

Connect timeless truths with today's news.

USING THEIR SKILLS OFF THE FIELD

The University of Washington played in the championship of the College Football Playoffs this month. (They lost 34–13 to Michigan.) But three members of the UW Huskies' football team are working with a professor on a study that identifies how the skills needed to thrive in high-level athletic competition are transferrable to a variety of career and academic fields. These players are “developing and analyzing plays, observing human behavior, anticipating their opponents, and adapting a complex strategy based on real-time information that they’re synthesizing from their surroundings,” says Holly Barker, a University of Washington teaching professor. “That hasn’t been widely acknowledged, and does a disservice to players, especially in the academic opportunities they pursue and their future careers.”

USING YOUR GIFTS IN THE CHURCH

In today's passage, Paul calls the Christians in Rome to assess what spiritual gifts they've been given and then use those gifts to serve the body of Christ. The Lord has beautifully designed the church to build up its members, and this happens as every person uses his or her gifts in faithful service to Christ and one another.

1. What abilities have you developed in one hobby or sport that you've been able to apply in other settings?
2. What do you think sets a spiritual gift apart from a natural ability?
3. How can someone use a spiritual gift in a creative way or an unusual setting?

Additional Resources

These videos and materials are for your personal use. If you show videos in class, be sure to have the necessary rights to do so.

Music Video, Traditional: [“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” by Brandon Lake](#)

Music Video, Multicultural: [“Strength, Courage and Wisdom” by India Arie](#)

Music Video, Contemporary: [“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” by Brandon Lake](#)

[Theology of Work Bible Commentary on Romans 12:4–8](#)

[Guzik’s Study Guide on Romans 12](#)

[Bible Project’s “Romans 12–16: The Gospel Unifies the Church”](#)