

Research Assessment #4

I read an article for my research assessment called *What is the Different between Talent and Spiritual Gifts*. I chose to read an article like this as I found the topic of spiritual gifts to have been a common motif among the last couple weeks in my ISM journey. This was a very interesting read, that most derived from the fact that I have not necessarily disagreed with an article like this before. This article as seen in the title was about the difference between someone's talents and their spiritual gifts.

As I read the article it encouraged me to think about spiritual gifts as a whole in regards to how someone comes into possession of them. That is where I found that I disagreed with the article. Within the text, the main point and discussion that the article stated was that someone does not receive their spiritual gifts until they have been saved by christ. However, I think that is completely incorrect. Of course there's always going to be biblical text to back up that argument, but my interpretation of spiritual gifts still remained the same. I feel as if everyone is born with a spiritual gift that God has given them, such as teaching, evangelizing, or wisdom. My interpretation of the text as well as my own personal experience makes me believe that until someone is saved then they are not truly aware of the gifts that they have. God gives people gifts in order to further his kingdom, and that is why they may be unrecognized until someone has chosen to live their life for God.

I have always been incredibly blessed with the ability to comfortably speak to others, it is a natural talent that I have. Acting in front of a crowd, performing, or speaking has always been a natural ability of mine; however, not until I was baptized did I realize the potential that I had. When I was baptized, my mindset flipped, I was able to see that I did not just have a talent of presenting or performing, but I had a gift to speak and to teach. That is why I disagree with the main point of spiritual gifts with the article.

The topic of natural talent is something that I agreed with a little bit more. I do think that talents are usually learned and mastered, however, someone can be born naturally good at something, which usually may result in that thing being a gift God wants to be used to further his Kingdom. Another point made in the article is that natural talents are usually passed down from generation to generation. I disagree with this. I think that anyone could learn to be talented at anything, no matter what their parents are good at. For instance, I am the first person in my entire family to learn to act and be good at acting. That is something that my line has never seen before. Sure, do I think that it has to do with my spiritual gifts, of course, however, I do think that I have always been talented at acting.

One last take away that I had from the article is that everyone can learn a specific skill, but not everyone is called by God to do it. For instance, I could learn to be a good teacher; however, if it is not what I am called to do, I most likely will not end up doing it. Not everyone is spiritually gifted to be a teacher, ignoring whether they learn to do it or not.