



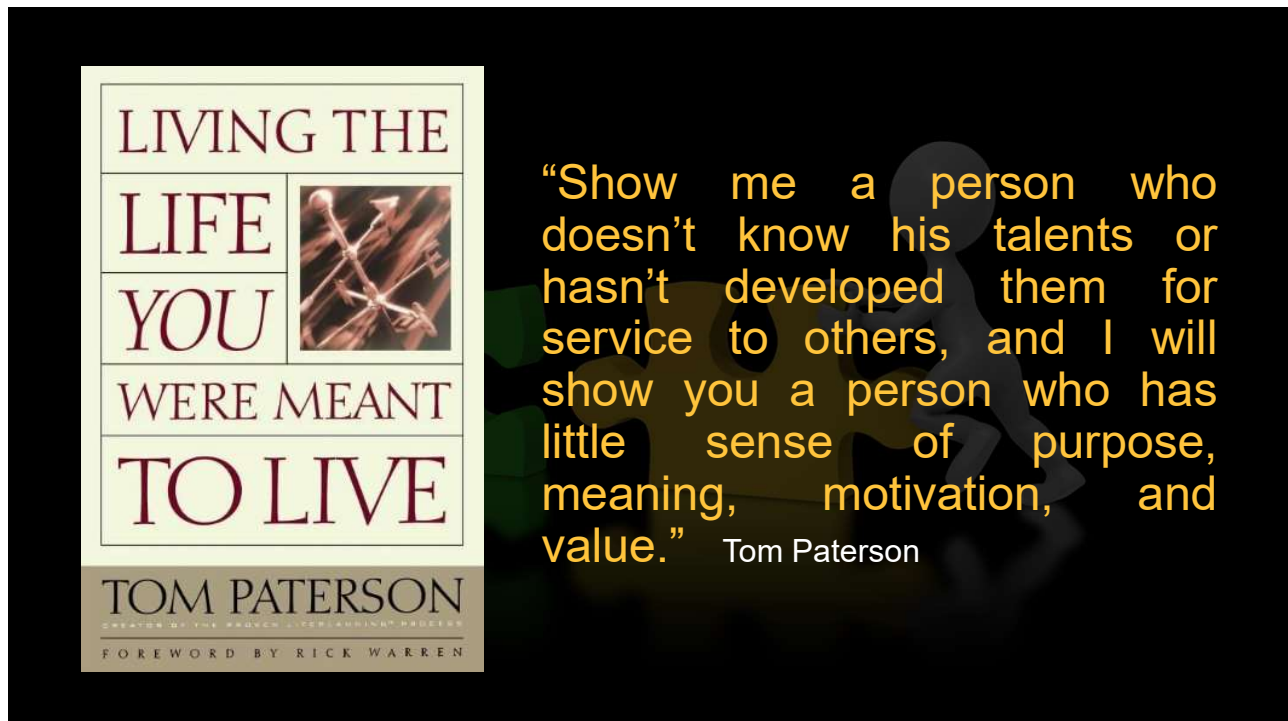
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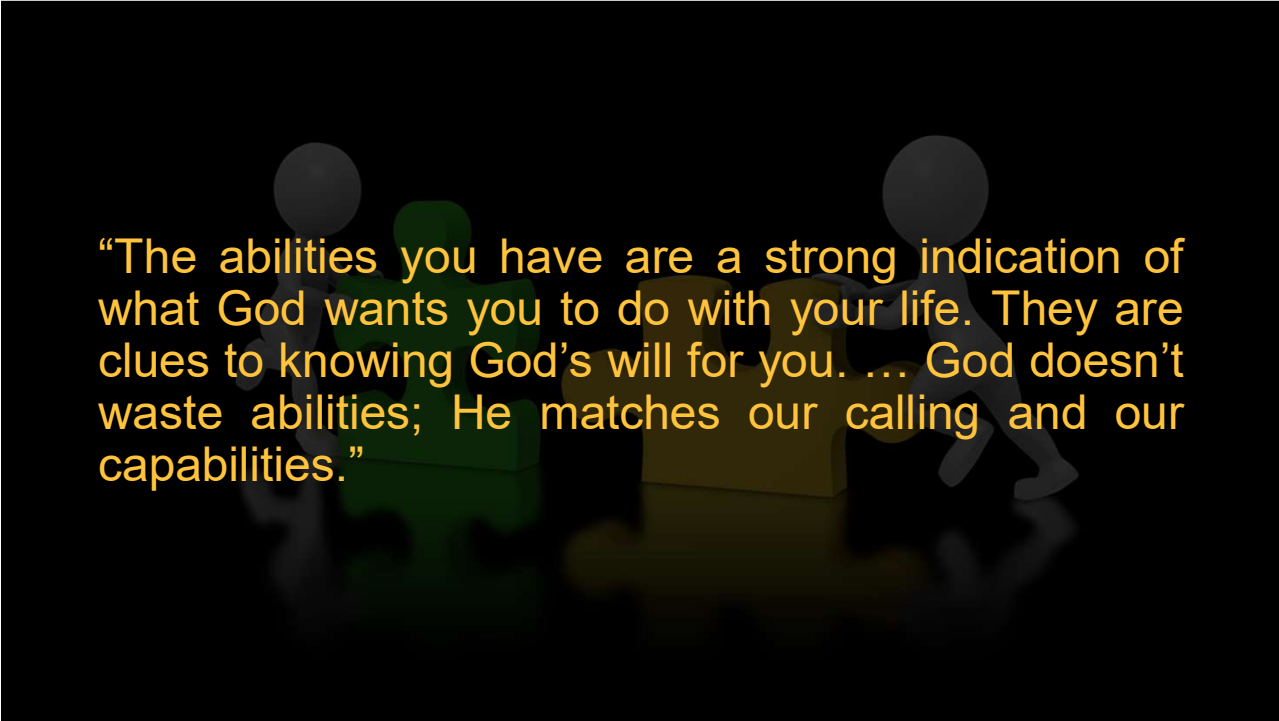
Acts 18:1,3-4 ... Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth. ² And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, (with his wife Priscilla) ... ³ So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers. ⁴ And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks.

