G I F T S

A Kinetic Person’s Spiritual Gift

Treatment

By

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A group of children at a park, playing an impromptu and disorganized game of kickball. There is much laughing and joking, calling out to each other to hurry, to catch it, to block the ball. It’s all good-natured and fun until…

A young boy about ten, KENNY, is in the outfield. A ball kicked high and long is coming toward him. His teammates yell for him to catch it and he opens his arms, ready. He runs for it. “Mine” he calls out, “Mine!” But as he repeats the word the sound seems to separate – “MUH-ine”. He becomes still, eyes fixed as the sound “MUH” repeats and his head jerks. Involuntarily. “MUH” = head jerk. Everything around him stops as the others watch, transfixed. But as the ball he was supposed to catch falls to the ground, his teammates groan. One of them laughs, then the others do too. They make fun as Kenny comes out of his trance, calling him “Weirdo” and “Retard.” They continue the game. But after a moment of shock, not really knowing what’s happened, Kenny runs off.

A GIRL his age, FAITH, who’d been watching concerned runs after him, calling “Wait up!” But he doesn’t. At the edge of the park, she stops and watches after him.

A MAN on the sidewalk also watches. A heavyset man with kind blue eyes. He stares after the boy concerned…
 CUT TO:

At home, Kenny has dinner with his family. His brother and sister chatter away but he is quiet. His mother notices but he brushes it off, says he is fine.

Later, helping to clean up, his mother tells him she hears there is a new Sunday school teacher who is going to lead a special class on Bible stories; she thinks he would like it. He says sure but is distracted and asks to be excused to go watch TV.

But instead, he goes to the bathroom and closes the door. He stares at himself in the mirror. He tries to make what happened at the park happen again -- saying “Mine, mine.” Nothing. Then as he’s about to give up, the sounds separate and out comes MUH, MUH, MUH. Then his head jerks to the side. Involuntarily, mechanically. Again and agin. He looks stricken, about to cry.

Later. His father reads him a bedtime story. He watches Kenny says his prayers, then kisses him goodnight. Kenny waits, then gets out of bed and kneels to add a prayer – he asks God to please make him normal. Not to let this ‘thing’ happen again.

 CUT TO:

ITALY in the 1600s. A WOMAN is begging in the marketplace, dragging a child alongside. The boy, GUISEPPE, is bone thin and dressed in filthy rags. As a passerby drops a coin in her cup, Guiseppe tries to thank him, but he stutters badly – he literally can’t get the words out. The passerby laughs and the boy recoils, stumbling backwards into a cart of fruit. The cart topples, the produce flying everywhere. The cart owner yells and cuffs him in the head. His mother grabs him by the ear and drags him off, cursing at him. She tells him he is an imbecile and will come to no good end.

At night in their shanty lean-to, Guiseppe kneels by his bed and prays, asking God to teach him how to speak properly, and not let ‘that’ happen again.

 CUT BACK TO:

Kenny’s eyes snap open.

He awakens from his strange dream. We can see it on his face: who was this boy and why did he dream of him? He hears his mother calling to come down for breakfast. He jumps out of bed…

 CUT TO:

Kenny and his family are at Church. The MINISTER talks of God’s Spirit, and how it manifests while the Kenny and his brother John have a foot war in the pew. Their mother tries to keep them still.

After the service ends, people mill about outside. Children play on the jungle gym. Faith, the girl from the park waves, calling him over. But he can see the boy who started the laughter already smirking at him. So while his brother and sister join in, he hangs back. He doesn’t want to be made fun of again.

On a bench nearby he sees the heavyset man with kind eyes. We recognize him from the park. MR. SAMUEL is wearing a black suit and has a stack of books beside him. They have colorful embossed covers and draw the boy’s attention.

“My mother told me about the Bible story class.” Mr. Samuel smiles, waving him closer. “Do you like Bible stories?” Kenny nods. Samuel says that he does too but that many of his favorite stories aren’t in the Bible at all, but rather in the lives of God’s children: they are the stories of God’s miracles and spiritual gifts. Some are small and some are great, but all are filled with the presence of the Lord. Maybe they will read some of those. Kenny asks if the class is inside, but Samuel says that Kenny seems to be the only one interested so why don’t they stay outside and enjoy the lovely day?

