

Daily Devotional, July 14, 2021, A servant's Gifts to be Used Willingly

"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work."

1 Corinthians 12:4-6 (NIV)

God is the ultimate Creator – creating each of us uniquely, and magnificently. God did not create without purpose or plan, and God assigned particular passions, desires, abilities, and gifts to each one of us, God's own creations. In the Bible, the people of God are referred to in a number of ways: as the Bride of Christ, the Body of Christ, and the Church. God's design and intent is for God's people, God's body, God's Church, to act as one; working together to establish God's Kingdom on Earth and to therefore further the message of the Gospel.

It is because God has assigned specific gifts, abilities, and passions to each individual that we are able to work together as one. For example, a person with the gift of hospitality can warmly welcome a guest into a church and really make them feel loved and at home, while a minister with the gift of teaching can then later instill wisdom and words from God to the guest. Although different in nature, the talents of the two individuals work together to show Jesus to the visitor. Without the hospitality, the guest may have never stayed for the message, and without the message the guest would have only walked away with a welcomed feeling and not the literal "good news" of the Gospel. One gift was not more important than the other, but both worked together to advance the ministry of Christ to a stranger.

In 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 we are told that, "there are different kinds of gifts, but the same spirit; and there are different kinds of service, but the same Lord; and there are different kinds of workings, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work." We know that each of our gifts comes from the Lord, and His power is not solely used through one talent. Instead, His power is made manifest in all of the gifts and abilities God has placed upon His people. God wants us to find a way to use our given abilities and work together for the furthering of His King.

*What abilities has the Lord given you? What passions has God placed on your heart? Spend some time today asking God how you can take the gifts He has given you, and then use them within the Church. Not just locally, but in a global sense. The body of Christ does not only include Hope Lutheran Church, but **all** believers. After seeking His heart, and determining the talents He created in you, find a place to serve. Don't let what He has given go to waste, but invest those gifts by serving God through His Church.*

Prayer: Lord, as we continue to seek servant's hearts, let us be affirmed by the servant leadership we witness in your son Jesus. Let us walk in the path He has set and let those who will, follow. Let our greatest passion be compassion. Our greatest strength love. Our greatest victory the reward of peace. In leading, let us never fail to follow. In loving, let us never fail. In the name of Christ, we pray, Amen.