1 Cor 4:12 And we labor, working with our own hands.

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2 Thess 3:7-10 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you; ⁸ nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, ⁹ not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.

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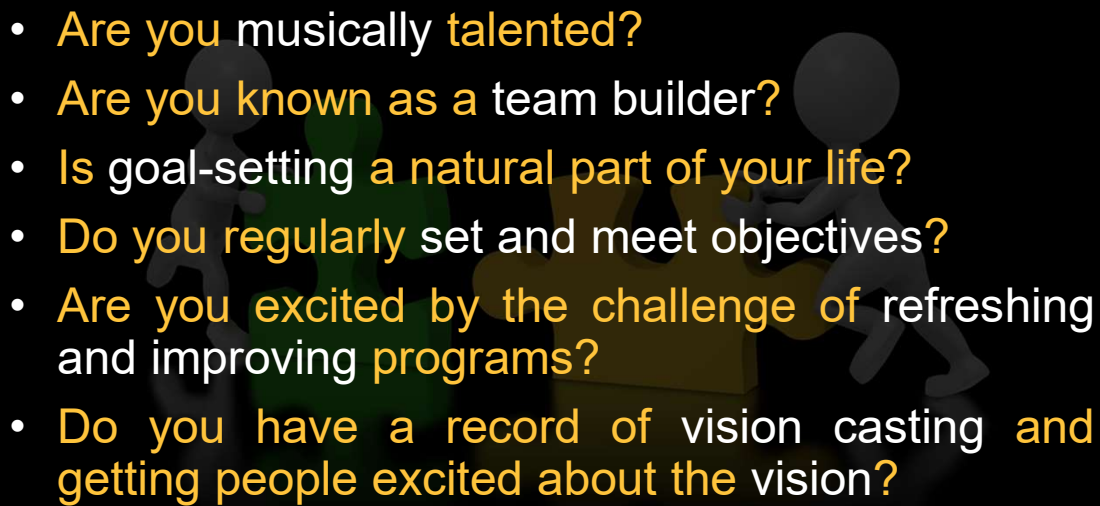
“The abilities you have are a strong indication of what God wants you to do with your life. They are clues to knowing God’s will for you. ... God doesn’t waste abilities; He matches our calling and our capabilities.”

