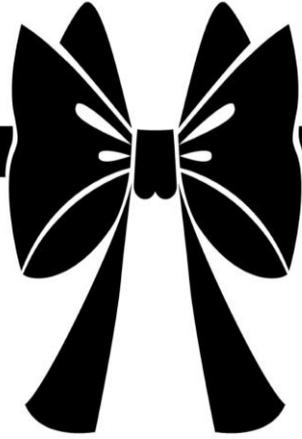


**Gifted for
Greatness**

Julia A. Royston



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**By
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When you think of a gift, birthdays, baby or bridal showers come straight to mind. These occasions call for a gift. The gift is special and selected purposefully for the recipient. The recipient was considered for their likes and dislikes, size, color and shape to receive the gift that you had in mind. You carefully wrap the gift in colorful wrapping and wait anxiously for them to receive and open the gift. Your money, time and effort went into obtaining the gift but you must now receive the ultimate reward and that is the recipient's response to that gift. While opening the gift you anticipate the light in their eyes, the bright smile and of course, the

exuberant thank you for the lovely gift. It is a celebration this party and occasion.

Joyous music and laughter fill the air because of the nature of the event. Gifts are appropriate and will be appreciated of course.

God has given every person a gift. This gift is designed specifically for you. You're asking yourself a gift inside of me, yes, you! Look closely at yourself and the multitude of things that you do. Is there something special and unique that moves and satisfies you. This thing that you do, do others realize that no one else does this thing quite like you do?

Sure, other people can do what you do but not quite in the same way as you.

Remember the gift was inspected and evaluated just to suit you. God knew your temperament, likes and dislikes when he chose you for the gift. For the gifts....of God come without repentance (Romans 11:29). God knew you when he placed this gift inside of you.

Have you ever had a present for someone but couldn't seem to get it to that person? You left it at home; you left it in the car or just hadn't picked it up from the store yet? What good is it to keep telling the person, I have a gift for you but they can't get the gift

to you? How can I thank you for a gift that I haven't seen or received yet? How can I utilize a gift that is not placed in my possession or at my disposal that has the capability to benefit many people?

There are many gifts inside of you but you must remember to use the gift, activate and make available the gift that is inside you. A gift is not good to anyone hidden, left idle or collecting dust. What good is a toaster still in the box? How can bread come out brown, hot and fresh if the toaster is still in the box? Sure an oven on broil will brown bread on the top. But an oven does not have quite the same effect as bread coming out brown

on both sides as from a toaster. Although an oven and toaster have similar capabilities, there is something about toasting bread in a toaster that is simply different than using the oven

There is a specific function in the body of Christ with this gift that God wants you to do. This gift in your life will produce something that only you can do. Sometimes it is not the gift itself as much as the person that the gift is flowing through. That special touch of attitude and class that you add to the gift as it is presented. At other times, there is a group of people that you can reach

with the gospel of good news with the gift
that is working inside of you.

No amount of faults, failures or low self-
esteem could distract or deter God from
placing this gift inside of you. He is the
giver of the gift and sorry, he is not an
Indian giver, he will not take it back.

How do you know that you have a gift?
First, look at your activities, passions,
hobbies that give you satisfaction and a
sense of pride. Those things that if you
didn't do them you think you would just fold
and dry up and/or die. Not physically die
but your inner spirit would die. These

activities make you feel alive with excitement and get your creative juices flowing. If no one says thank you, you're proud of what you have done. If no one even cares how its done you feel that it requires your best and all that is inside of you strives for excellence when this gift, activity or process is done especially by you. You would do this thing without pay or compensation. You must do it, its inside of you and as a burning fire, it must be expressed or you would burn alive.

What do you do to keep the gift alive?

James 1: ...stir up the gift..." Your job is to recognize the giver of the gift and

acknowledge him in all of your ways. Being connected to God, the giver of the gift is essential to keeping the gift alive. It is like getting a warranty with the manufacturer of a particular product or service. If any problems arise with the gift, go back to the manufacturer of the gift to find out how to troubleshoot the problem with the gift. It may be the operator of the gift and how that gift is being used if you experience problems. When you buy a computer and/or software from a particular company, they provide you with a hotline, customer service or technical support phone number to call if you experience trouble. The manufacturer wants you to get the most out of the product

so you can continue buying this and other products from them yourself and also, recommend their product to someone else. God is the same way. Stay in connection with God for he wants you to utilize that gift to the best of your ability as well as tell others about the giver of the gift. Those that you recommend to God can in turn go to him, the giver of the gift and have a relationship with him as well.

A gift misused is not a gift at all. Back to the idea and example of a toaster as a gift. A toaster is designed to brown bread and/or bagels to be eaten and in turn provides fuel for the body to be productive. If you place

cheese and butter inside of a toaster to melt it, the toaster will then short circuit and not be able to accomplish what its true purpose is and that is to brown bread. If you take a toaster and beat it with a hammer, it will not work and serve any purpose at all. If you receive a gift of any kind, whether its to preach, teach, exhort, heal, giving, but, utilize that gift to manipulate and abuse the people, then your gift is intended to help then the gift is not serving its proper purpose. You must go back to the manufacturer, the giver, God and find out how this gift is to be used. How do you use this gift? Sometimes God will connect you with experts in using this gift. Stay close,

watch them, and find out how to use this gift to the best of your ability and for the purpose in which it is intended. I am a singer. I have probably sang since I was born but, have loved music all of my life. I have spent my life watching people sing, in church, on television, in the movies, on stage, etc. I have listened to all types of music, gospel, rap, opera, country you name it. But, I have a gift to sing as well but my purpose for watching others who are professional as well as gifted of God is to help my gift be better. “Iron sharpeneth iron...” How do you use your gift to the best of your ability? Hang out with the best. Learn to watch the best. Ask questions of

the best. You can't copy what they do because remember that this gift in you will be unique. Someone else and how they use their gift may influence you. People may look at you and say; you know you remind me of so and so. But, remember that this gift will be different because it is placed inside of and working inside of you.

You can lose a gift if it remains unused and lies dormant. A gift is no good if it is not used to the best of its ability through you.

There is a parable in the Bible of a man who gave his servants 1 talent, 5 talents and 10 talents. The man with the one talent hid his gift and didn't use it. The man with 5

talents multiplied his talent and thus, had 10 and the man with 10 talents multiplied his talents and had 20. As you use your gift/talent, other gifts will come to you.

Have you ever given a gift to someone and never seen them use it? Especially if it is a gift of clothing that is their size, color and they said that they like it but they never wear it. Wouldn't you be reluctant to give them another gift, especially clothing because they never wore what you gave them initially. I have seen a mother wear a seemingly ugly item of clothing to me personally or happily displaying a picture of mild gifted art on a wall or in an office. They may not have like the gift themselves

but it was the person who gave them the gift that mattered. God is the giver of the gift and it gives honor to him when you utilize your gift to the best of your ability. When you sharpen your skills and strive to develop your gift, you give glory and honor back to God for he is the giver of the gift. “Every good and perfect gift cometh from God.”

(James 1:17 KJV)

There is a gift inside of you, ask the giver to show you what it is and how he wants this gift to flow through and out from you!