

## **One-Two Punch**

### **Ready:**

“He shepherded them with a pure heart and guided them with his skillful hands.” -- Psalm 78:72

### **Set**

Many competitors are described as either very talented but not very hard-working or not very talented but very hard-working. In a similar manner, people are often described as being good at what they do but lacking in character, or being a really nice person who is not very good at what they do.

However, it really doesn't need to be an either/or situation. The talented athlete should also be a hard worker. The successful coach should also be someone of high character. King David was such a leader. He had the incredible combination that we should all desire in our lives — a pure heart and skillful hands.

Purity of heart with unskillful hands is ineptitude. Impurity of heart with skillful hands is corruption. Purity of heart with skillful hands is beauty and strength. Having skillful hands does not mean that talent came naturally; skillful hands require hard work to become the best you can be.

You don't have to be perfect in character or skill. You need to focus on the two things you can control: your attitude and your effort. Give your best attitude and effort and trust the Lord to make you not only more like Christ in your character but also more skilled at what you do.

### **Go**

- Which area have you neglected more: your character or your effectiveness?
- How are you working in these areas to be more like Christ?

### **Workout**

Proverbs 14:23; 2 Thessalonians 3:10–12

### **Overtime**

“Lord, develop in me a pure heart and skillful hands so I can effectively love and serve You and others. Amen.”



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