

If He does give them back, we will have **PURIFIED** talents that are fit for the Master's use.

If He does not give them back... do we REALLY want them anyway?

Conclusion

Here are the steps that I believe **ALL** Christians should take in regards to their areas of strength.

Step 1—Give your life to Jesus Christ and realize that He is Lord!

Step 2—Avoid the *natural* desire to immediately use your abilities for God! (This will be difficult. Often well-meaning Christians will encourage you to use your gifts for God's glory.)

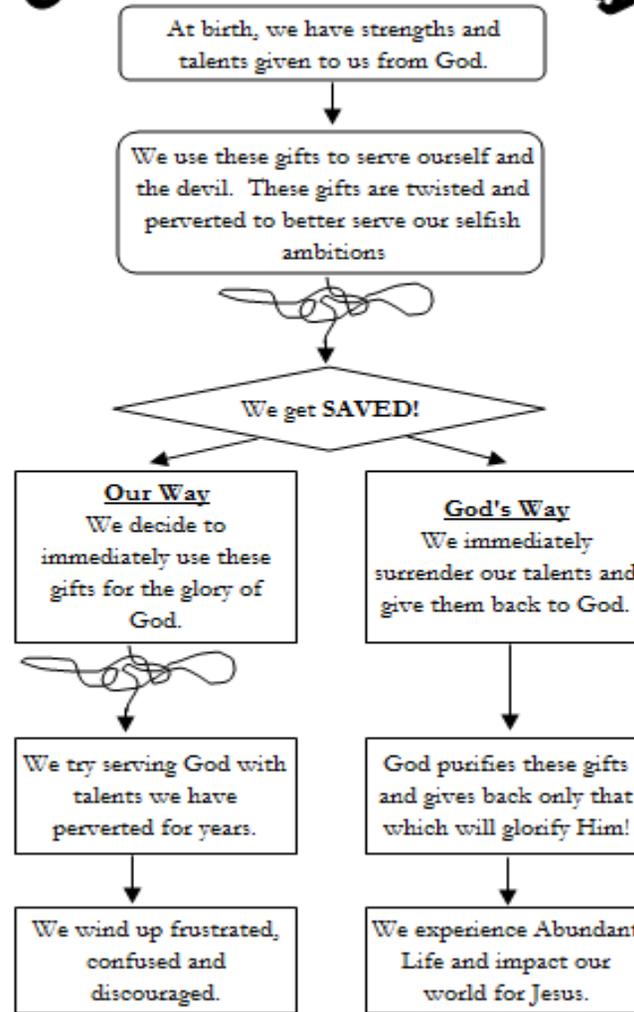
Step 3—Give your gifts and talents back to the God Who gave them to you in the first place.

Step 4—Wait for God to give these gifts back to you. If He does they will be purified and bear the mark of His anointing. He will be able to use them for His glory!

Step 5—Serve God in your weak areas while you are waiting. This way, you will be able to witness how powerfully He will come through on your behalf!

As the hymn writer said, "All to Jesus I surrender..."

Our Way vs. God's Way



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*"All to Jesus I surrender,
Lord, I give myself to Thee;"*
Judson W. Van DeVenter

The Bible does have quite a bit to say about our God-given abilities and talents. All people have natural areas of strength and spiritual gifts. Both can be used by God. But how?

My answer is going to be a bit different from what you might expect.

GOD-GIVEN GIFTS AND ABILITIES - WHAT TO DO WITH THEM?

The following is what I believe that ALL Christians should do with their God-given talents. They should humbly give them back to God and let Him do what He wants with them.

Many Christians make a mistake, in that they do not give their gifts back to God and try to serve Him with these abilities in their own strength.

The Bible says:

“FOR MY THOUGHTS ARE NOT YOUR THOUGHTS, NEITHER ARE YOUR WAYS MY WAYS, SAITH THE LORD. (9) FOR AS THE HEAVENS ARE HIGHER THAN THE EARTH, SO ARE MY WAYS HIGHER THAN YOUR WAYS, AND MY THOUGHTS THAN YOUR THOUGHTS.”
ISAIAH 55:8-9

Using our strengths, *naturally* evolves something like this...

- Before salvation, we are using our talents to serve the devil and our own self interests.
- During this period, we are taking our God-given gifts and twisting and perverting them to be more useful for the devil's service and our selfish aspirations.

- At some point, we get saved and give our lives to Jesus Christ.
- After salvation, we decide (or are unwisely encouraged by others) to immediately use these gifts for the glory of God.
- We then try and use our “God-given” abilities for His Kingdom, but we don't recognize how they have been tainted by our ungodly past.

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What could be wrong with glorifying God with the talents He has given to us?

There is a significant problem.

As unsaved people, we have spent years perverting and twisting these God-given skills for self-serving purposes. After salvation, we try and "clean them up a bit" and use them for God's glory.

Does God **REALLY** want us to use those twisted and distorted abilities for Him?

The Bible says:

“AND EVERY MAN THAT HATH THIS HOPE IN HIM PURIFIETH HIMSELF, EVEN AS HE IS PURE.”
1 JOHN 3:3

I have come to the conclusion that **HE DOES NOT** want us to use His gifts in this polluted condition! We are unable to “clean them up” ourselves. He wants us to give them back to Him... **Completely!**

This is the critical step that many believers miss. They don't...

GIVE THEIR GOD-GIVEN TALENTS BACK TO GOD.

When we die to our ways, humble ourselves, and give these gifts back to God, we will be amazed at what He will do through us.

We must wait for God to purify these talents and while waiting, serve Him in OTHER areas. Serve Him in areas where we are weak!

The Bible says:

“AND HE SAID UNTO ME, MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR THEE: FOR MY STRENGTH IS MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS. MOST GLADLY THEREFORE WILL I RATHER GLORY IN MY INFIRMITIES, THAT THE POWER OF CHRIST MAY REST UPON ME.”
2 CORINTHIANS 12:9

Be patient and see if He gives those gifts back.