

MOMENTUM YOUTH BIBLE STUDY SERIES

THE CHRONICLES OF JENIAH AND URIAH
#17 - SPIRITUAL GIFTS AND MINISTRIES
AMERICA'S GOT (NO)TALENT





“Get me a bag! Hurry! I feel like I’m gonna throw up!” Jeniah exclaimed as she was in search of the nearest bathroom. It was the night of the talent show and she was dared to sing by her cousin. Uriah said, “Remember you will be fine. You don’t need to be afraid... and guess what, if you do throw up on stage, I will have it all right here,” he said as he held up his smartphone.

“Uriah, I can’t believe I allowed you to talk me into this. You know I don’t like singing in public. My knees knock, my hands get cold and pasty. I can’t do this,” she said and began walking to the door.

“Wait, Jeniah! You know you need to do this. You have been singing since you were 3 and no it hasn’t been in front of crowds, but you never know how you will help someone.” Uriah said trying to encourage his older cousin.

“How can I help someone if I am so messed up? My knees feel like a twig in a tornado and my stomach feels like it is about to erupt. I can’t sing like this!” she replied.

“If you continue to think only about yourself, you will never be able to go out there and do anything. There’s someone out there who needs to hear what you have and they came to hear you,” Uriah asserted.

“Why don’t you get up there and do it then, if you are so confident.” Jeniah replied.

Uriah laughed. “I would really clear out the auditorium if I sang. That isn’t my gift. I sing “so low” no one can hear me!” He continued to laugh as Jeniah rolled her eyes at his lame excuse for a joke.

“I’ve heard you sing and I think you have a lovely voice.” said a voice that startled both Uriah and Jeniah because they didn’t see anyone in the shadows. It was Mrs. Winston, the music teacher. She was standing nearby and could hear the entire conversation. “You have a gift.” “Yeah, I told you so.” Uriah chimed in.

“You do too!” she said looking in Uriah’s direction.

“Wait, what?” Uriah said with a confused look on his face.

“Did you guys know that God gives each one of us something special? He calls them “Gifts”

- Ephesians 4:8 “... [Jesus] gave _____ to His people”

“Whoa... Didn’t know that.” Uriah said. “So does that mean I will be able to sing like Jeniah?”

“Not quite. Not everyone has the same gift. There are different types.” Mrs. Winston continued.

- Romans 12:6 says, “We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us....”

Paul went on to write...

- “If your gift is prophesying, then prophecy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to _____ , then _____ encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.” Romans 12:6b-8
- “So I have to use my gift AND be cheerful about it?” Jeniah said with a little frown.

“You don’t ‘have to’, you ‘get to’. You have the opportunity to partner with heaven to show people more about God.” Mrs. Winston said

- 1 Cor. 12:27 - “Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”

“What do I do if I can’t sing?” Uriah chimed in. “Glad you asked!” Mrs. Winston said with a smile. “You are still part of the body and each body part plays a role, using their spiritual gifts.”

- 1 Corinthians 12:28 *“And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues.”* –

“But how do I know my spiritual gifts?” Uriah asked more intently. “If I don’t sing, what can I do?”

“Excellent question. First, we have to remember that what we do is for God’s glory. Our gifts are tools God uses to tell others about Him. Second, we can spend time in prayer to ask God to reveal our gifts to us. There are also spiritual gifts tests you can find to help identify your gifts. Thirdly, remember the promise found in James 1:5...”

- *“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”*

Lastly, Mrs. Winston continued, “we have to remember, if we don’t use it, we can lose it.”

- “Read the parable of the gold bags when you get home and notice how the master blessed the servants that improved on their responsibilities and think about what happened to the one servant that did not.”

Matthew 25:14:29

“We are looking for Ms. Jeniah she’s up next.” said one of the stagehands.

“I guess I have no choice..” Jeniah said with a frown.

“No, you do have a choice;you have a chance to let the entire audience know how God allowed you to have a beautiful gift.” “Go out and use it... cheerfully!” Uriah aid with a smile.

“You’re right cousin. I’m going to use these vocal chords for His glory! Watch out, I’m going out there!!!”