

What does it mean to be a 'gifted?'

Why labeling students as "gifted isn't working – Ava Echard

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z0LhdQIhmzk>

Core Questions:

1. What do you think about students labeled and placed apart as gifted?
2. What kind of advantages should schools give students?
3. What differentiates you from everyone else?

Matthew 7:7-11

'Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

In my mind when I think of education I naturally think of the word 'seeking' and 'opening.' We seek knowledge from sources that are either smarter than us or challenge us to discover. When we think about knowledge 'opening' up to us I think that is essence of education.

Jesus speaks in Matthew 7 about general community rules, how to treat each other, and how to judge/forgive. How do these basic rules apply to education and giftedness? Jesus speaks about searching and finding, knocking and the door opened compared to us being asked from a child for bread or a fish (basic dietary needs analogy)... what is your response – give them a rock and a snake? Obviously not. God gives good things to those who ask – our job is to seek and knock at the door, ask God so God will give. In our communities of education and gifted programs, especially surrounding children, how do we respond to their needs and asks? As you are a child in this complex education system – what do you need to ask for? What kind of knowledge are you actively seeking?

More importantly what are you asking from God? Are you expecting to be gifted based on who you are or do you seek out the good gifts God has to give us?