

SOMETHING YOU USE

God is the source of my supply. Abundance, success and prosperity are mine.

Have you ever realised that supply is not something you get, but something you use? You may think that your supply comes to you from external sources – salary, savings, securities and so on – but the fact is that every form of prosperity, every tangible evidence of supply, every material blessing has its beginning within you, not outside you.

Jesus' parable of the talents is a perfect illustration of the idea that supply is not something we get, but something we use. When the man in Jesus' parable called his three servants to him, he gave to each "according to his ability" (Mt. 25:15): to one he gave five talents; to another, two talents; and to the third, one talent. Two of the servants used their talents and doubled them. The third, who had been given one talent, was afraid of losing it, afraid of his master's anger and disapproval, so he dug a hole in the ground and buried his talent. The two servants who had used and increased their talents were praised by their master and told that because they had been faithful concerning a few things they would be given more. But the servant who had been afraid to use his talent, who had buried it, lost even the one talent. And then Jesus says that the master made this statement, which has troubled and puzzled many people: "For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away" (Mt. 25:29). This sounds unfair and unjust unless we understand what it means.

What do we have that guarantees abundance? It must be the faith to use our God-given talents and abilities. Without faith in God and faith in ourselves, we are powerless to act. We are like the fearful servant who thought that if he just buried his talent, he would avoid getting into trouble.

Once we really lay hold of the idea that supply comes to us from the gift of God's own spirit, then we see that our part is not to ask, but to act in faith, using the ideas and talents God has given us. We do not want to be like the unprofitable servant and bury our gifts by thinking of ourselves as unworthy, inferior, inadequate, or incapable of acting in wise and productive ways. Every time we say, "I cannot," we are burying our talents; we are denying the God-power in us; we are shutting ourselves off from the supply that should and could be ours.

If you long to be more successful and prosperous, take a good look at your thoughts and attitudes. Ask yourself what you really believe will bring you prosperity and success. If you are unhappy with your work, for instance, or if you feel that you are being unfairly treated, honestly ask yourself whether you are *using* your God-given talents and abilities or burying them beneath a burden of resentment and discouragement.

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“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;... but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone” (1 Cor. 12:4,6). Think about this. It is not something outside yourself that changes the nature of your life and brings you the abundance your heart longs for; it is your inner gift of God’s own spirit. It is your faith in yourself as a child of God, as an expression of God. It is your use of the creative ideas of God that come to you, transform your life, and change every condition. You are needed, your particular gifts are needed, the expression of your faith is needed. There is always a place for those who believe in God and in themselves and act on this belief. Abundance and success are theirs.

Instead of praying for material things, pray for a new and greater understanding of the supply that is already with you, your gift from God. Pray for an understanding of what it is that God wants you to use, to increase, to demonstrate; and you will be guided in ways to do it.