The boy sits down, drawn by the image on the cover of the top book – it is a man levitating. Samuel tells him that this is Saint Joseph of Cupertino. Saint Joseph wasn’t always exalted and holy though. He started life as a wretched soul named Guiseppe Desa. Kenny’s eyes go wide – that’s the name of the boy in his dream.

Mr. Samuel says perhaps this is a good story to start with. He picks up the heavy volume. He asks the boy is he is ready; Kenny nods but in confusion - ready for what?

Mr. Samuel opens the book and as he does, the images from the pages rise up, becoming three dimensional to engulf them.

 CUT TO:

Kenny and Samuel stand on the streets of Italy. Kenny’s eyes are wide in amazement. It is exactly as in his dream, but the Guiseppe who is walking by is almost a man now, although still rail thin and in tattered clothes. He carries an armful of shoes to be delivered to the cobbler’s shop, where he is an apprentice. But of course, he has again done something wrong – forgotten a pair – and again is cuffed in the head and sent off.

As Guiseppe walks back up the street to fetch them, he sees a Franciscan Friar, solemnly begging for the poor. The man has heavenly grace and Guiseppe is deeply drawn in. He forgets his task and simply follows him. All the way to the monastery.

Guiseppe becomes a fixture and the monks let him work in the kitchen. Guiseppe can’t express himself with words but when the power of the Lord comes over him, he drops to his knees to pray. Unfortunately, he does it regardless of where he is or what he’s doing -- like carrying dishes, letting them fall and break to pieces. It happens time and again until the exasperated monks hang the broken plates from his robe, trying to make him realize. But it’s to no avail. Guiseppe tries to explain but his stutter prevents him. Even here he is considered an ‘imbecile’.

Guiseppe lives his life in devotion, spending all his free time in devout prayer. The order comes to accept his odd ways and know he is above all faithful.

Then one day, in a procession honoring the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi he is overwhelmed and raises his arms skyward – and suddenly levitates into the air.

Samuel turns to Kenny. “He is filled with the Spirit of the Lord. He cannot speak it, but God has given him the gift to lift himself up so that everyone can see.”

Indeed, everyone stands in awe as the wretched ‘imbecile’ who couldn’t put a sentence together floats above them. Some fall to their knees, some bow their heads; there is no doubt they are seeing the power of God.

 Samuel explains that whether you call them miracles or gifts, God’s spirit shows itself. All of God’s children receive a gift; for some, it might simply be the power of faith or the power of charity with which they can call others to the flock or help those in need. For others it could be the power of healing or the power of prophecy. For Giuseppe, who would soon be ordained as Father Joseph, it was the power to levitate, to rise above. For those who could not look up and see God in Heaven, they could look up and see God in Father Joseph.

We see now Father Joseph, in priest’s robe, rising up over the Church altar as he delivers Mass. We see him rising up with a baby in his arms as he lifts it from the Baptismal waters. We see him rising up in the countryside, literally lifting a stone cross to help workmen as they try to place it on a gravesite. We see hundreds of pilgrims travel to Cupertino to see Father Joseph, God’s miracle, to be renewed in their faith. We see all of this as scenes of Father Joseph’s life, using his gift to show the miracle of God.

Samuel tells Kenny that Father Joseph continued to live the Lord’s power until his death. One hundred years later, the Church declared him a saint.

 CUT BACK TO:

The book CLOSES as Samuel and Kenny sit on the bench outside the Church. Samuel asks if Kenny knows anyone who has a special spiritual gift. The boy says maybe, his cousin can make cards disappear. Samuel smiles and says sometimes the gifts are hard to see at first, so... maybe. He hopes to see Kenny next week and when he notices the boy eyeing the next embossed books on the stack, he suggests he borrow them.

 CUT TO:

Walking home, Faith catches up to him. She wonders where he disappeared to. He says “Italy” and that makes her laugh. She says she’d like to go, and he says, well, maybe he’ll take her next time.

 CUT TO:

At home, Kenny sneaks the books inside; he’s not even sure why. He slips them under his bed.

Later, Kenny’s brother John is coming upstairs when he hears strange sounds. He heads toward the bathroom, listening at the closed door.

“MUH, MUH, MUH”… “DUH, DUH, DUH, DUH”… Silently, he opens the door a crack to see –

Kenny stands at the mirror, working out the sounds. Gutturally they come from his throat; some do nothing but others – well, others are Voice Commands and upon their repetition his head jerks, or his neck turns, or his arm lifts. It a wondrous sight to behold.

