

Spiritual Gifts and Our Hands

I. Review:

- A. Jesus used two parables which emphasize using spiritual gifts.
 - 1. Parable of the Talents (Matt 25:14-30)
 - 2. Parable of the Minas (Luke 19:12-27)
- B. The importance of having self-awareness of what is in our heart
 - 1. What comes out of our mouth reveals what is in our hearts (Matt 12:34-35).
 - 2. Watch over, guard your heart (Prov 4:23).
- C. There are heart issues that both enable and hinder us from using our gifts.
- D. For me, our feet speak about having the courage to take faith action; we are to be courageous and act.

Three examples:

- 1. Moses speaking to the new generation.
 - Deut 31:5-6 " he LORD will deliver them up before you, and you shall do to them according to all the commandments which I have commanded you. 6 " Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the LORD your God is the one who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you."
- 2. Moses speaking to Joshua
 - Deut 31:23 Then He commissioned Joshua the son of Nun, and said, "Be strong and courageous, for you shall bring the sons of Israel into the land which I swore to them, and I will be with you."
 - Josh 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."
 - Josh 1:18 "...only be strong and courageous."
- 3. David speaking to Solomon
 - 1 Chron 28:20 Then David said to his son Solomon, "Be strong and courageous , and act; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the LORD God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you nor forsake you

II. For me, our hands speak about our partnership with God;

He extends his right hand of grace, and we embrace his hand with our right hand of faith obedience (action).

The right hand is raised as confirmation of an oath.

- 1. God to man:
 - Deut 32:39-40 See now that I, I am He, and there is no god besides Me; it is I who put to death and give life. I have wounded and it is I who heal, and there is no one who can deliver from My hand. Indeed, I lift up My hand to heaven, and say, as I live forever ...
 - Isa 62:8 The LORD has sworn by His right hand and by His strong arm,
- 2. Man to God:
 - Gen 14:22 Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have sworn (Lit lifted up my hand) to the LORD God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth,

3. Man to man:

2 Kings 10:15 Now when he had departed from there, he met Jehonadab the son of Rechab coming to meet him; and he greeted him and said to him, "Is your heart right, as my heart is with your heart?" And Jehonadab answered, "It is." Jehu said, "If it is, give me your hand." And he gave him his hand, and he took him up to him into the chariot.

Job 17:3 "Lay down, now, a pledge for me with Yourself; who is there that will be my guarantor?"

III. God, with His hands:

A. Created us:

Gen 2:7-8 with His hands, God created Adam from the ground.

7 Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. 8 The LORD God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed.

Gen 2:21-22 with His hands, God created Eve from Adam's side.

21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. 22 The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.

B. Strengthens us.

Gen 49:24 Jacob speaks prophetic blessing over his children, here he is speaking of Joseph.

24 But his bow remained firm, and his arms were agile, from the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob

Ps 18:32-36 through the right hand of God we become strong.

32 The God who girds me with strength and makes my way blameless?

33 He makes my feet like hinds' feet, and sets me upon my high places.

34 He trains my hands for battle, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.

35 You have also given me the shield of Your salvation, and Your right hand upholds me; and Your gentleness makes me great.

36 You enlarge my steps under me, and my feet have not slipped.

C. Makes a person successful;

Gen 39:2 The LORD was with Joseph, so he became a successful man.

Neh 2:20 So I answered them and said to them, "The God of heaven will give us success; therefore we His servants will arise and build,"

Acts 11:21 And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a large number who believed turned to the Lord.

D. Gives us strength and power

Ex 15:6 Your right hand, O LORD, is majestic in power, Your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy.

Josh 4:23-24 Israel crossed the Red Sea to show that the hand of the Lord is mighty.

23 "For the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed, just as the LORD your God had done to the Red Sea, which He dried up before us until we had crossed; 24 that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the LORD is mighty, so that you may fear the LORD your God forever."

E. Gives us Support

Ps 63:8 My soul clings to You; Your right hand upholds me.

Ps 73:23 Nevertheless I am continually with You; You have taken hold of my right hand.

Isa 41:13 "For I am the LORD your God, who upholds your right hand, Who says to you, 'Do not fear, I will help you.'

F. Gives us Protection

Ps 16:8 I have set the LORD continually before me; because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

Ps 17:7 Wondrously show Your lovingkindness, O Savior of those who take refuge at Your right hand from those who rise up against them.

Ps 109:31 For He stands at the right hand of the needy, to save him from those who judge his soul.

Ps 110:5 The Lord is at Your right hand; He will shatter kings in the day of His wrath.

Isa 59:1 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not so short that it cannot save;

IV. We are to use our hands:

A. To minister to needs.

Acts 20:34 the apostle Paul met his own needs through his hands

34 "You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my own needs and to the men who were with me.

Titus 3:14 Our people must also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs, so that they will not be unfruitful.

B. To work.

1 Cor 4:12 and we toil, working with our own hands;

2 Thes 3:7-13 many of the Thessalonians were no longer working as they waited for the eminent return of Jesus.

7 For you yourselves know how you ought to follow our example, because we did not act in an undisciplined manner among you, 8 nor did we eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with labor and hardship we kept working night and day so that we would not be a burden to any of you; 9 not because we do not have the right to this, but in order to offer ourselves as a model for you, so that you would follow our example. 10 For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either. 11 For we hear that some among you are leading an undisciplined life, doing no work at all, but acting like busybodies. 12 Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to work in quiet fashion and eat their own bread. 13 But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good.

C. To help others.

Acts 20:34-35 the apostle Paul met his own needs through his hands

34 "You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my own needs and to the men who were with me. 35 "In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Eph 4:28 He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need.

D. We are to lift up our hands:

1. In prayer.

1 Tim 2:8 Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension.

Ps 28:2 Hear the voice of my supplications when I cry to You for help, when I lift up my hands toward Your holy sanctuary.

2. In praise and worship

Ps 63:4 So I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name.

Ps 134:2 Lift up your hands to the sanctuary and bless the LORD.

3. In blessing. Le 9:22.

Lev 9:22 Then Aaron lifted up his hands toward the people and blessed them, and he stepped down after making the sin offering and the burnt offering and the peace offerings.

Luke 24:50-51 And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. While He was blessing them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven.

V. The hand is symbolic of human action.

Ps 9:16 The LORD has made Himself known; He has executed judgment. In the work of his own hands the wicked is snared.

Ps 7:3 ...If there is injustice in my hands ...

Ps 9:16 In the work of his own hands the wicked is snared.

Ps 26:10 In whose hands is a wicked scheme, and whose right hand is full of bribes.

Ps 28:4 ...Requite them according to the deeds of their hands ...

Ps 58:2 ...in heart you work unrighteousness; on earth you weigh out the violence of your hands .

VI. Conclusion:

Do everything you do for the glory of God.

1 Cor 10:31 Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Col 3:17 Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Col 3:23-24 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.