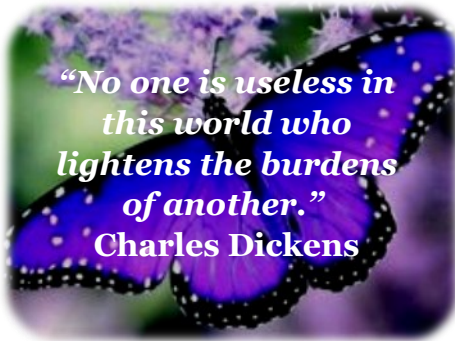


How Can I Help? I have no Talent?

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.”

Matthew 25: 35-39

Yes, you have talents. How do we fit into this life? What is our purpose? In my life, I have met many people who are not famous. In fact, I never see their name in print. We all know people who are never mentioned by name, but when something needs to be done, regardless of how lowly the task, they are there to help. They don't want their name known on this earth, but they know it will be in the Great Book.



“No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.”
Charles Dickens

Dorcas was a woman who answers this description and she is only mentioned in the ninth chapter of Acts in a few verses. The Bible tells us that Dorcas was a seamstress who made robes that she basically seemed to give away to those in need. (Read Acts 9:36-43) She must have had some money in order to give away, but we don't think of her as being a rich woman. Dorcas did not aspire to be a leader. From what we read in the Bible, she was content to stay in her own home and try to do all she could in all the ways she could. Thus, in spite of herself, she became a great leader just like Florence Nightingale

during the war in Crimea who cared for the wounded and dying soldiers on the field of battle. We have much the same story about Lydia. These women served in what we would call minor roles, but their influence was great.

The story tells us that Dorcas died, and people mourned because she was so well loved. They washed her body and laid it in an upper chamber as was the custom, but the people wanted her to live. They had heard about Peter being near and that he was doing miracles. They were sure he could help so they sent two men to ask Peter to come to Joppa and restore life to Dorcas. In Matthew 5:16 we are told: *“In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”* We know that Dorcas was not a Christian because she did good works, but she did good works because she was a Christian.

Works can't do it!!! We can't take good works to Heaven with us, but we can lead others to know God's amazing love and then we will see them in Heaven, equal with us. We cannot earn a special place and we cannot earn salvation. But we can be a tremendous witness on this earth by the way we live and the deeds we do.

God gives each of us talents to use. Dorcas was just a seamstress, but evidently a very good one, and someone whom people loved. It sounds like she lived her life as a Christian should. But through her many came to believe. We are told to try to live our lives as God would want us to live. At work, or play, or any time, we are to seek to do God's will and lead others to Him. We pray “Thy will be done.” But do we mean it?



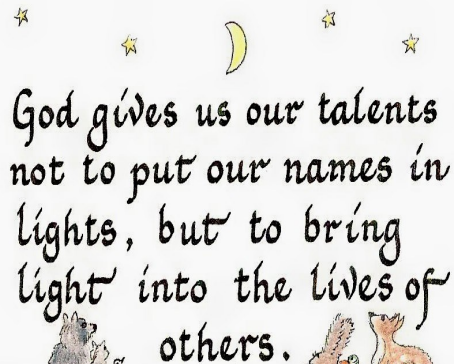
“You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.”
John Bunyan

The benefits we can receive by helping others are often not monetary, but they are numerous. The feeling that you helped someone cannot be measured in dollars. That feeling is a gift that no one can take away from you. Each of us can reach out and touch.



Hide not your talents. They for use were made. What's a sundial in the shade?

Benjamin Franklin



God gives us our talents not to put our names in lights, but to bring light into the lives of others.



Each of us has a talent. Maybe sometimes it is just a friendly smile and greeting. Maybe we can just ask how someone is feeling and then listen. We don't need our name in print. We don't need monuments. What we need is to love and be loved. That is a wonderful gift. Dorcas is still alive today in many people. Wouldn't it be wonderful if our influence to win others for Christ is felt after we are with our Heavenly Father?

What are you doing about helping others? How about the little girl that does not have a Mommy? Can you invite her to the Mother/Daughter Tea with you? How about that young man that has grown up without a Dad? Can you take him for a hamburger or to a ball game? What about the single person that often seems so alone?

Can you visit with him or her?

What about the person in your neighborhood that is too old and needs some bushes trimmed? Can we lend a hand without expecting anything in return? As Christians we are called to love one another and one way that we do that is by helping others. You will be rewarded in many ways you never thought about.

Prayer: God, You are awesome. You have given us health, strength, and love. Help us to give a portion of the wealth You have given to us to others. Help us to use our talents every day to show others Your love through us. Amen

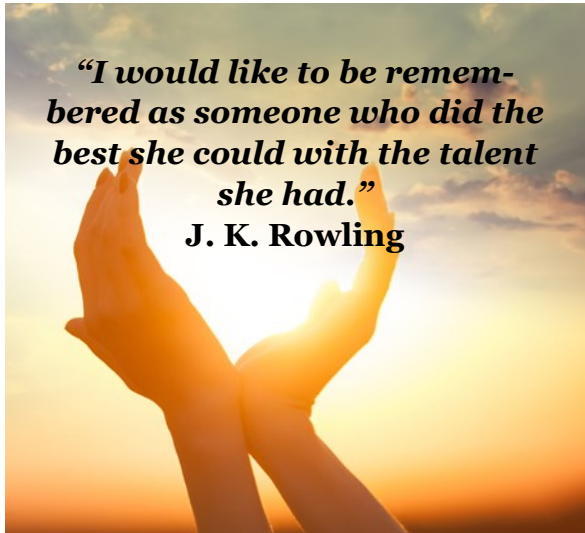
1. What gifts do you have that you can share? Can you visit someone and make their day a little brighter?
2. Is it easy to say that you aren't old enough to help others?
3. What rewards can you receive from using your talents?
4. Have you ever stopped to really count all the talents you were given? They were given freely, but are of no value unless they are used.

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In order to succeed, we must first believe that we can.

Nikos Kazantzakis



"I would like to be remembered as someone who did the best she could with the talent she had."

J. K. Rowling