John’s eyes go wide, watching.

 CUT TO:

Later, in bed, Kenny pulls out one of the books. This cover is blue and gold with a picture of a young girl on a crutch. He opens it and the images again pour out, coming to life.

 CUT TO:

MAYA lives in a small village in India. Her leg is deformed from birth, but her parents are poor and there is no option beyond a wooden crutch to help her walk. She is a happy soul but every night after she helps her mother put her younger brothers to bed, she says her prayers, asking God to fix her leg.

Maya hears music in her head and in her dreams sees herself dancing on two good limbs. In her dreams she twirls and spins…

The pattern of the day is set. Maya rises at dawn and helps her mother prepare breakfast and lunch for her father, who leaves for work before the sun rises. Then they make breakfast for the children. Maya packs lunch for them to take to school. Then they set out, Maya and the two young boys, for the long walk along the river to the schoolhouse. The boys are always running ahead – they are young and fit, after all. Maya is always yelling for them to come back, to wait. The days are always the same. Until one morning…

Maya’s gait seems even a bit worse than usual. She is tired. Walking is hard. The boys forge ahead. Usually, they at least look back or wait a bit when she calls. But not today. She tries to walk faster, as if knowing something bad is going to happen. And then it does.

They’ve disappeared around a bend as the road follows the river bank. But she can hear their laughter. And then she hears the SCREAM -- and the SPLASH. The younger one yells, frantic: “Zan’s fallen in! Zan’s fallen in! “

Maya sees how fast the current is moving, water speeding over the rocks. A small boy has little chance.

She starts to run. Herky-jerky with the crutch and crippled leg. Then faster, the crutch falling unneeded. Then faster still, as if on two good legs. She rounds the bend and see the boy already downriver, being swept away. She runs faster, cutting across the road as the river curves, allowing her to get equal. She hurls herself into the water, allowing herself to be swept away to catch up and grab him. Once she has him in her arms she slowly starts to swim toward shore. She uses the rocks and overhanging branches to grab onto, to help her move against the current.

By the time she is near shore, there is a group of people reaching out, helping to pull both to safety. The boy is fine, she is fine. But there is more than that.

Maya stands straight. She steps forward, without the crutch. Her leg still looks to be misshapen, but she can walk – and even run – as if it were normal. It is a miracle. People fall to their knees, praising God.

The villagers help them home and recount the tale to her mother. She cries with joy, both at her son’s safety and Maya’s recovery. Maya stands to show her, twirling like a dancer. Her mother says now her dream will come true. But Maya says “No. The Lord healed me so that I can be a savior. And that’s what I will do, help others in any way that I can.”

Kenny watches as the girl grows to a woman. She is always helping others in the village, then becoming a missionary, helping the world. We see scenes of her goodness and charity. She walks with a totally normal gait that belies the still misshapen leg. She tells all whom she helps, all whom she ministers to, that she is grateful to have been born a cripple so that her healing can serve as a testament to God’s love and compassion.

His power is now visible for everyone to see, visible in the mangled limb that nonetheless carries her straight -- carries her to deliver God’s message. This is God’s gift to her. She turns to look at Kenny and smiles…

 CUT BACK TO:

The boy is asleep in his bed, a smile on his face, the open book across his chest.

In the morning, the family is gathered for breakfast. It’s Saturday so everyone is home. John keeps staring at Kenny. He smiles and nods. Kenny has no idea that John knows his secret. But later John follows his brother outside to tell him what he saw. How amazing it was. He promises to keep the secret.

 CUT TO:

Later. The boys decide to head somewhere private to figure things out. They’re on their way to the woods when Faith runs up. She can tell something’s going on, and wants in. They let her come.

In a clearing Kenny stands stock still. John and Faith flank him. They are rapt as Kenny begins the full discovery of his Voice Commands.

First, he must figure out which sounds are the triggers. Knowing what happened with the word ‘mine’ and its ‘muh’ sound, he experiments and with much trial and error (with Faith and John calling out word suggestions) he finds what triggers the consonant sounds: come - “Cuh”, down - “Duh”, heart -“Huh” and mine - “Muh”. He soon learns he can just use the sound, but it is only when he says them that they cause a response, not when anyone else does – they must be spoken by him, either aloud or in his head. “They are voice commands!” he realizes.

