

A Gift

By Karen Guthrie

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. (1 Peter 4:10, NIV)

I stood in front of the card rack searching for the just right birthday card for Lois. She has loved me like a daughter, becoming my second mother when I married her son. She would soon be eighty years old, and we planned a small celebration in honor of her milestone. I ordered the cake, invited the family and planned the meal. I had her gift wrapped and ready. All I needed was a card.

Two years ago I began to hear from friends, family and virtual strangers, "You have a gift," in regard to my writing. When I speak, my words tumble out this way and that. I sometimes sputter, stutter and stammer. My tongue gets twisted, and I mispronounce even easy, commonly used words. But when I write, especially about my Lord, the words come easily. They flow from mind to fingers to ink on paper. What felt to me a compulsion (the need to put words on paper) others saw as a gift. I came to acceptance slowly.

Until I began to hear the word "gift," I felt inadequate and useless. I felt no one wanted to read what I wrote. Since I accepted my gift, I feel comfortable using it to share with others. God has given me this gift to use for Him. I seek courage to use it to share His love and to honor Him.

That day, I searched and searched for a card that expressed my love for my husband's mother. In the end, I came away carrying a card with a beautiful picture on the outside. I took it home, then I used my gift to write her a letter to express how I really felt about her.

Father, I thank you for this gift and ask that you show me how to use it to honor you. Amen.