

What you are able to do is classified as an ability, or, in negative cases, a disability. Some excel at what they can do. Bezalel was an Israelite artisan, to whom God gave His Spirit and special gifting, to oversee the building of all which God had commanded Moses on Mt. Sinai for His worship. Consideration of God's appointment of him and of his similarly gifted craftsmen may grant insight into understanding and properly responding to the abilities which the Lord gives to each of us.

I. The source of your abilities is God.**1. God gives "natural" abilities and even disabilities.**

Natural abilities and disabilities are within God's providence (Exodus 4:10–11), e.g. the blind, deaf and mute. By extension the natural ability of the craftsmen (v 6) is an ability from God.

2. God enhances "natural" abilities.

God filled Bezalel with His Spirit and gave a special gifting with ability and knowledge for his task. God has done this with others as well, e.g. Samson, and Elijah (cf. 2 Kings 18:46; 19:8).

3. God gives by His Spirit spiritual gifts to every member of the Body of Christ today.

See 1 Corinthians 12:7, 11. Unlike in Exodus, every believer is gifted and the work is toward a spiritual temple. Similar to Exodus, gifting is unique and gifting serves toward worship.

All abilities or disabilities, special skills or spiritual gifts are from God. Cf. 1 Corinthians 4:7. As everything is received, there is no basis for boasting, no reason for self-pride in any ability. Temptations to pride or boasting will come but they can become opportunities to praise and thank God for His gifts.

II. The purpose of your abilities is to fulfil God's purposes.**1. God can give specific abilities to equip for specific tasks which He has given.**

a. Bezalel and craftsmen were equipped by God specifically to make all that God had commanded. Though Moses had received the command, God gave him Bezalel to carry out the work and Ohaliab to help Bezalel and all the necessary craftsmen to do the work.

b. In the Church God gifts individuals and has given to the Church gifted individuals (Ephesians 4:7, 11).

2. God can give specific abilities to equip for meeting general needs as He has directed.

a. This was not the case with Bezalel and the other craftsmen. They had a specific task to accomplish. But others had a more general task – like Samson who was to begin to deliver Israel from the Philistines.

b. God's gifting within the Church is similar. Some had clearly defined tasks, others have less definite tasks, and most are gifted to meet needs in general.

3. God has given all abilities to fulfil His greatest command.

God's greatest command, as presented in Deuteronomy 6:5 and declared by Jesus, is to love God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength (Mark 12:30). All your abilities are given with this purpose in mind, to love God with all of who you are.

Examine your use of your abilities, whether in sports, or learning, or work. Ask yourself if you apply them to loving God. Or are you keeping a part of your heart, soul, mind, and strength to serve some other purpose. Whatever you do, do heartily as to the Lord (Colossians 3:23).

III. The goal of exercising your abilities is worship to the glory of God.**1. Bezalel and his craftsmen were serving toward worship.**

They were to use their God-given abilities to build the tabernacle with all its related articles – the God-ordained place of worship for Israel. None of their abilities were for their personal benefit.

2. Believers today are to use their abilities toward worship as well.

God has ordained a different arena for His worship in these days. God by His Spirit dwells in the Church, that is, the Body of Christ, as in a temple. He gave spiritual gifts to build up that building. Cf. Ephesians 2:21–22; 4:15; 1 Corinthians 12–14.

God by His Spirit also indwells every individual believer. The believers' abilities are to be applied toward worship in glorifying God with their bodies (1 Corinthians 6:19–20). This implies the use of all our "natural" abilities for the glory of God, for His worship.

The use of your abilities as a believer is intended to foster the worship of God, both corporately and individually, growing as a Body and growing as an individual.

Jesus' parable of the 10 minas (Luke 19:11–27) illustrates among other things God's intention that God's people use for Him that which He has entrusted to them: "put this money to work." Whatever you do, do it to the Lord, to His glory, to His praise, to bring worship to Him. Like Bezalel, God has given His people His Spirit and all their abilities to fulfil His purposes, to love Him and direct their worship to Him.