As he now experiments with their effects, he finds each of the four triggers an involuntary movement of one of six areas of his upper body. “Huh” is paired to the left arm and left hand, “Muh” is paired to the head, “Duh” is paired to the neck, and “Cuh” is paired to the right arm and right hand. They don’t follow the alphabetical order he would’ve thought. He also must figure out the involuntary reactions then triggered. “Huh” and “Muh” react with similar motions, with the “Muh” being a double “Huh.” But “Cuh” and “Duh” have two different reactions entirely. He also figures out that saying the voice-command a second time will turn it off, so to speak. As the power activates, it is like a current flowing through to relax his body. He finds it takes about fifteen seconds for the power to spread through his neck or head. It takes one minute for the power to take full effect, spreading to his shoulder and either of his arms and hands. His head and neck movements come first, followed by his arm and hand. After activation, there is an automatic deep breath that happens. Following that is another series of minute by minute deep breaths, for up to three hours. During activation, he feels a complete release of tension and a profound feeling of peace.

Faith takes pictures and John writes everything down as he practices.

“Cuh” – his head shakes about three times, as if saying no, then lowers before returning to eye level as the right arm and right hand activate.

“Duh” - his head lowers then raises up before returning to eye level, activating his neck.

“Huh” -- his head raises one time quickly then returns to eye level as his left arm and left hand activate.

“Muh” – his head raises quickly twice, then returns to eye level

And then he discovers an extra ability, what he decides to call his Bonus Feature! If he shakes and throws his hand from left to right, sound is produced inside his head.

By the time he is done, he is exhausted and sits on a heap on the ground. The others flop down beside him. It is all astonishing. But how is it happening? And why? John says it reminds him of the stories of Telekinesis, of moving things using mind over matter. Faith says yes, like the great “Mesmer” who could bend a spoon with just the power of his mind. Kenny is sure it is a gift from God and explains Spiritual Gifts to them. They say ‘maybe’ but are anxious to do some research.

 CUT TO:

In a MONTAGE the trio digs in, using books, online searches, YouTube videos and more. They learn…

The word Kinesis from the Greek means movement or motion. In biology, the term refers to the movement of a cell or organism as a result to its exposure to stimulus, such as light, temperature or chemicals. For a person to have kinetic abilities means they can affect the movement of an object without the use of instrument of any kind.

There are many kinds of special powers that people have and that we are familiar with. A very cool video uses animation to show a person with ESP, extrasensory perception, who is able to know the number or color that someone is thinking of; they are considered to be “telepathic”. Next is a person with Telekinesis, also known as psychokinesis, who uses their mental ability to bend a spoon and then move it across the table. A distance away, another person with ESP can sense the spoon is about to fall off the table before it does.

In an online lecture, a professor discusses the concept of mind over matter, which is described as mental control used to affect the outcome of something – to change its course -- and how, if looked at that way, it is simply a furthering of common beliefs and practices we all use all the time… to believe in something to make it happen, to will ourselves to accomplish something. In those with true kinetic abilities, however, the power is more developed and advanced to where the mental control affects not just a general outcome but an actual, physical entity/object.

In Kenny’s case, the stimulus are his voice commands and the entity affected is his body.

 CUT TO:

In the clearing, now their spot, the trio has reconvened. They sit on a blanket, sharing snacks and discussing their ‘findings’. While there is a scientific and psychological grounding to explain what is happening, Kenny believes without doubt that this is a spiritual gift God has given him. As for the science of it, what is science, after all, if not the work of God?

Faith and John seem to still need convincing. Kenny smiles as from his backpack he takes out the last book. This one has a purple and gold cover and on it a boy speaks as a jumble of letters and symbols pour from his mouth. Faith and John lean closer to see and are unprepared when Kenny opens the book and the images swirl up!

 CUT TO:

The trio is now in the simple house of a Southern PASTOR, sitting down to dinner with his wife and young son, Luke. As he says grace, he asks the Lord to fill his Spirit into him so that he can better lead his congregation. He fears he is inadequate to show them the way. After the “Amen” is said, his wife gives him encouragement for the service ahead.