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Ask yourself:

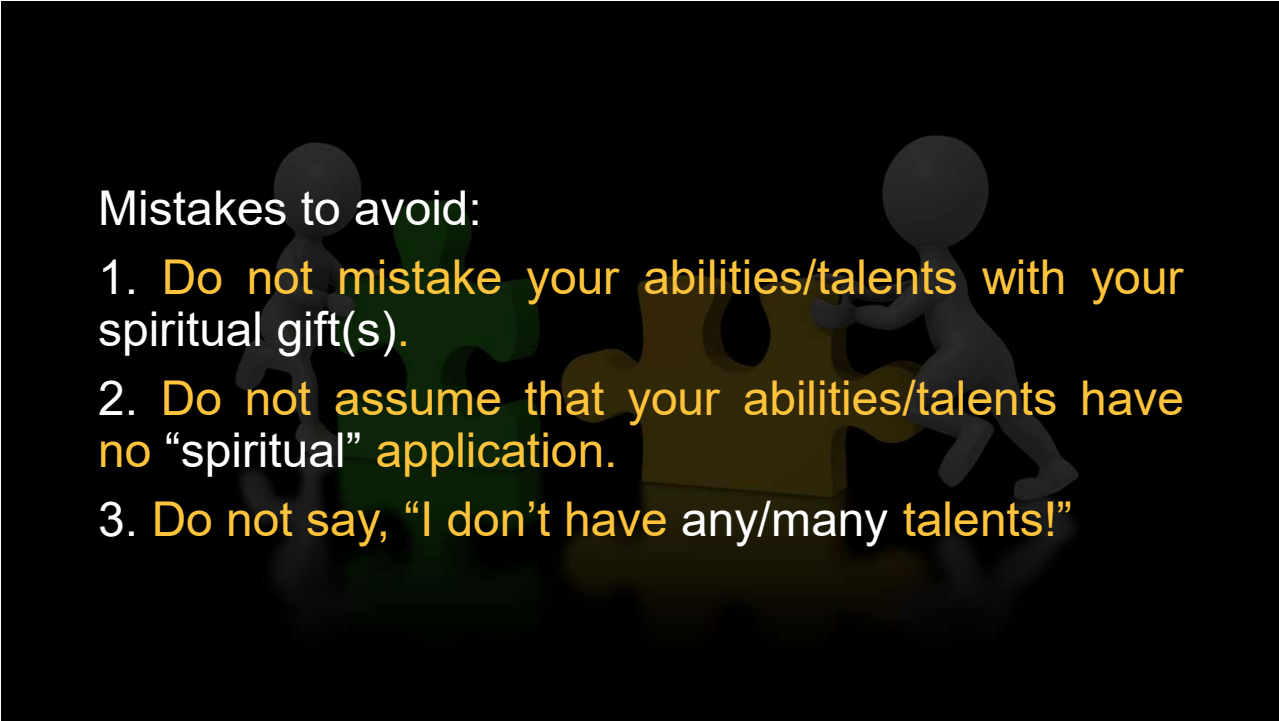
- Where do I naturally excel?
- Are you someone who loves to inspire others?
- Do you find yourself frequently delivering a “can-do” message?
- Is creative thinking just part of how you do things?
- Do you love to work with your hands?

