



WORDS FROM
Pastor Randy

Can God really use me? Does He want to use me? What part do I play in it all?

Admittedly, there was a time when my prayer was normally, "God use me . . . use me wherever or whenever or however you chose to." It sounded spiritual enough. Then, one day it occurred to me that there is never a time when God doesn't want to use me. His plan always includes me. The hang-up was not on His part, but mine! The prayer that I really needed to be praying was not **"God use me" but "God, make me useable."**

God is always up to something and wanting me join to Him in it. He wants to use me in His great work, even much more than I want to be used. As a matter of fact, He will wear me out using me when I get to the place of staying useful. I am coming to understand that my assignment in the process is simply staying useful.

Ruth Bell Graham, the wife of Evangelist Billy Graham, once wrote about her clogged up pen. It was a special needle-fine point that used India ink. "I shook it. I knocked it gently, sideways on the top of the desk. I repeated each procedure without results. Then I carried the pen to the sink, took it apart and carefully flushed out the point. Refilling it, I sat down to write. *How like me*, I thought with exasperation. How often when God has needed me I have been clogged up – too busy or inundated with things, the necessary giving way to the unnecessary. Or I've gone dry. When that happens, I need a shaking up or a special cleaning."

There are those times when my life gets clogged up with all kinds of stuff that doesn't need to be there. God has to empty out whatever I'm full of in order for Him to fill me with Himself. There can't be a filling unless there's first an emptying. Maybe, that's why God allows us to be so shaken up at times. Maybe that's what the hard knocks are intended for . . . shaking loose and cleaning out.

For sure, God has lots of different options. He has fountain pens, ballpoints, gel pens, ink tips, felt tips, and even pencils. Each one serves a specific purpose in His hand. I don't want Him to have to pass over me to get to another instrument that was useable. Staying usable . . . it's what a life of service is really all about!

TRIVA that isn't TRIVIAL

1. What was the name of the mother who made a little coat for her son every year?
2. People will be thrown into the lake of fire because _____.
3. In the Bible, who was the person called Candace?

ANSWERS

1. Hannah for Samuel (1 Samuel 1:20, 2:18-19)
 2. Their names are not written in the Book of Life (Revelation 20:15)
 3. Queen of the Ethiopians (Acts 8:27)
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