



*“The world is a dangerous place to live, not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything about it.” — Albert Einstein*

Within the body of Christ are people. Each one of us are passionate about the things we care about. Someone who loves numbers cares about how tithe money is used. Another person loves music and is passionate about singing in worship. Yet, the accountant and singer have passion in different places. They are individuals but reside within the same church body. The trick is this. Who makes the best accountant? A singer, preacher or the numbers guy? The church librarian might love books, but he or she might not love preaching. What we love is usually close to who we are. God designed this church body to function with passion. To function with talent. It's all wrapped up together in our Spiritual gifts.

1 Corinthians 12:27 *“Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.”*

Romans 12:4-5 *“For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”*

Do you remember the story of Paul the apostle saying that he would wear many hats? In 1 Corinthians 9:19-23, Paul tells us he would do anything to win people for Jesus. The body of Christ emulates that very passion. We need teachers to win for Jesus. A church must have givers and prayer warriors to win people for Christ. Those verses of Paul say it all. Whatever it takes, we will do. God knew. Of course, he did. A believer accepts Jesus as his Lord and savior. Jesus in turn bestows Spiritual gifts upon them. Gifts that work in unison with how God made you.

These gifts (if used) will inflame your passion. They will intern be used to return the favor to someone else.

Imagine a body with many members all pulling the same way. Individuals using their passion to win people for Jesus. Ephesians 4:4 *“There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling.”* The church is far more than just a building. Christians are far more than just believers. If God is for us then who will stand against us? You and I (all of us) are a part of everyone. We are the body of Christ. This body will advance the kingdom for God. Yes, God gave us talent and ability. Yet, now he has weaponized them through Spiritual gifts.

I'd like to throw one more verse at you. Romans 10:14 *“How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?”* The world needs the Christian body to share what we know. To emulate the ways of Jesus to them. If you sit on your gifts then who is Jesus to them? If the doors are shut and love missing from the church body then who will love them in their time of need?

They call this the body of Christ Jesus. What exactly is that and how is it related to your gifts? Think about all Jesus was. He was a teacher, preacher, miracle worker and more. Jesus prophesied and prayed. He was everything to everyone. Paul said he would do anything to win souls. Tell me, what did Jesus do to create the church? It's so clear. Through the centuries Christians have healed people. They have prayed, cried, and love many in the name of Jesus. His followers have risked life and limb for the cause of Christ. Some wrote books. Others spoke the word. What have Christians done to save the lost? They used their Spiritual gifts.

In closing for this week, I want you to reflect on Jesus and Paul. How far did they go to show God's kingdom? Who hated them by their good deeds? Yes, next week we will find out what your gifts are. Whatever lands on the paper will be a snapshot of you. I believe you will never be the same after. So, for this week I want you to pray. Take another long walk by yourself. If you knew what the other 90% God has instore for you, would you use it for Christ? If you knew its impact and power on another living soul, would you use it? Just think about this. I knew a woman who listened to me about God. For weeks she listened. One night she said "*it's fine for you but I don't need it at this time.*" A few days later she dropped dead at work from a brain aneurism. I needed more time to convince her. She needed more time to hear. We both ran out of time. Our Spiritual gifts are not just some fancy term thrown around in Christian circles. They we meant to be used to save souls for heaven while there still is time.

Next week we'll see your Spiritual gifts. Have a great week hunting for your passion!