

HANDS FOR GOD

Did you know that there are 122 references to the hands of God? When I think of hands, I think of touch, caress, protect and give. And probably a lot more superlatives. When following the ministry of Jesus on earth we see so many times how he touched someone. Untouchable people who were unclean. But his compassion was far more than any rules and regulations which people needed to follow.

One of the most touching parables Jesus told was of the prodigal son. When the father saw his son returning after having squandered his inheritance, Luke 15:10 tells us: "When he was still afar off, his father caught sight of him and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced (threw his arms around) him and kissed him".

I have been knitting fingerless gloves. And it really made me start thinking about hands. What can we as Christians do with our hands to show the love of God?



Mrs White says: *"A Christian reveals true humility by showing the gentleness of Christ, by being always ready to help others, by speaking kind words and performing unselfish acts, which elevate and ennoble the most sacred message that has come to our world."*

Each of us can be instruments in the hands of God. But you know what I love about God, he made each of us unique. So, although we can be instruments for God, we don't all have to be the same instrument. In an orchestra there are many different instruments which then produce a lovely sound and harmony.

We have differing talents and gifts, so just as a violin can't produce the sound of a harp, all of us make our own sound for God. This means we do what we can with

who we are, what we are capable of and what God has gifted us with. As daughters of God we have been gifted. We need to find what our gifts and talents are and then use them to become effective instruments that can blend well with others and send the message of love to the world.

There are several things we need to think about:

1. We can't spread God's love if we don't know the source of that love. We need to have a close relationship with God ourselves to be able to show others who God is. This means that the gospel needs to change, inspire and connect us. It is very difficult to give what we don't have ourselves. When God comes into your life, transformation will take place. This is what others see in us. You will hear things like: "I don't know what it is about you but there is something different". You only need to read the gospels to see time and time again how lives were transformed by Jesus.
2. Then when this has happened, we need to stay strong in the word. I meet so many people who never seem to have time to study God's word. But say to me I have a close relationship with God. How is that possible? Would we call people we never speak to very close friends? You know it is easy to find time if something is important to you. Somehow you always find time. A question to ask our self is: "How important is God to me?"
3. One of the most effective ways of showing God's love is service. I do a lot of training for children's leaders and one thing I say is: you can talk all you want but unless you do what you say it will not make an impression on your children. There is a saying in English: Actions speak louder than words. When we show the love of God through caring, touching, listening and seeing the other person, we are showing them who God is.
4. And as it says in 1 Corinthians 13: The greatest of these is love. This is what people want to see, feel and experience when they meet us, especially in our societies where individualism is so prevalent. Love can be shown in so many ways. When I think of Bible figures who showed that I think of Dorcas. We don't hear her speak at all, but her story speaks loudly of the love she had for others.

So, let each of us be an instrument for God. Playing our part in the orchestra so that others can see harmony, love and show God in all we do.

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