

Swinging at the Ball

A young boy stood in his back yard with a bat in one hand, and a baseball in the other. He focused his attention on an area at the far end of the yard and pointed his bat toward it.

“I’m the greatest baseball player ever!” the boy shouted as he threw the ball in the air, swung the bat, and missed.

Undeterred by this failure, he picked up the ball, took his position and said to himself, “I’m the greatest baseball player in the world!” He threw the ball up, swung, and missed.



The boy looked over the bat, then retrieved the ball and examined it carefully. He threw the ball in the air and shouted, “I’m the greatest baseball player on Earth!” He swung ... and missed.

“Whoa,” he shouted. “What a pitcher!”

Sometimes, it takes several attempts to discover what we may be good at doing.

We need to know our strengths, to identify what our true talents are – those God-given abilities with which He endowed us as part of His plans for us.

By now, at this stage of your life – whatever that may be – perhaps you are confident of your gifts and grateful for them. But ... have you considered that there may be others that lie undeveloped, awaiting your recognition and employment of them? I know people who have found latent skills – in art, for example – as late as age 102. Our activities departments, I am proud to say, help residents define hidden talents.

Just consider what may be lurking in your heart that can bring you contentment and personal rewards, and bless others, too.

– Beecher Hunter