



secret weapons

Abilities

1 Samuel 16:13-23

Unfortunately, many people separate spirituality from ability. There is a danger that the gifts God deposited within us may never develop because of 1) laziness, 2) lack of diligence, 3) no sense of purpose. God has uniquely tailored your gifts to fit the assignment He gives you. However, it is your responsibility to develop God's deposit.

Let's recap with lessons from the message.

THE POWER OF DILIGENCE. God will uniquely tailor your gifts to fit the assignment He gives you, but it's our responsibility to develop God's deposit. It is not enough to simply love God and give back to Him our halfhearted efforts. Before David became King, he served as both a shepherd and later as a harpist for King Saul. Because God anointed David as a talented musician and David spent the time and energy to grow as a harpist, God blessed him with the opportunities he needed to become the king he called Him to be. While you can't put in what God left out, you must work out what God's put in. God can only work through what we've worked on.

1. *What is diligence? Why is it important not just to serve God, but to serve Him with diligence?*
2. *How did David serve God diligently? What was his payoff for serving God consistently and passionately?*

THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE. When we are committed to excellence and work diligently to develop the deposit God has placed within us, we're able to offer our lives back to God as the fullest expression of the person God created us to be. God is not interested in us doing just anything and claiming it as being done for the glory of God. Because our God is great and He is alive within us, He wants us to do things well for the glory of God. David was positioned to play the harp for Saul because he was first positioned to play when no one was looking, where his skills to the point where he could honor both God and Saul with his playing.

3. *Why is excellence important? Why can't we offer just anything to God and expect God to bless it?*
4. *What are you good at? How can you find more ways to do what you're good at?*

THE PURPOSE OF UNIQUENESS. When the time came for David to fight Goliath, King Saul considered David to be a mighty warrior--not because of his fighting skills, but because of his excellence as a harpist. Pastor Steven challenged us to see that we will often discover our callings in the midst of our contradictions. If you don't realize that your uniqueness is often the emergence of what makes you effective, you will spend all your life trying to fit a mold and missing the meaning of what God uniquely put inside of you. Instead of apologizing for the parts of us that don't make sense, we can offer them to God and ask Him to make something out of them that would become our unique expression of thankfulness to God.

5. *What makes you unique? How does your uniqueness create a unique way for you to serve God?*

THE PERTINENCE OF EXPERIENCE. Ultimately, David's decision to simply do his job with diligence, excellence and with the uniqueness of his ability are what prepared him to fulfill one of his greatest purposes--defeating Goliath. God will arrange every experience to serve His purpose in the world. He takes everything that we've been through and every lesson that we've learned, pairs it with our faithfulness in serving God and developing His deposits, and uses it all to accomplish His purposes. If we embrace every experience God wants to bring us through, God will stack our skills together to achieve something far greater than anything we could ever form on our own.

6. *What experiences have you had that have prepared you for where you are today? What experiences are currently preparing you for your future purpose?*

Prayer Guide

Take time to thank God for each one's gifts and abilities. Take time to pray that each member of the group will step up in using their unique abilities excellently for God's glory in the church.