

## ***A Body Has No Spare Parts***

Series: "Spiritual Gifts," Part 2 of 4; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

**New Year's Eve, 1973.**

**The Church is Supposed to Work Like the Human Body:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (vss. 12-13).

### **MORE TRUTHS ABOUT YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTEDNESS**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ are Out of Bounds in  
the Church (vss. 14-20).

a. There is \_\_\_\_\_ of parts in the Body (vs. 14).

b. Diversity is vital to the \_\_\_\_\_ and proper function of the Body  
(vss. 15-17, 19).

*The work of a Beethoven and the work of a charwoman (a cleaning lady), become spiritual on precisely the same condition, that of being offered to God, of being done humbly "as to the Lord." This does not, of course, mean that it is for anyone a mere toss-up whether he should sweep rooms or compose symphonies. A mole must dig to the glory of God and a cock must crow.*

—C. S. Lewis

c. Diversity is \_\_\_\_\_, not ours (vs. 18).

2. \_\_\_\_\_ are Out of Bounds in  
the Church (vss. 21-26).

a. There is a \_\_\_\_\_ of parts in the Body (vs. 21).

*Nobody is a whole chain. Each one is a link. But take away one link and the chain is broken. Nobody is a whole team. Each one is a player. But take away one player and the game is forfeited. Nobody is a whole orchestra. Each one is a musician. But take away one musician and the symphony is incomplete. Nobody is a whole play. Each one is an actor. But take away one actor and the performance suffers.*

*You guessed it. We need each other. You need someone and someone needs you. Isolated islands, we're not. To make this thing called life work, we gotta lean and support. And relate and respond. And give and take. And confess and forgive. And reach out and embrace. And release and rely. Especially in the God family . . . where working together is Plan A for survival. And since we're so different (thanks to the way God built us), love and acceptance are not optional luxuries. Neither is tolerance. Or understanding. Or patience. You know, all those things you need from others when your humanity crowds out your divinity.*

—Charles Swindoll

b. Unity is vital to the \_\_\_\_\_ and proper function of the Body  
(vss. 22-26).

c. Unity is \_\_\_\_\_, not ours (vs. 24).

### **A Puzzling Situation.**

# Sermon-based Small Group Discussion Guide

Week of October 25, 2009

I Corinthians 12:12-31

**Icebreaker:** Other than Jesus, name another amazing discovery you have made.

1. In your own words, what was Pastor Mark saying in his sermon on Sunday?
2. How can the discovery of spiritual gifts among St. Paul's members contribute to the overall health of our congregation? In other words, is it worth all the bother?
3. This small group session is a time for blessing one another. One of the ways of discovering spiritual gifts is the affirmation of others. What spiritual gifts do you see operating in the members of your small group? Using the attached gifts list as a guide, go around your small group allowing each person to state what they think their spiritual gift is. Then allow members to affirm and/or suggest other possible gifts to consider. Some folk will already have a good idea of what their gifts are, while others may not.
4. If you have discovered your spiritual gift(s), do you feel that there is ample opportunity for you to utilize your spiritual gifts at St. Paul's? Why?

## Prayer:

Pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on our St. Paul's family as we discover and utilize our spiritual gifts.

Pray for one another.

# Spiritual Gift Definitions

Gleaned from *The 3 Colors of Ministry*

Additional information for each gift can be found in the book.

**Artistic Creativity** enables Christians to use artistic expression for the edification of others. It appears in a great variety of forms: dance, sculpture, pottery, pantomime, music, composition, writing, etc. The creative element is only a means to the end of expressing a specific idea or feeling. (Ex. 31:1-11)

**Craftsmanship** enables Christians to use a trade or craft for the good of the body of Christ. It can be used in many ways (gardening, building, car repair, sewing, etc. Not everyone who is skillful with his hands has this gift. People who don't have this gift might love crafts, but they don't experience the overwhelming joy that arises from exercising this gift. (Ex. 30:22-31)

**Giving** enables Christians to give material things cheerfully and generously to others. These individuals give a significant percentage beyond their tithe to the kingdom of God. (2 Cor. 8:2-5)

**Hospitality** enables Christians to maintain an open home offering food and lodging to guests. They are happier when they have guests than when they don't. They are able to make their guests really feel at home. Most of them can create this atmosphere even outside their home. (Gen. 18:1-8)

**Knowledge** enables Christians to generate, collect, and analyze ideas which are important for the health of the church. They develop new ideas that are valuable for the church. (Eph. 3:14-19)

**Mercy** enables Christians to demonstrate empathy through practical deeds toward those who are troubled in mind, body, or spirit. They reach out to those on the perimeter of society and take loving action. (Luke 10:33-37)

