

Handel's Messiah

After Handel performed his "Messiah" concert a person of royalty came up to him complimenting him on how wonderful his concert was. Handel replied, "My lord, I should be sorry if I only entertained them; I wish to make them better."

Would that all of us wanted to use our God-given talents and gifts to touch as many lives as possible to make them better? Charles Spurgeon, one of England's greatest preachers, said there are two things that will keep most people from using their talents to the full. The first is pride. God doesn't tend to bless people who want the glory for themselves. The second, he said, is the sin of unbelief. Many people are afraid to step out in faith, trusting that God can use them. Unless they can do it perfect the first time they're afraid to try, which is a form of pride.

Most of us think of the apostle Paul as a person of stature and an eloquent speaker. Do you know how Paul described himself. He said that his presence was unimpressive and his speech contemptible. Paul was a powerful writer but not necessarily an eloquent speaker. The word *Paul*, in Greek, means *small*. According to church history he was not a big man. Moses stuttered and reminded him, "Who made man's mouth?"

God delights in using nobodies who are willing to step out in faith expecting Him to do great things in and through them. It's all about God anyway. The power is in the message of the cross. It's not about us. I still remember years ago hearing J. Vernon McGee on radio for the first time, and I thought, "Who is this hick?" How did he get on the radio? But do you know what? God sure had a way of blessing the preaching of His Word through this man's home-style preaching. If you were not afraid of making a fool out of yourself, what might God be calling you to do?