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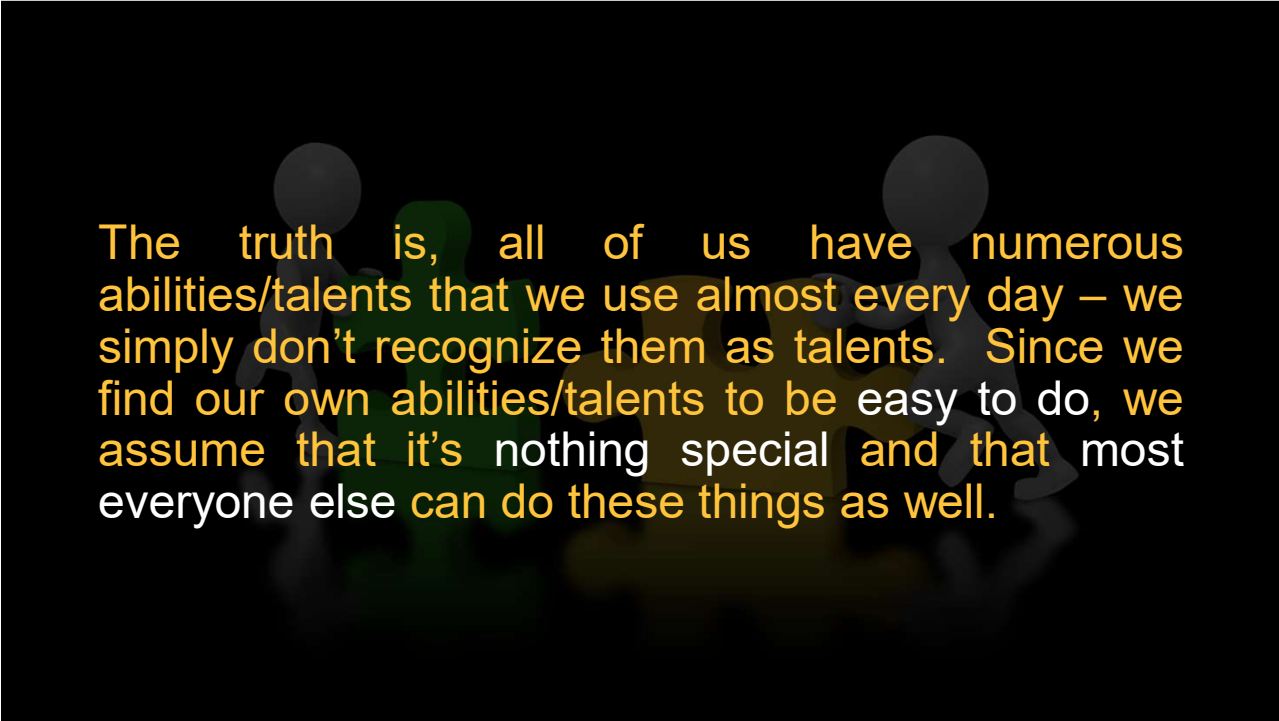
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- Are you musically talented?
 - Are you known as a team builder?
 - Is goal-setting a natural part of your life?
 - Do you regularly set and meet objectives?
 - Are you excited by the challenge of refreshing and improving programs?
 - Do you have a record of vision casting and getting people excited about the vision?

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Mistakes to avoid:

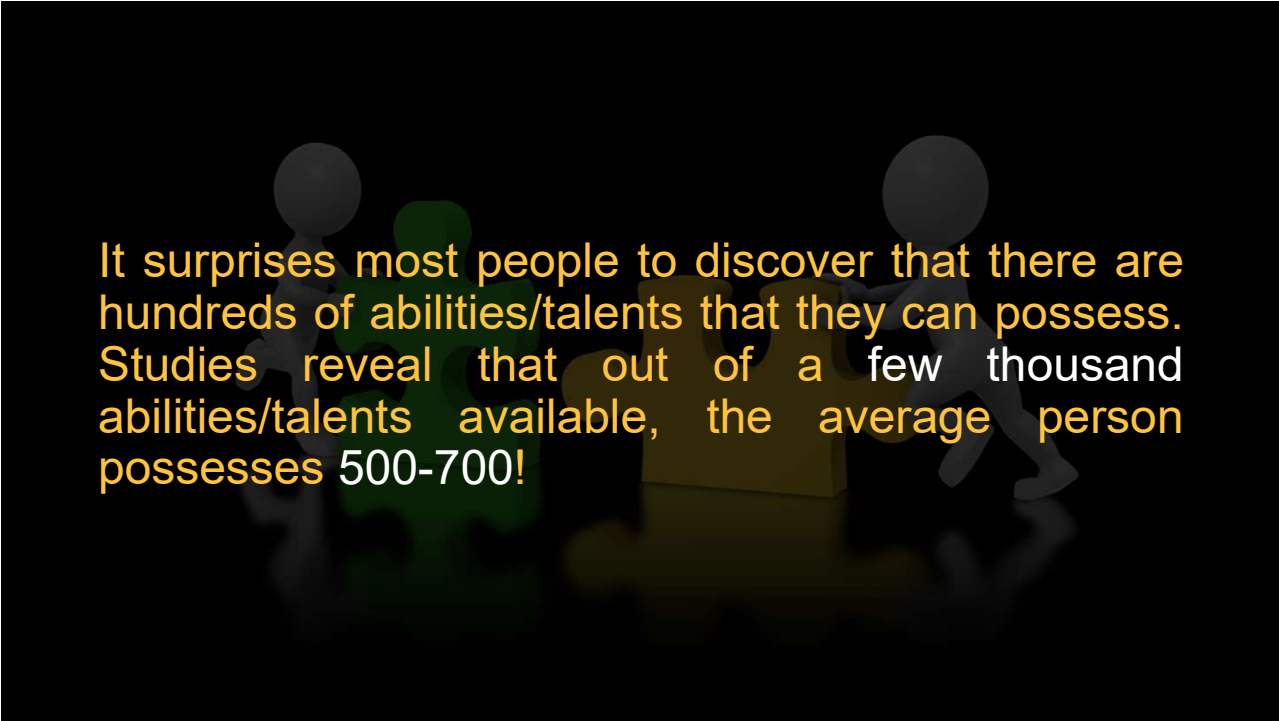
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1. Do not mistake your abilities/talents with your spiritual gift(s).
 2. Do not assume that your abilities/talents have no “spiritual” application.
 3. Do not say, “I don’t have any/many talents!”

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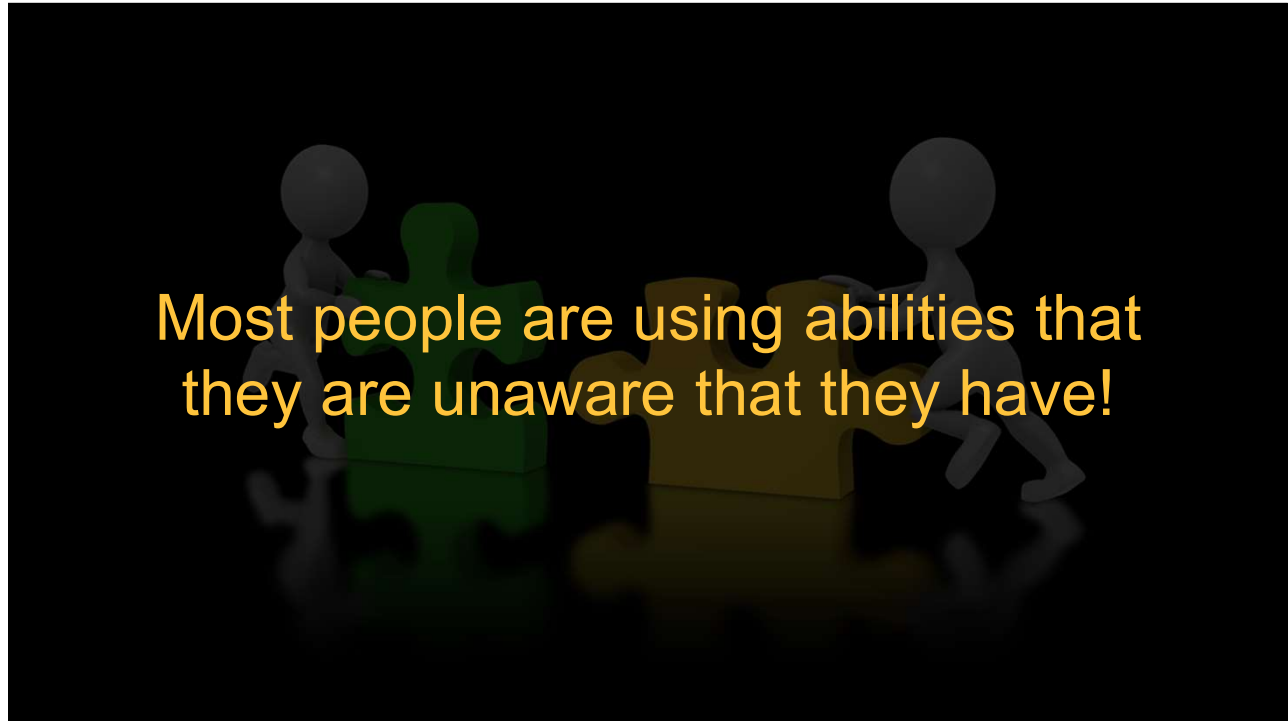
The truth is, all of us have numerous abilities/talents that we use almost every day – we simply don't recognize them as talents. Since we find our own abilities/talents to be easy to do, we assume that it's nothing special and that most everyone else can do these things as well.

