

**“Having a Talent”**  
**By Brother Kenneth Ray**  
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First, we need to talk about what a talent is. I'm sure that everyone here can think of someone that seems to have a real talent. Maybe a televangelist, or a pastor, or an elder, a musician, Michael Jordan, Beethoven... You all have talent. Some of you may have talents that you don't think are important. Just as an example, the talent of hospitality may not seem like much, but, believe me, to the recipient of that hospitality, it's a big deal. The definition of the word 'talent' is a natural power or endowment.

I can't sing; well, I can sing to my daughter, but most people wouldn't be interested in hearing me sing. There are some talents everyone has: everyone can speak, everyone can write... There are some talents that are common: a lot of people can sing. There are some talents that are not common: not everyone can be a pilot. Really, very few people can become pilots. God has given you enough talent to do what you need to do. I can't eat as much as "Big Country." Does that mean I should hang my head in shame? no, of course not. There is something that only you can do. It may not be something evangelistic, but it is something that you can do.

Do you know Peter Pan's sidekick? Tinker Bell? Do you know what she is? Yes, she's a fairy, but not just any fairy; what kind of fairy is she? I'll give you a hint: it's in her name. She's a tinker. I know this, because I've seen the movie (I have a seven year old daughter). According to the movie, at some point in a fairy's life, they have the fairies form a circle around some magical objects. Each of these objects represents a talent. There's one miniature cyclone thing, which represents power over wind; there's a hammer, which represents tinkers; there's something else that represents feeding animals... You get the idea. If the fairy approaches an object and it disappears, that means that it wasn't their talent. If the object starts to glow and bounce up and down, then it was their talent. Anyway, Tinker Bell found out that she was a tinker that way, but she didn't like it. She tried to do some other things, but it just didn't work out.

You can't choose what your talent is. Do what you're good at. If you try to do something that you don't have a talent for, your contribution just isn't what it could be. Did you every try to fix something, and leave out one ingredient from the recipe? Or did you ever mix up salt and sugar? it's easy to do, they look a lot alike. It doesn't work out the same.

*Romans 11:29      For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.*

The definition of 'gift' is basically the same as talent: from <G5483> (charizomai); a (divine) *gratuity*, i.e. *deliverance* (from danger or passion); (special) a (spiritual) *endowment*, i.e. (subject) religious *qualification*, or (objective) miraculous *faculty* :- (free) gift. The definition of 'calling' is: from a shorter form of <G2564> (kaleo); an *invitation* (figurative) :- calling. So, a calling is an invitation from God, and it is without repentance. No matter how much you complain about it, it's yours. Stop sitting on the bench; get in the game; stop being a spectator. If God has extended an

invitation, then you're qualified, and He will help you to do whatever it is that He has for you to do.

*James 1:17 every good gift and every perfect gift is from above...*

God is not giving out second-rate gifts. You know who the most important person on a basketball team is? the towel boy. If he doesn't do a good job of mopping up the sweat, then one of the star players is going to slip and fall and injure their million-dollar bodies. God didn't give people in the Bible talents just to have; He gave them to them to use. He gave them talents to help others. Utilize your talent.

Where I work, we have a machine that matches paint. It can calculate how much of which colors need to be mixed together to match a specific color. Ken Avellino has a talent for doing the same thing. You may think that's no big deal. To the man who owns the boat that Ken is painting, that's a big deal.

*Ephesians 4:8 ...and gave gifts unto men.*

*Ephesians 4:11-12 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets...*

These two verses are talking about the same people. They are both talking about you, church. I'm glad Parrish is loud, because I know it's sincere. I was sitting right beside our bishop one time, and I heard Parrish from a distance, and then I heard somebody behind me say, "Tone it down." That's like telling a mechanic to shut down his shop. That's not edifying the body by worshipping or not worshipping. We all have talents; you should not try to snuff them out. Different is not wrong. We used to be a church; now we're a fellowship. We shouldn't try to rebuild what once was. We should use our talents within this new framework. Don't say, "Well, this isn't what we did before."

*Matthew 5:16 ...see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

Whether you have a talent for scrapbooking, or facebooking or cook booking, glorify God in your talent. The other night I held a door open for a lady who was coming out of Applebee's; she said, "Your mother raised you right." I didn't tell her that I did what I did because of God. Sometimes keeping silent is a talent that needs to be utilized.

*Ephesians 4:16 ...the whole body, fitly joined together and compacted by that...*

When we all contribute, the body of Christ is fitly joined together and compacted by our talents all being added together. When we don't, it's like sand sifting through the screen. Take the challenge, seek it out. If you need help, then Jesus is on the main line, tell Him what you want. He's got great customer service, but sometimes His wait time varies (but He always answers on time).