

Christian business associates agreed to help him.

It was not long before dozens of .. real estate professionals had received Christ and were being disciplined as a result of Bill's obedience to God's burden.

What God has done through Bill and His profession can be done by Him with you or anyone in any profession.

In another example Jim was an active duty colonel in the ... Air Force when he attended an evangelism seminar. Soon thereafter, the Lord led him to begin a weekly BYO lunch Bible study in his office at noon on Wednesdays. At first, only two co-workers came, but soon more began coming from all over the base, carrying their Bibles. They soon lined the walls in his office, standing room only. Not long thereafter, they had to move to a large room in another building. About 2-3 years later, Jim retired and a new group leader took his place. As time went on, leadership changed again, and again, and years later that group was still meeting.

Through Bill and Jim, God has touched many lives for the Saviour. He can do the same through anyone. The main thing God is looking for is "availability" -- and not "ability." Bill and Jim just made themselves available. As they served they used their time, talents, and whatever spiritual gifts God had given them.



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Central Mountains Baptist Church

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AVAILABILITY FIRST, THEN ABILITY

Dear friends:

Do you sometimes wonder how you can make an impact for Christ in your community, or in your profession or business?

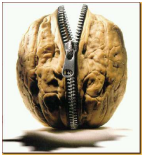
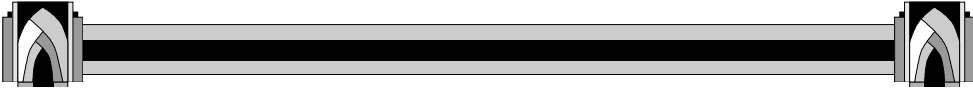
If you have committed your life to Christ and have surrendered everything to Him, and assuming you are not engaged in some sinful activity, God has you right where He wants you! He has a reason for you being where you are and doing what you are doing.

The sound of heavy rainfall woke Bill from his sleep. As he listened to the downpour, he became aware of the presence of the Lord Jesus. In the midst of that ...storm, the Lord began to give Bill in his spirit a burden.



Bill had always been a country boy, and although he longed to serve Christ more effectively, he simply could not imagine himself involved in a Christian outreach in the big smoke. But that night he began to see God's plan for Christian work within his own profession, in the real estate community of the big city.

The next morning, he wrote down the ideas for ministry that had formed in his mind. In the days that followed, other



Romans: Truth in a Nutshell

(unzipped for you)

Spiritual Gifts II

(Acts 9:36) "At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did."



1. Are sign gifts for today? [last time]

2. What is _____ spiritual gift?

There are five factors to consider in determining my/your spiritual gift:

◆ **Our gift will not be a _____ gift or a _____,**

(Matthew 25:14-15) "'For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. {15} 'And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey.'"

(Matthew 25:24-27) "'Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. {25} 'And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.' {26} 'But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. {27} 'So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest.'"

◆ **Our spiritual gift WILL be a _____ or a _____ gift,**

_____ gifts are:
Teaching
Exhortation
Word of wisdom
Word of knowledge
Evangelism
Pastor-teacher

_____ gifts are:
Ministry
Giving
Leadership
Mercy
Faith
Discerning spirits
Helps
administrations



◆ **Our _____, 12:1-6**



◆ **Our spiritual _____, 15:20**

(Acts 9:37-42) "But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. {38} And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them. {39} Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. {40} But Peter put them all out, and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. {41} Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive. {42} And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord."

(Ephesians 4:11-13) "And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, {12} for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, {13} till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;"

◆ **The _____ of Christ,**

(1 Corinthians 12:14-27) "For in fact the body is not one member but many. {15} If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? {16} And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? {17} If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling? {18} But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased. {19} And if they were all one member, where would the body be? {20} But now indeed there are many members, yet one body. {21} And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." {22} No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. {23} And those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unrepresentable parts have greater modesty, {24} but our presentable parts have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, {25} that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. {26} And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. {27} Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually." **(1 Thessalonians 5:11)** "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."

