

Interests and Abilities

† **Exodus 31:1-6** ¹ Then the Lord said to Moses, ² “See, I have chosen Bezalel ... ³ and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, with understanding, with knowledge and with all kinds of skills... Also I have given ability to all the skilled workers to make everything I have commanded you.”

The building of the tabernacles required specialized artisans and craftsmen. To facilitate the construction, God specially gifted individuals to do the work. This clearly demonstrates how the Lord interacts with his people when a need arises. God told them to do the work, and then provided the skills necessary to complete it. So even today, God continues to provide individuals with varying abilities for service in his kingdom.

Abilities are those talents God has either given you from birth or developed through your life that help you fulfill your personal ministry. As you grow up, your attention can be turned in many different directions. Your education may spark interest in a subject or skill. When repetition of a task occurs, the aptitude and proficiency grow with it. God may give you an ability which requires little training to use, but even then, working at a skill will improve its execution. Practice makes better.

Billie was introduced to piano lessons at the age of seven. Being an active girl, she did not practice very diligently. Playing piano made her sit still when she really wanted to be running around outside. Her reluctance was slowly overcome as she began to have success at playing music she enjoyed.

As her interest grew, so did the ability. As an adult, Billie has found frequent opportunities to use her talent to fill a need, such as Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, and choir accompanist, to name a few. Looking back, she marvels how the events of her life brought her to where she is today, enjoying her God-given talent.

Interests often center around ability, which in turn, provides enjoyment, fosters participation, and further enhances ability. As you use interests to develop your abilities, God will bless the activity to strengthen your personal ministry. Live in him, with him, for him.

Your life is not your own. Your life is your personal ministry to God.