

## Gifted: Use It Or Lose It

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### Connect:

- \* How did you see God work this past week as you depended on the Holy Spirit rather than yourself?
- \* What was helpful, encouraging or challenging about this week's message on *The Talents* in Matthew 25?

### Study:

- \* Read **1 Kings 3:5-9**. What gifts does Solomon ask God for? What are the reasons He gives God that he needs this?
- \* What does God say in response? **1 Kings 3:10-14**
- \* How did this giftedness give Solomon opportunity to make God known? **1 Kings 4:29-34**
- \* What led Solomon to misuse his giftedness? **1 Kings 11:1-8**
- \* Read **Ecclesiastes 2:1-8**. For whom did Solomon use the gifts God had given him? How did this leave him feeling? **vs. 17-18**
- \* How did God grab Solomon's attention? **1 Kings 11:9-13**
- \* What conclusion did this lead Solomon to? **Eccl. 12:13-14**

### Apply:

- \* What gifts has God given you? (Time? Treasure? Talents? etc)
  - \* How are you using the gifts God has given you? For yourself or for Him?
  - \* What steps can you prayerfully take to daily ensure that you surrender all of your gifts to be used for God's glory?
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**Pray Together:** *Take significant time to pray together now about the things you have learned and the commitments you are making for this week*

## Further Inspiration

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***"The shortness of time is frequently urged as an incentive for seeking righteousness and making Christ our friend. This should not be the great motive with us; for it savors of selfishness. Is it necessary that the terrors of the day of God should be held before us, that we may be compelled to right action through fear? It ought not to be so. Jesus is attractive. He is full of love, mercy, and compassion. He proposes to be our friend, to walk with us through all the rough pathways of life... Jesus, the Majesty of Heaven, proposes to elevate to companionship with himself those who come to him with their burdens, their weaknesses, and their cares."***  
– Signs of The Times, March 17, 1887

***"While we yield ourselves as instruments for the Holy Spirit's working, the grace of God works in us to deny old inclinations, to overcome powerful propensities, and to form new habits. As we cherish and obey the promptings of the Spirit, our hearts are enlarged to receive more and more of His power, and to do more and better work. Dormant energies are aroused, and palsied faculties receive new life... The value of man is estimated in heaven according to the capacity of the heart to know God. This knowledge is the spring from which flows all power... Looking unto Jesus we obtain brighter and more distinct views of God, and by beholding we become changed. Goodness, love for our fellow men, becomes our natural instinct. We develop a character which is the counterpart of the divine character. Growing into His likeness, we enlarge our capacity for knowing God. More and more we enter into fellowship with the heavenly world, and we have continually increasing power to receive the riches of the knowledge and wisdom of eternity."***  
– Christ's Object Lessons, p. 354-355

### Further Reading:

- Matthew 24-25; 1 Kings 3-4 & 11
- Christ's Object Lessons, Chapter 25, "The Talents"