**Music** enables Christians to play a musical instrument or to use their voice in singing for the glory of God and the edification of others. It does not involve composing music or writing lyrics. (1 Sam. 16:14-23)

**Administration/Organization** enables Christians to understand goals for specific areas of ministry and to draft effective plans toward reaching these goals. The Greek word for “organizer” can also be translated “steerer,” the person on a ship whose job it is to mediate between captain and crew. (Ex. 18:13-27)

**Voluntary Poverty** enables Christians to deny themselves material well-being so that they can maintain a standard of living that parallels the poor. They could exercise a higher standard of living but consciously choose not to. (Acts 4:32-37)

**Wisdom** enables Christians to help others apply existing knowledge to specific situations. They treat spiritual matters like a medical researcher who seeks to gain insight into physiology, genetics, or the effects of a vaccine through his lab work. (1 Kings 3:5-8)

**Apostle** enables Christians to be recognized as spiritual leaders by a variety of churches. Their responsibility typically extends beyond one’s own local church. They have a farsighted perspective. (1 Cor. 12:28-29)

**Encouragement/Counseling** enables Christians to serve others through comfort, admonition, and encouragement, so that they experience help and healing. Those with this gift use it for a limited time period while seeking the personal and spiritual well-being of another. (1 Thess. 5:14)

**Evangelism** enables Christians to communicate the gospel to non-Christians in a manner conducive to leading them to faith. Research confirms that 10% of each local congregation have the gift of evangelism. (Acts 8:26-40)

**Helps** enables Christians to place their own gifts at the disposal of other Christians, thus releasing them to concentrate more on their ministry. It is commonly used to lighten the work load of other Christians [often leaders]. (Luke 10:38-42)

**Leadership** enables Christians to set goals for the church and to communicate them in such a way that others volunteer to achieve them. The trademark of a leader is that others follow him of their own free will rather than by coercion. (1 Tim. 3:1-7)

**Missionary** enables Christians to utilize their other gifts in a second culture. They enjoy leaving their own culture in order to establish a new home and ministry in a foreign culture. (1 Cor. 9:19-23)

**Service** enables Christians to recognize where their participation is needed and to make sure that the most urgent jobs get done. They typically have an eye for things that need to be done, and they are willing to fulfill that need themselves. Every group benefits from those who have this gift. (Lk. 22:24-27)

**Shepherding** enables Christians to assume long-term personal responsibility for the spiritual well-being of a group of believers. It involves a long-term commitment to a group of fellow Christians. (Jn. 10:1-15)

**Singleness** enables Christians to live happily as singles while contributing more effectively to the kingdom of God. Anyone with this gift will be able to exercise his other gifts more effectively. (1 Cor. 7:32-35)

**Teaching** enables Christians to communicate truth in a manner that enables others to learn and contributes to the health of the church. They focus on the questions and concerns of their audience, and manage to impart their knowledge in an interesting and stimulating manner so that others actually learn. (James 3:1)

**Deliverance** enables Christians to help people suffering from demonic oppression experience deliverance. (Luke 10:17-20)

**Discernment** enables Christians to know for sure whether a given behavior originates from a divine, human, or satanic source. (Acts 16:16-22)

**Faith** enables Christians to discern with an unusual degree of confidence, the will of God for the future development of ministry. They don't shy away from uncertainties and risks when they are convinced of the will of God.

**Healing** enables Christians to serve as God's instrument for restoring the health of others without the aid of medical tools. This includes healing wounds of the soul. (James 5:14-15)

**Interpretation** enables Christians to make known in a commonly understood language a message originally communicated in tongues. (1 Cor. 14:26-28)

**Miracles** enables Christians to serve as human instruments through whom God performs powerful acts that surpass natural laws. (1 Cor. 14:26-28)

**Prayer** enables Christians to pray for concrete requests over long periods of time, and to receive visible answers far more frequently than most Christians. They are able to spend many hours praying intensively, and enjoy every minute of it. (Lk. 11:1-13)

**Prophecy** enables Christians to receive a message from God by the Holy Spirit and to communicate it to other people. They serve as the vehicle for a divine message regarding a concrete situation. (1 Jn. 4:1-6)

**Suffering** enables Christians to suffer for their faith while at the same time maintaining a joyful, victorious spirit. God endows certain Christians with a special ability to maintain a victorious mind set, even in the midst of intense suffering. (Acts 7:54-60)

**Tongues** enables Christians to use a language they have never learned, either in their personal prayer times or for a public message. (Acts 19:1-7)

