

The Right Kind of Famous

What does it mean to be famous? And what kind of famous do I want to be? Throughout my girlhood, (and I know I am a girl still), I dreamed of becoming a world-famous ballerina. After diligently studying ballet for 6 years, my dreams have changed. As I reflect on what I want to be when I grow up, I know that I want ballet and the arts to be part of my future, but I am not sure what that will look like. I have come to a conclusion that I want to be the kind of person God calls me to be. I want to be a different kind of famous.

I want to be famous as the dancer who made people smile and feel happy. I love dancing! I love dancing because I enjoy telling stories on the stage, and because it is difficult and challenging. I want to continue my ballet training as I get older, and I desire to someday teach children how to dance. As I perform or teach, I want to spread joy to both those dancing and those watching. Most of all, I want my dancing to help bring people to Jesus. Whether that means teaching kids about Him in my ballet classes, or dancing to beautiful music during performances, I want my dancing to glorify God. Even though it would be fun to be famous, world fame is not in my power to control. I choose to be famous as a teacher and dancer who inspires and encourages both her students and her audience.

I want to be famous as the person who spreads joy through art. I love art because I like to tell stories on paper as well as the stage. I want joy to escape my fingers as I draw and paint. My favorite scenes to paint are landscapes because I like showing people what God has created. I want my art to glorify God by telling people through my paintings what beautiful things He has created. God is the author of true beauty. I want to be famous as the artist who paints this beauty to tell what God has done.

I want to be famous as a good and faithful servant to God's calling for me. I do not know yet what role He will call me to fill. Will I be a missionary, a wife, a mother, a dancer or a scientist? I do not know. Whatever He calls me to do, may His light shine in me. In this way, I want to be famous even to my dog, and anyone else who will someday be in my care, that they will see God's light in me. Ultimately, love is what matters most.

When I grow up, I want to be famous. In the poem "Famous" by Naomi Shihab Nye, the author describes a different kind of famous. She remarks that she wants to be "famous as the one who smiled back." To me, this means sharing God's love through a smile or a word of encouragement in any and every life situation. Whether I am a dancer, an artist, a scientist, or the first woman on Mars, I want to be the one who smiles back. This is the right kind of famous.