

## You Are the Person for the Job

A favorite cartoon show of our grandkids is Paw Patrol. The show's main characters are rescue pups, each with a unique skill and a name that fits their role. Each pup is an emergency service character with a specialty vehicle to fit their role. Sky is a helicopter pilot so he is called upon when aerial help is needed. Rubble is a bulldog. He drives a bulldozer, clearing away debris that is in the way. Marshall is a fireman who drives a ladder truck needed for many rescues. Chase is a policeman while Rocky is a recycling dog who uses miscellaneous items found along the way to fix the problem. Zuma is an aquatic rescue pup, with underwater and surface water rescue capabilities. Everest is a Siberian husky. Tracker has exceptional hearing and, because he is bi-lingual, can communicate with other animals. Ten year old Ryder receives the call for help and dispatches the rescue pups in groups of two, utilizing their unique skills to overcome the disaster brewing in Adventure Bay. Each pup adapts its God-given skills to fit the situation and complete the rescue. And pup each is part of a team God envisioned when He thoughtfully created each pup (see Psalm 139:13).



Moving from the world of make-believe to real life, God has gifted each of us uniquely and has different tasks in mind for each of us that require our specific skills. *For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2:10).* We may or may not have a "Ryder" to direct us into service, but the Holy Spirit creates opportunities for where we can help others. *Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us (2 Timothy 1:14).*

So, in what ways are you gifted? Just for fun, take this four step approach to stewardship of our giftedness.

- (1) Think of a unique skill that you have. Are you physically strong? Can you blend people together to make a well-functioning team? Are you good with kids? Are you a motivator or a problem solver? Are you skilled as a handyman? The list of skills is endless because we are all different, but are all "part of the one body of Christ." There is something special in each one of us. We may be able to add our specific skill to a team effort to accomplish a big task.
- (2) Think up a fun name that relates to your particular skill. Having a descriptive name helps us to visualize our unique skills as we have a tendency to want to live up to our name.
- (3) Dream up a scenario where your skill can be adapted to help someone. Imagine Ryder calling out your name and giving you an assignment to "save the day." Just as athletes imagine in their mind a game winning free throw, game changing shot or field goal, you can do the same.
- (4) Look for a time in real life to fulfill the dream. You were created for this purpose.

Using your skills to help others is a form of stewardship. Biblical stewardship is often defined as "utilizing and managing all resources God provides for the glory of God and the betterment of His creation." One other view simplifies it as "the way you live your life," since God created your life for a purpose. Are you ready to put the gifts that God gave you into action?

Step out of the fantasy world into real life. Know that God created the bigger picture that gives you the capability to help others. He gave you gifts *so that* you would be a blessing to others. If God presents you a service opportunity He is telling you that you are the person for the job. It is your purpose for that moment in time. God has gifted you for this reason.

**The Bible Says:** *For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully (Romans 12:4-8).*

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father. We thank you for the unique skills you have given us. We pray that we will use them to help others for your glory. Amen.