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It surprises most people to discover that there are hundreds of abilities/talents that they can possess. Studies reveal that out of a few thousand abilities/talents available, the average person possesses 500-700!

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1. ___ **Adapting** – the ability to adjust, change, alter, modify
2. ___ **Administrating** – the ability to govern, run, rule
3. ___ **Analyzing** – the ability to examine, investigate, probe, evaluate
4. ___ **Building** – the ability to construct, make, assemble
5. ___ **Coaching** – the ability to prepare, instruct, train, equip, develop
6. ___ **Communicating** – the ability to share, convey, impart
7. ___ **Competing** – the ability to contend, win, battle
8. ___ **Computing** – the ability to add, estimate, total, calculate
9. ___ **Connecting** – the ability to link together, involve, relate
10. ___ **Consulting** – the ability to advise, discuss, confer
11. ___ **Cooking** – the ability to prepare, serve, feed, cater
12. ___ **Coordinating** – the ability to organize, match, harmonize
13. ___ **Counseling** – the ability to guide, advise, support, listen, care for
14. ___ **Decorating** – the ability to beautify, enhance, adorn
15. ___ **Designing** – the ability to draw, create, picture, outline
16. ___ **Developing** – the ability to expand, grow, advance, increase
17. ___ **Directing** – the ability to aim, oversee, manage, supervise
18. ___ **Editing** – the ability to correct, amend, alter, improve
19. ___ **Encouraging** – the ability to cheer, inspire, support
20. ___ **Engineering** – the ability to construct, design, plan
21. ___ **Facilitating** – the ability to help, aid, assist, make possible
22. ___ **Forecasting** – the ability to predict, calculate, see trends, patterns, & themes
23. ___ **Implementing** – the ability to apply, execute, make happen
24. ___ **Improving** – the ability to better, enhance, further, enrich
25. ___ **Influencing** – the ability to affect, sway, shape, chang

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26. ___ **Landscaping** – the ability to garden, plant, improve
27. ___ **Leading** – the ability to pave the way, direct, excel, win
28. ___ **Learning** – the ability to study, gather, understand, improve, expand self
29. ___ **Managing** – the ability to run, handle, oversee
30. ___ **Mentoring** – the ability to advise, guide, teach
31. ___ **Motivating** – the ability to provoke, induce, prompt
32. ___ **Negotiating** – the ability to discuss, consult, settle
33. ___ **Operating** – the ability to run mechanical or technical things
34. ___ **Organizing** – the ability to simplify, arrange, fix, classify, coordinate
35. ___ **Performing** – the ability to sing, speak, dance, play an instrument, act
36. ___ **Pioneering** – the ability to bring about something new, groundbreaking, original
37. ___ **Planning** – the ability to arrange, map out, prepare
38. ___ **Promoting** – the ability to sell, sponsor, endorse, showcase
39. ___ **Recruiting** – the ability to draft, enlist, hire, engage
40. ___ **Repairing** – the ability to fix, mend, restore, heal
41. ___ **Researching** – the ability to see, gather, examine, study
42. ___ **Resourcing** – the ability to furnish, provide, deliver
43. ___ **Serving** – the ability to help, assist, fulfill
44. ___ **Strategizing** – the ability to think ahead, calculate, scheme
45. ___ **Teaching** – the ability to explain, demonstrate, tutor
46. ___ **Translating** – the ability to interpret, decode, explain, speak
47. ___ **Traveling** – the ability to journey, visit, explore
48. ___ **Visualizing** – the ability to picture, imagine, envision, dream, conceptualize
49. ___ **Welcoming** – the ability to entertain, greet, embrace, make comfortable
50. ___ **Writing** – the ability to compose, create, record

