

APPLYING MY ABILITIES

"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 people give for not getting involved in ministry is, "I just don't have any abilities to offer." Nothing could be further from the truth. The key is *matching* your abilities with the right ministry!

FIVE MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT ABILITIES

(Skills and Talents)

1. MYTH: People aren't born with skills. All skills must be learned by experience. This simply is not true. There are a number of skills that seem to be inborn and develop very early in infancy. When people say, "He just seems to have a natural talent for it", it's probably true.

2. MYTH: Those skills that must be learned are earned primarily in the classroom. Actually some of your most basic skills were learned at home, "in the street", or somewhere outside the classroom.

3. MYTH: If you have certain abilities, you will be very aware that you have them. Again, that is not true. You're probably using a number of talents or skills that you are not even aware of. You need some process of skill identification.

4. MYTH: Skills that I use at work are only usable in that environment. I couldn't use them in ministry. Hopefully, by the end of this class, you'll see the fallacy of that idea. Be creative.

5. MYTH: Most people only have a few abilities. The truth is that many national studies have proven that the average person possesses from five hundred to seven hundred different skills.

DISCOVERING MY MOTIVATED ABILITIES

Look over your list of accomplishments again. Circle all verbs that denote actions performed while you were doing each achievement.

Now compare those verbs to the list below and check those abilities you feel you have.

26 SPECIALIZED ABILITIES

Entertaining ability: to perform, act, dance, speak, magic

Recruiting ability: to enlist and motivate people to get involved

Interview ability: to discover what others are really like

Researching ability: to read, gather information, collect data

Artistic ability: to conceptualize, picture, draw, paint, photograph, or make renderings

Graphics ability: to lay out, design, create visual displays or banners

Evaluating ability: to analyze data and draw conclusions

Planning ability: to strategize, design and organize programs and events

Managing ability: to supervise people to accomplish a task or event and coordinate the details involved

Counseling ability: to listen, encourage and guide with sensitivity

Teaching ability: to explain, train, demonstrate, tutor

Writing ability: to write articles, letters, books

Editing ability: to proofread or rewrite

Promoting ability: to advertise or promote events and activities

Repairing ability: to fix, restore, maintain

Feeding ability: to create meals for large or small groups

Recall ability: to remember or recall names and faces

Mechanical operating ability: to operate equipment, tools or machinery

Resourceful ability: to search out and find inexpensive materials or resources needed

Counting ability: to work with numbers, data or money

Classifying ability: to systematize and file books, data, records and materials so they can be retrieved easily

Public Relations ability: to handle complaints and unhappy customers with care and courtesy

Welcoming ability: to convey warmth, develop rapport, making others feel comfortable

Composing ability: to write music or lyrics

Landscaping ability: to do gardening and work with plants

Decorating ability: to beautify a setting for a special event

List your specialized abilities on your PERSONAL PROFILE