

Count your blessings...

For the glory of God, and the spiritual edification of those who read these testimonies

The Talents

The story of the stewards who received talents of different amounts in Matthew Chapter 25, is not simply concerning the talents and abilities that God has given to us. But Jesus spoke of the Kingdom of Heaven and how we should prepare to enter therein.

These talents represent spiritual gifts given for our use, to lead an overcoming life, and for the edification of the church. How much we use these spiritual gifts, will determine our reward in heaven. *"And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."* (Rev 22:12)

"For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required:" (Luke 12:48). Let us consider this verse in context of the parable relating to the Kingdom of God. For the steward who received 5 talents, much was expected, and he was faithful in that, by producing 10 talents. Using the gift(s) given to us, we can exercise the power of the Holy Spirit and are able to receive more gifts. However, to the steward who was given 1 talent, yes, little was expected, but even that was not used for his own life, nor for the benefit of others. Therefore, his Lord took that one talent, that one gift, and gave to him that had 10, so that it will be used for the edification of the church.

One of the most important gifts God gives us, is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is given to change our character, to overcome the nature of man (sin), to help us lead an overcoming life, to prepare us for the coming of the Lord, as a spotless Bride, to preserve us till the day of our redemption. *"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."* (Ephesians 4:30). If we do not use the Holy Spirit to do all these things, then in effect, we are not using the talent or the gift that God has given to us. We will be like the slothful servant, who knew what his Lord expected from him, but failed to prepare himself.

There are other gifts that God has given us that should be used for our spiritual growth and the edification of the church. Another gift is Faith. If we have once had the faith to stand on divine healing, to live by faith, to trust God for all our physical needs, but have now gone back to living an ordinary life, then we are as one that is *"dead in the tent"* (Num. 19:14).

Other gifts include gift of healing, gift of prophecy, gift of singing, gift of playing instruments, gift of discernment, and the list goes on. If we are not asking for these gifts from the Lord, or using these gifts that have been already given, then we are not using our 'talents' for our own spiritual growth or the growth of the church, or for the glory of God. On that day, when Jesus Himself will ask us, *"What did you do for me?"*, we should not be like that speechless guest who was not clothed properly for the wedding feast; we should not wait for the Lord to say, *"Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity."* (Luke 13:27)