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Common myths about abilities/talents:

1. People aren't born with skills – all skills must be learned in the classroom or by experience.
2. If you have certain skills, you will be very aware that you have them.
3. There's nothing spiritual about my abilities/talents
4. Skills used at work are only useable there they can't be used in ministry.
5. Most people only have a few abilities.

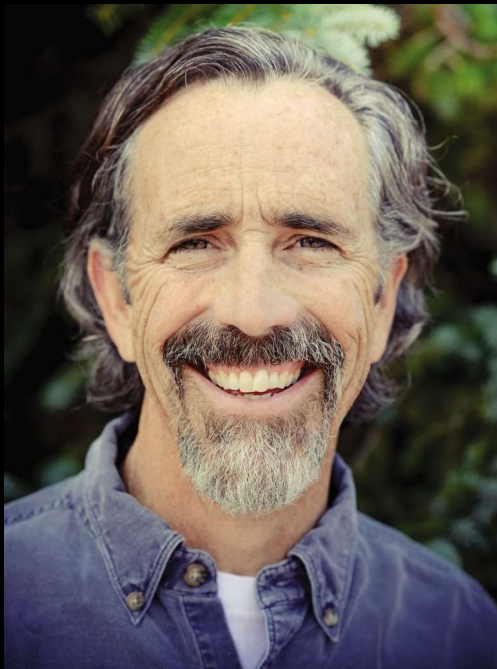
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Our natural abilities/talents (the ones we are most confident of using) can be determined by answering the following questions:

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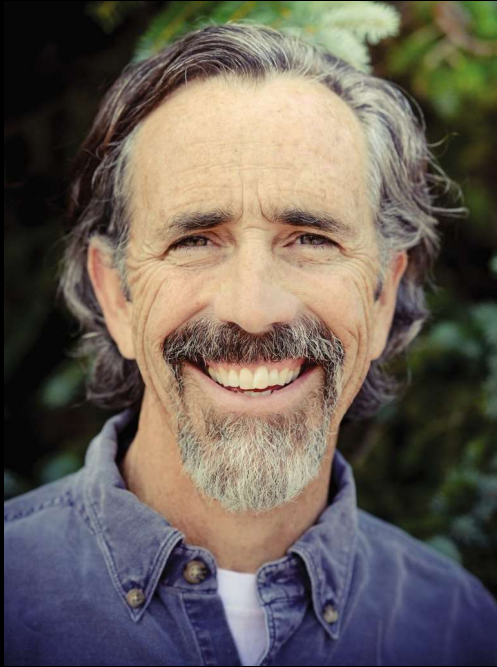
- I love using these abilities/talents & I can't imagine life without doing them. Given a choice, I would do these things full-time.
- I like using these abilities/talents but I don't need to do them on a regular basis in order to feel satisfied. I can take them or leave them.
- I can live without using these abilities/talents. In fact, these activities leave me feeling slightly deflated & disappointed compared to what I love doing.

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“Our goal here is to recover that adventure God wrote on your heart when He made you. Your deepest desires reveal your deepest calling, the adventure God has for you. You must decide whether or not you'll exchange a life of control born out of fear for a life of risk born out of faith. ... So, if you had permission to do what you really want to do, what would you do?”

