

Applying Our Abilities

Abilities/Talents/Skills

“There are different abilities to perform service.” –1 Corinthians 12:6

“I (God) ... have given him skill, ability, and knowledge in all kinds of crafts...”
–Exodus 31:3

One of the most common excuses you may give for not getting involved in something is that you do not have any abilities to offer. Nothing could be further from the truth; the key is matching abilities with ministries. No one person can do everything, but every person can do something. God has made each of us a “10” in some way.

Five Misconceptions about Abilities (Skills and Talents)

1. **MYTH: People are not born with skills. All skills must be learned by experience.**
This is simply not true. There are a number of skills that seem to be inborn or are developed very early in infancy. When people say, “He just seems to have a natural talent for it,” it is probably true!
2. **MYTH: Those skills that must be learned are learned primarily in the classroom.**
Actually, some of your most basic skills were learned at home, “in the street,” or somewhere else outside of a classroom.
3. **MYTH: If you have certain abilities, you will be very aware that you have them.**
Actually, you are probably using a number of talents or skills that you are not even aware of or that you do not consider being skills! You need some process of skill identification.
4. **MYTH: Skills that I use at work are only usable in that environment; I could not use them at church.** Hopefully, by the end of this process, you will see how many talents can be transferred across facets of your life. The key is to be creative!
5. **MYTH: Most people only have a very few abilities.** The truth is that many national studies have proven that the average person possesses from five hundred to seven hundred skills!

Again, the key to determining what you are skilled at is to look back at your past. Think about the things that you enjoyed doing, things that you did well. Look for specific talents, skills, and abilities that you may have focused on. Then, fill out the enclosed Abilities/Talents/Skills Checklist and Questionnaire.

Abilities/Talents/Skills Checklist

Please go through each area, carefully marking the boxes that indicate talents or skills in which you have proven ability (confidence and competence). Be honest and fair in your self-evaluation.

Professional Services

- Mental Health
- Social Work
- Financial
- Dental
- Medical
- Chiropractic
- Legal
- Accounting
- Bookkeeping
- Taxes
- Nursing
- Engineer: _____
- Lifeguard
- Career Counseling
- Unemployment
- Day Care Director
- Law Enforcement
- Personnel Manager
- Public Relations
- Advertising
- Television: _____
- Radio: _____
- Computer Programmer
- Paramedic/EMT
- Systems Analyst
- Journalist/Writer
- Education
- _____
- _____

Art

- Layout
- Photography
- Graphics
- Multi-Media
- Typesetting
- Crafts
- Artist
- Banners
- Decorating
- _____
- _____

Musical

- Soloist
- Instrument: _____
- Composer _____
- Arranger
- _____
- _____

Construction

- General Contractor
- Architect
- Carpenter: General
- Carpenter: Finish
- Carpenter: Cabinet
- Electrician
- Plumbing
- Heating
- Air Conditioning
- Painting
- Papering
- Masonry
- Roofer
- Telephones
- Taper
- Concrete
- Carpet Installer
- Interior Design
- Draftsman
- Welder
- _____
- _____

Working with

- Handicapped
- Hearing Impaired (Signing)
- Incarcerated
- Learning Disabilities
- Nursery Homes/Shut-Ins
- Emotional Disability
- Attention Deficit Disorder
- _____
- _____

Office Skills

- Typing (40+ wpm)
- Word Processing
- Receptionist
- Office Manager
- Data Entry
- Filing
- Mail Room
- Library
- Transcription
- Shorthand
- _____
- _____

Theatrical

- Actor/Actress
- Poet
- Dance
- Mime
- Puppets
- Clowning
- Audio Productions
- Video Productions
- Sound/Mixing
- Lighting
- Set Construction
- Set Design
- Stage Hand
- Script Writer
- _____
- _____

General Help

- Cashier
- Child Care
- Customer Service
- Food Service
- Transportation (car)
- Transportation (truck)
- Catering/Cooking
- Weddings
- Bookstore
- Tape Duplication
- Sports Official
- Sports Instructor
- Contacting Interested Visitors

Abilities/Talents/Skills Questionnaire

1. My current vocation (employment): _____

2. My specific job responsibility is: _____

3. Other jobs or vocations that I have experienced: _____

4. The vocation or job I enjoyed the most in my working experiences is: _____

5. If it were totally up to me, I would be the happiest doing: _____

6. My hobbies and interests include: _____

7. I feel my most valuable personal asset is: _____

Why? _____

8. The five skills, talents, and abilities I do well and enjoy are: _____

