

Using Your Gifts

The Lord has given you many gifts. When God gifts you with a skill or interest, he also provides a way to use that gift.

Maybe you have the gift of talking. You can start a conversation with anybody, about whatever is on your mind, or whatever they want to talk about. You have the gift of gab. Talking comes naturally to you. Sometimes it seems like you would gladly spend your whole day talking, to anyone. Speaking confidently, coherently, effectively, even entertainingly, is a gift. Not everyone has this gift, and some people wouldn't want it if you offered it to them. It takes a special personality.

If you have this talking gift, how do you use it in your personal ministry? First, use it to the glory of God. This will define some of the topics about which you talk or avoid. Your audience will also determine the approach you use.

Second, it should be on your mind to be the loving voice of Jesus. Pray that the Lord helps you see the occasion when it arrives. Talking to God's glory doesn't mean that you only have spiritual topics in your conversation, but neither should you deliberately avoid doing so. Even a conversation about the weather or remarks about the neighborhood may open opportunities to glorify God.

Third, recall the *Great Commission*, sharing Jesus with the world. When talking with a complete stranger, remember that your friendly words and demeanor may gradually lead to spiritual topics. Watch for opportunities to speak of Jesus.

† **Matthew 28:19-20** *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Jesus has promised he is with us, and he has given us the message. As a talker, you probably already have plenty to say. Always keep in your heart that the most valuable message you have is from the Lord of the Universe. Live in him, with him, for him.

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