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Just start making a list of all the things you deeply desire to do with your life, great and small. And remember – ‘*Don’t ask yourself, How?*’ *How?* is never the right question; *How?* is a faithless question. *How?* is God’s department. He is asking you *what?* What is written on your heart? What makes you come alive? If you could do what you’ve always wanted to do, what would it be?” John Eldredge, *Wild at Heart*

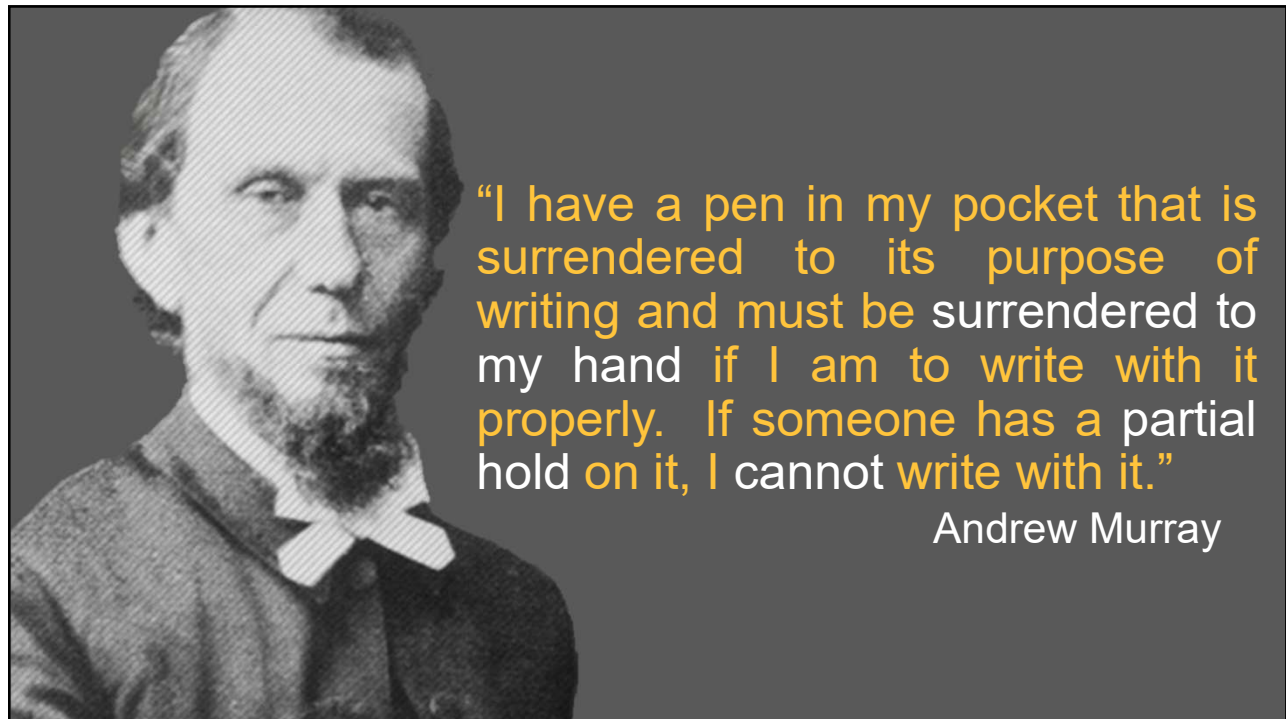
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Look at your list of top abilities again. Is there anything on that list you can’t live without doing? The goal is to embrace and use your natural abilities – the things God has equipped you to excel at. These are the abilities you can most use to fulfill your Kingdom purpose without anxiety or fear of failure.

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- What are some of the ways you can use your top abilities to make a difference in your home?
- What are some of the ways you can use your top abilities to make a difference at work?
- What are some of the ways you can use your top abilities to make a difference at church?
- What are some of the ways you can use your top abilities to make a difference in your small group?

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Rom 6:13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.

Col 3:23-24 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

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1 Cor 3:9-11 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. ¹⁰ According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. ¹¹ For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

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1 Cor 3:12-15 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³ each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. ¹⁴ If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.