

Gifted Hands: The Story of Ben Carson

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will hear you. 13 You will seek Me and find Me, when you seek Me with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:11-13

28 And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? 31 But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. 1 Corinthians 12:28-31 ESV

The movie Gifted Hands is the true story of Ben Carson. When Ben was a child he struggled in school. He got very poor grades. The other students called him names and picked on him. Even though his mother could not read, she believed in her sons and encouraged both of them that they could do anything anyone else could do and even better. One became a neurosurgeon and the other an engineer.

Has someone encouraged you? Are you encouraging others?

Ben's mother married at a very young age. They had two young sons. She was happy until she found out that her husband was already married and had another family. Later she learned that he was dealing drugs. After the divorce she suffered from a deep depression. She had never learned to read and was afraid that she was failing her sons. She was afraid they would turn out "dumb" like she thought she was.

Each of us has many fears that we try to manage the best that we can. What are some of your fears?

Ben was challenged by the pastor's story of missionary doctors. His mother had encouraged him to use his imagination. In his mind he imagined himself as the missionary doctor running from a would-be captor. Ben was surprised how real the event seemed when he used his imagination.

We can use our imaginations to see helpful and entertaining things. Sometimes we let our imaginations fill us with fear and worry. How do you use your imagination?

Ben's mother limited her sons' TV watching and required them to read two books and write book reports every week. Ben's grades improved but he still had to deal with his temper that was out of control. When he almost killed someone with his pocket knife he knew that he had to change. He became a good student and got a college scholarship to become a doctor. Although school and his residency weren't easy, Ben persevered and became a neurosurgeon. Do you have something like temper that you need to deal with?

Ben was a neurosurgeon for only a few years when people brought very difficult cases to him. He became one of the most famous neurosurgeons in the world. Even though he believed that he was dumb when he was a child, the years have proven that he is a brilliant man who just needed to find his gifts and talents.

God has give each of us gifts and talents. What are some of your gifts and talents?

One of the greatest frustrations of Ben's life was not being able to save his own twins when his wife went into premature labor. Each of us has hard times in our lives. Some people respond to difficulties by running away from problems and hiding inside of anger, overeating, alcohol, drugs, or any number of addictive behaviors. God wants us to learn to respond appropriately instead of running away. Ben responded to the painful loss of his children by trying even harder to save the lives of other children.

Dear Lord, You have given each of us gifts and talents. Open our eyes and hearts to see how You would like to work through our lives. Take away our negative self-attitudes and fill us with grateful thanksgiving for the good that You want to do in our lives. Thank You for the healing hands of Ben Carson. Show us how to find healing in our own lives and the lives of those around us. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.