

## Debbie and Her Wonderful Gifts

Debbie was a very talented girl. When she was only four years old, a music teacher told Debbie's mother that she had musical ability. Yet, after four years of piano lessons, Debbie still did not play very well. She wouldn't practice.

When Debbie went to first grade, her teacher said that Debbie learned to read faster than any student she had ever had. But by the time Debbie was in third grade, she was making B's and C's on her report card instead of A's. She wouldn't study.

When Debbie began to take dancing lessons, her teacher said that she was a very talented dancer. But soon the teacher had to call Debbie's mother and tell her that Debbie was not working at her dancing.

It was the same story everywhere Debbie went—school, camp, music lessons, and dancing classes. Finally her mother knew that the problem had come to the point where it must be worked out. Mother got out the Bible and opened it to the story of the talents that Jesus told to his disciples. In the story, before the master made a journey he gave each servant talents according to his ability. While the master was away, the servant that was given five talents increased the five talents to ten. The second servant that was given two talents increased his two talents to four. The last servant, who only had one talent, buried it and did nothing with it.

When the master returned he was very pleased with the first two servants, but said that the third servant was wicked and lazy because he did nothing with his. Then he took away his talent and gave it to the servant that had ten talents.

Mother told Debbie that she had been given many talents from God. She explained to her how she was burying her talents by being too lazy or too careless to do the work she needed to do to develop them. Mother wanted to know if Debbie thought that God was pleased with how she was burying all the talents he had given her. Debbie said that she knew that He was not pleased with her.

It was then that Debbie realized what was happening. She saw that it was error trying to trick her into not using her talents. She said that she needed to start being obedient in everything that she was doing. The changes did not take place all at once; but before the year was up, Debbie's teachers in music, dancing, and school began to call her mother to tell her about the wonderful improvement they saw in Debbie.

Debbie is happier now; her grades are better, and she has been recognized as a talented performer in her music and her dancing. She knows now that God is pleased with her because she is using his wonderful gifts to her.



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*S&H 6: "The talents He gives we must improve."*

*S&H 323: If 'faithful over a few things', we shall be made rulers over many; but the one un-used talent decays and is lost."*