In the Church, the pews are sparsely filled. The Pastor’s sermon is on the need for faith. He says that the story of Abraham, father of the Israelites, is not just a story of greatness but mostly a story of faith. “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1,” he says. He pauses, expecting a response from the congregation, an “Amen” or “Praise be,” but there is only disinterested silence. He pushes on, recounting how God told Abraham that the Redeemer would come through his family. And while Abraham and Sarah were past child-bearing age, God gave them Isaac. Though God promised Abraham’s descendants would one day become a great nation, he asked Abraham instead to sacrifice this only son. Abraham’s willingness to do so, losing his son and his future, showed his faith in God, his true and unwavering belief. Again, he pauses. Silence.

But then the silence is broken by a cacophony of sound. Everyone turns as the Pastor’s own son, young Luke, has arisen from his seat. Overcome, as if in a trance, he stands arms outstretched Speaking in Tongues. It is an unknowable language, as if he is communicating directly with God. Everyone, including the Pastor, watches in awe. Everyone then bows their head in their own prayers.

And then, for an OLD MAN, the cacophony becomes instead the clear words: “I hear your prayer for your sick wife. In the end we all must leave this mortal realm but know that the Lord hears you. He is listening.”

For a YOUNG MAN, he sounds becomes the words: “I know you pray for love. Your kind heart can only be rewarded in kind. Give it time, it will happen.”

For a YOUNG WOMAN: “I hear your fears for the future. Know that when you have God beside you, no road is too rough to travel.”

On and on through the congregation, we can see it on their faces – they are hearing their prayers spoken to. Even the Pastor seems to realize. He responds: “For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit. I Corinthians 14:14. But perhaps, perhaps they can also interpret *for* the Spirit. Praise be -- the Holy Spirit is with us!“

Now the Congregation rises up with a thunderous “AMEN!”

The Pastor smiles and says perhaps the sermon should move from the topic of Faith to Spiritual Gifts. Of course, they are related. One’s spiritual gift can *be* faith, the utter and unwavering belief that Abraham had. But another’s gift might be to *lead* others to faith by showing the wonder and power of the Lord. Embodying it by speaking in tongues, or healing or being healed. But remember, he says: *“Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church”* — I Corinthians 14:12. Because the real purpose of spiritual gifts is for edification of the Church. God gives gifts to his children so that they can accomplish His Purpose within the Church. Gifts are tools given with a specific “work” in mind. Just as there are various tools for different jobs, so are there many kinds of gifts given to the Church so that the Body of Christ can be complete in its function and purpose. Gifts of prophecy and healing, gifts of leadership and charity, gifts of miracles and wonders. Without the tools necessary for the task at hand, the body is unable to fulfill its purpose and calling. So remember I Corinthians 12:4, he says: *“Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit*. They all come from Almighty God!

The Pastor raises his arms in exultation and smiles, and to Faith and John it seems like he is directly looking at Kenny.

 CUT BACK TO:

In the clearing, Kenny has closed the book. They remain all smiles, they totally get it now. Kenny too has a very special Spiritual Gift. Someday he will use it for the glory of God. “We’ve got your back,” they tell Kenny. They are there to help him in any way they can.

 CUT TO:

The Church bells ring. In his Sunday best, Kenny is among the first to emerge as the doors open. He runs down the steps, spotting Mr. Samuel sitting on the bench by the side yard. Kenny carries his backpack and pulls out the books he borrowed as he approaches. “I read them all,” he says. “I get it. I understand.” Mr. Samuel smiles, taking the books from the boy. “Do you? Because it’s a lot to understand. There is a long journey ahead for you.” Kenny nods, suddenly solemn. “I understand. I will do my best.”

Samuel nods and picks up a velvet bag from the bench. He opens it. “There’s one more book.” This one is black with gold embossing and no picture on the cover. He opens it and flips the pages. Only the first few have text, the rest are blank. “This one is yours.” Kenny smiles, taking it. Suddenly, he hears his mother calling him from the Church. Samuel nods, “Go.”

Kenny’s mother waits on the Church stairs. “Where have you been?” she asks. She shakes her head, disappointed. “You’ve missed the whole class.” “What do you mean?” She points inside at a YOUNG MAN with a beard, who waves. “Mr. McDonald said you never came to the Bible class. He’s been downstairs with the group.”

Kenny looks back over at the bench. It is empty. But he smiles and looks back at his mother. “That’s okay, mom. I don’t need class.”

He turns and runs back down the stairs. “I’ve got my own story to write!”

She looks confused but shrugs, ‘kids’, and smiles as he runs off.

From the far corner of the Church yard, Samuel watches…and smiles too.

Faith and John are waiting and the three head off together, into their future to glorify God.