

## The Body of Christ – Finding your Place - Part 3

### 1 Cor. 12, Eph. 4, Romans 12, Peter 4

A Spiritual Gift is a God given ability for service to be used in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ

If you are not using your gift in/for the body of Christ - you will have God's supernatural power with that gift.

“In the church” - doesn't mean the building or property. That is not the church. We need to use our gifts outside the “church” (building), to bring them inside THE church. (The body of Christ.)

A few thoughts before we journey on:

1. Every Christian has a spiritual gift. 1 Peter 4:10
2. No Christian has all the gifts. 1 Cor. 12:12-27
3. Therefore, we are interdependent upon each other to corporately bring glory to God.
4. We are a blending or combination of a variety of gifts. While one might be dominate, two people with the “same” gift might use them differently depending on the blend. Therefore, you have one gift but it could be a blending of many.

2. Challenges

- a. Gift \_\_\_\_\_

Bottom line – we simply do not care enough to engage and find our place within the body of Christ.

Having open needs within the church means that the body is not functioning properly. When even one member does not use their gift – the church develops a headache.

b. Gift \_\_\_\_\_

We need to be careful not to judge others according to our gift and demand that they view life through our eyes or by our gift. Others will simply be incapable of our abilities as we are of theirs! We are all unique. Enjoy each other's unique gift and use it for strength not weakness.

c. Gift \_\_\_\_\_

While others of like kind will normally flock together be careful that you do not miss the opportunity to learn and enjoy the diversity that other gifts can bring. Beware of the "one gift church." That is where the Pastor tends to attract those of the same gift to his church. If the church and Pastor are not careful, they can hinder the work of the church!

d. Gift \_\_\_\_\_

Often others perceive someone else's gift being more prominent or greater than theirs. This is not true. Consider I Corinthians 12! Every gift is significant and the Church cannot function without them all.

### **Application:**

How can you practically find your gift?

#### 1. Acknowledgement

Believe that you were designed by God on purpose.

- Natural abilities.
- Acquired abilities.
- Spiritual Gifts.

They all blend together and all can be used for God's specific design and purpose for your life.

That gives value and worth!

## 2. Activity.

Gifts are both discovered and developed by activity. If you are seeking to discover your gift, then do not turn down opportunities to serve, even if you think they do not fall within your gift mix. God may be leading you to abilities you do not recognize you have. This requires a willingness to learn our weaknesses as well as strengths.

We are all commanded to do ministries whether or not we have the spiritual gift.

<u>Gift</u>	<u>Command to do:</u>
Shepherd	James 5:19,20
Exhortation	Heb. 10:25
Teacher	Matt. 28:19
Faith	2 Cor. 5:7
Giving	2 Cor. 9:7
Serve	Rom. 12:11
Proclaimer	Rom. 15:14
Mercy	Rom. 11:31
Administrator	1 Tim. 3:4
Evangelist	Acts. 1:8

## 3. Affirmation.

Affirmation will first come from within as the Holy Spirit flows through you and demonstrates the fruit of the Spirit in rich and creative ways within your gift and roles.

But we as the body need to be open and free with our praise and affirmation. When we see someone that God is using in a rich and wonderful way – say something! Scriptures are full of commands to esteem and praise others especially in the service of the Lord. (Phil. 2:3,4; Prov. 27:2). Many churches lack in this area – we are quick to criticize and slow to praise.

*There is no Biblical command to find or discover our spiritual gift. But we are commanded to use our gift. (1 Peter 4:10.) So, we all need to get busy in the church, locking arms with fellow members and serve with all our might. As we lean on each other interdependently, and fill in needs; I am convinced God will lead as He did in Phillip's life and bring you right where you ought to be using all that He has given you for His glory.*