

Meet Pip...Pip has a dream to be the best guide dog ever. He is after this prize.

Just like we are told in 1 Corinthians 14 verse 1 we are to eagerly desire spiritual gifts. Just like David practiced the harp we should continue to practice the gifts we have been given. Often, we are happy to reap the reward without the payment involved. God gives us gifts but sometimes like all great gifts they often require some assembly!

Nothing he tried seemed to go right for poor Pip, nothing seemed to work he kept getting it wrong, he just kept trying with all of his own strength and he just keeps failing. A recent sermon I listened to explained this like all having all the gear but no game.

Until one day he reads about his hero Ace and realises that he can do this.

Martin Luther said "If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as a Michelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, 'Here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well.'"

Just like when we read and study Gods word, we read stories that inspire us and push us forward to pursue Him

Then that moment comes, and Pip has to show off what he thinks he has learnt and discovered

Well we have all been there, when you think you have got it all sorted, you have nailed it as they would say and then it that moment it all goes horribly wrong

Pip leaves feeling sad, like a failure and decides that this can't be for him

We often give up on our pursuit of spiritual gifts because one time it went wrong, or it didn't go as planned. Matt Chandler asked his congregation the question, have you had a terrible time evangelising? Most raised their hands, does that mean we give up evangelising? No. If it means we move on and keep trying.

But when he was really needed, he was on the only one who could fit, the only one who could reach out to that person, at that time. When we use our gifts like Pip...we do so to make much of Jesus.

No matter, young or old...God has a gift he wants to give you and you will use this gift in His timing for His glory. 1 Peter 4 verse 10 reminds us that God has given each of us a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts, so we should use them well to serve one another. Again, Matt Chandler has a wonderful phrase that makes me relax when thinking about spiritual gifts. The spirit of God does the work of God, through the word of God. How amazing! Our job is to continue to practice our giftings and to test and discern anything that comes our way against the word of God.

Have you ever noticed that one you help someone out and they thank you... you often reply with my pleasure? This is our way of showing others that it was no trouble. John Piper explains that this is helpful in being humble with our self-sacrifice in order to help others. Pips reward doesn't come from the person he helped, it comes from the one he longed for acceptance from. Our reward is Heaven.