virtues, he is assured that he will be "neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (II Peter 1:8-11). Although faithfulness and diligence are requirements for the Lord increasing talent and ability, just because one is faithful does not guarantee that he will be a "ten talent" man (Matthew 25:14-30). He may be a "four talent" or "two talent" man. Just because the farmer labors, planting seed, watering the ground, and tending the fields does not guarantee that he will always get a harvest, much less a great harvest. It is our task to "plant" and "water" with diligence. We have to leave the size of the harvest up to God (I Corinthians 3:6-9). The farmer's crop is always considered a gift; likewise, the Christian's fruit is also a gift. In both cases, one's labor can neither guarantee nor earn the reward.

I know you may have not asked for this last piece of advice, but please let me offer it for your consideration: Do not worry any longer about how many talents you have compared to someone else. Only concern yourself with your stewardship (I Corinthians 4:1-7). Focus on doubling what you have, not what you do not have (II Corinthians 8:12). Remember why you are putting forth diligence. Seek the Master's glory and the benefit of your fellow servants – not your own personal power. Regardless of the burden, the "ten talent" man will receive the same reward as the "two talent" man (Matthew 20:1-16). The one who will not receive any reward is the one who merely returns the talent he was given. After that, he will have none (Matthew 25:25-30). ...



What Can I Do Today For The Lord?

Is there something I can do today for the Lord and His cause? Yes.

We can get into a mode of thinking that our service to God is limited to Sundays and Wednesdays. Maybe we do not consciously think this, and would never say it, yet that is what we do and what we do comes from what we think (Mk. 7:21-23).

Further, it is not that we do not want to serve the Lord every day. We simply slip into a lax manner of living. We slumber, just as the devil wants us to. As far as he is concerned, we can believe what we want and have the best intentions in the world as long as we are not acting on it (Jas. 2:14-26).

Many of us want to do better, but what can we do? Here are some suggestions to get started, but are by no means the end of what we can and should do.

1. Pray. Take time when you wake up and before you go to sleep; 10-20 minutes.
2. Read. Find a quiet place to read your Bible for 10-15 minutes. Reflect on what you have

read and see how it fits in your life.

3. Speak. Talk to your family about what you have read or what you prayed about. Ask them what they have done today and make a biblical observation or application.

These are three easy things to do that can help start you on a daily routine of doing something for the Lord. As the days and weeks go by, add something. Call a brother or sister to encourage them (Heb. 3:12, 13). Contact a friend about going to worship or Bible class (Mk. 16:15). Write a letter to a wayward Christian urging his or her return to the Lord (2 Pet. 2:18-22).

Let's get out of our complacency and do something for the Lord today (Rom. 13:11-14).

- Steven F. Deaton

WOODLAND HILLS NEWS AND NOTES

Gerald Hodges – Is out of the hospital and doing well.

Heather Bridges has sick children hopefully they are better and she will be able to attend today.

Ruby Goad –started her treatments last Monday

PRAYER LIST: Janice Billeri, Mindy Blackstone, Haskell & Doris Butler, Ruby Goad, Jerry Harrell, Bill & Jo Ellen McCarty, Leola Pence, Nelva Peyton, Jerri Scott, Bertie Strokos, James & Lou Ann Webb, Jennifer West, Jane Zeitz and Cindy Kirkwood (from Southside)

SCHEDULE TO SERVE - Oct 11th

AM – Service

Announcements:	Jim Rains
Song Leader:	Jim Cook
Lord Supper Bread:	John Chaney
Asst:	Lynn Farrell
Cup:	Luis Serpas
Asst:	Fred Pruter
Prayer Open:	Vernon Riehl
Close:	Mike Burk

PM – Service

Song Leader:	David Cade
Lord Supper:	John Chaney
Prayer Open:	Ty West
Close:	Martin Billeri

PROVERB OF THE WEEK

19:27

Cease listening to instruction, my son,
and you will stray from the words of
knowledge.