

**KEEPING THE CHURCH ALIVE #2**  
**The Necessities**  
**By Russell Earl**

There are things that are necessary to grow physically: exercise, food, water, etc. There are also things that we need if we are to grow spiritually: knowledge, love, understanding, patience and so on. If we are to help the church that Christ built grow we must use the talents with which we were given.

Our talents must be used because they are necessary for us and others to grow. How can one help others grow, help the church grow if they are unwilling to use their talents? No talent is too small or viewed as odd when it comes to doing what is necessary in growth. No matter if it be song leading, or serving on the Lords table, even preaching all are talents should and must be used because they are NECESSARY. Why must we use our talents?

First is because it's only logical to do so, as we see in Romans 12:1, it is foolish to think that we would present our bodies to God without showing what the body can do!

Second because we care about the lost souls in the world. It is unbearable to think someone would stand by and let someone die without doing everything to save that life. How can someone stand by as life after life goes to hopeless end without doing everything possible? Can we live with ourselves if we don't use our talents to save the lost?

Third, we should want to use our talents because we love the Lords church. Christ loved the church enough to die for it. Certainly, we can live for it. Every talent that a Christian has ought to be looked upon as belonging to the church. If we truly love the Lords church then what hinders us from using our talents. Too many times individuals who are very talented in their daily lives, come with little to offer for the church. It shouldn't be this way!

Another reason for using are talents or abilities is our reverence for God. Too often individuals become proud of their actions when they have no reason or right to be so arrogant. However, they do have the right to be appreciative. We should remember the attitude of the Israelites in Deuteronomy 8:17 and not be as they were.

The fifth reason to use our talents is that it is our personal responsibility. Just because others may have greater talents in some areas does not release us from the responsibility of doing our part.

The final reason for using our talents is that in using them we perfect them. The idea of use it or lose it holds true: Practice makes perfect. We must use our talents so that we can improve even more and become of even more use to the Lords church.

However, when using our talent or talents, we must use them in the work for the Lords church and not otherwise, for it would be sinful to misuse our talents. We cannot use them to justify other things, just because they might be useful in other areas. If the acts in which we use them are sinful, we must avoid them.

When we want to do things for the Church we must do so with the right attitude, if we fail to do so then we should not bother with "helping". The wrong attitude no matter the talent is useless. Our heart and our attitude must be right in order to do the most good for the Lord's church.

Let us be in fervent and constant prayer for the growth of the church, growth by continually doing the will of the Father. (Acts 2:47)