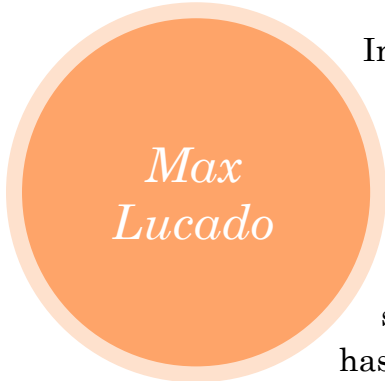




People of Faith

A Thorn in the Flesh

We are earthly beings, susceptible to numerous calamities. We do our best to work through difficulties and manage a body that doesn't always perform the way we want. Paul suffered through his ministry with a thorn in his flesh, but he continued to serve the Lord.



In his book *Before Amen*, Max Lucado shares with his readers his own struggle with difficulty in using his hand. Thirty-plus books written by hand has taken a toll on this prolific writer. His hand is stiff, it is hard to hold a pen, or write a sentence. Yet Max still honors God, and his readers, by signing books at many of the speaking engagements he makes across the country. Max has lived his life in chapters, being a missionary, minister, husband, and father. Even though it is getting harder to write those chapters by hand, Max tells of how God will ultimately heal us all. His ability to show the profound in the ordinary is a gift he continues to use for God.

“And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

Romans 5:3-5



What gift are you using for God?



Why is it important to be persistent in our service, even when it is not easy?