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This I Believe Essay

"Okay girls, pick a present to give away." My dad said these dreaded words every

Christmas just as we reached the peak of our high on tearing through gifts. Each year, we
had to choose one of our toys to donate to a homeless shelter. It seemed like nothing more
than an arbitrary inconvenience at the time, but the separation of time has given me new
insight into what my dad was trying to instill in us.

This I believe: that to whom much is given, much is expected. It is a fact that I have lived an extremely blessed life. To claim otherwise would be an insult to God and the friends and family who have afforded me the wonderful opportunities that I have experienced. Not to say that I haven't worked hard, because I have, but over the past few years, I have wrestled with the question of "why me?" I have gone through stages of guilt and feeling compelled to apologize for my blessings. Why am I so lucky when so many other people are experiencing such pain? What did I do to deserve this life? Eventually, though, it dawned on me. I realized that to have blessed life is just as much a calling as it is a gift. Like someone who endures major life struggles and must find a way to rise above their circumstances, the privileged are called to make the absolute most out of all that they have been given. A pleasant and comfortable life does not exist for one person's satisfaction.

Instead, this person must accept the idea that their talents, strengths, and circumstances are major responsibilities, and then must find a way to synthesize them into something

greater than his or herself. For me personally, what this "something greater than myself" is, I am not yet sure, but I am constantly working on figuring it out.

What am I going to make of the tremendous life I have been given? I refuse to settle, to coast on privilege alone. I believe that by listening to things that speak to me and paying special attention to my talents, I can achieve something great. So what are some of my tendencies? I have known from a young age that I have the ability to learn very quickly. I am typically able to process and understand new information with ease. I am particularly good with foreign languages and have a knack for mastering them with a little practice. I also believe that I am a strong writer, particularly in expository writing. I really enjoy writing and find that I am able to make solid arguments when I can get my thoughts down on paper. I've always been drawn to women's issues and find myself reading on the topic. Did I mention I like to read? I find it easier to connect with one or two people than with a larger group. I'm stronger than I look and I'm not afraid to speak up for people I care about. These are a few of my gifts and responsibilities that I must find a way to use in my greater purpose.

For some reason or another, God has chosen to bestow upon me an amazing foundation. It is now up to me to determine how I am going to gift-wrap my blessings and share them with the world.