

## Behind-The-Scenes Spiritual Gifts

### *This Story is Dedicated to Chris & Jerry*

I have a friend who works behind the scenes to assist in sharing God's Word with hundreds of people each week. When we lived in South Carolina, our family became good friends with a family who lived a few houses down the street. They were always willing to help us, whether solving computer problems, baking cookies for the neighborhood, or being supportive Christian friends. They were people devoted to the Lord, who served Him by serving others. Twenty years after we moved to North Carolina, the friendship initiated a new relationship. When I retired, I began writing weekly devotional stories, sending them to friends in my email address book. My routine was to send out a weekly story on Sunday evening, often hastily written earlier that day. To my surprise, within a few hours, I received corrections of grammatical errors in the devotions from my South Carolina friend. As a school teacher at a Catholic parochial school, it was her nature to help students write correctly. I became "one of her students." I boldly asked her if she would consider making the corrections before I sent them to the rest of my distribution list. She has faithfully done this for me for the past decade. Her name isn't on the writing, but it is a behind-the-scenes ministry that benefits over 400 people each week. She even ministers to me, providing her spiritual insights of my writings.



How about you? What is your behind-the-scenes ministry? How has God empowered you to serve others? You, too, can use your unique, God-given skills to encourage and serve others. What gifts has the Lord given you that can be a blessing to others? *There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.... All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines (1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 11).*

By now, I can envision tears in her eyes. She doesn't do it for any recognition – just the satisfaction of being part of a ministry to help others. As a couple, she and her husband demonstrate God's love in what they do for others.

I have chosen the timing of this devotion to be the week of my South Carolina friends' 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Their Golden Anniversary is a symbol of their long-term commitment to each other. 50 years is a milestone of a continuing relationship, with many more years to come. They have also demonstrated a lifelong commitment to serving the Lord -- at their church, helping students in the classroom, in their community, their family, and to hundreds of people they have never met through devotional stories based on God's written Word. God has empowered them to help people grow in their faith walk, enhance their understanding of the Gospel, and how it applies to their daily lives.

What do you do with God's gifts to you? It is a ministry if you do it to serve God.

#### ***Additional Scripture Verses About Serving Others:***

*Deuteronomy 10:12*      *Serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. '*

*Joshua 24:15*            *As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*

*Colossians 3:23*        *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.*