

EVERYONE IS TO HELP

1 Corinthians 12:1-31

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Contrary to what many Christians think, every Christian can help his/her Church for God has seen to it that every Christian is given an ability that can be/is to be used in help strengthen/build up the Church. It is not through some Church study course or seminar that this ability comes or is learned. Each and every Christian is indwelt by the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit then gives to each believer/Christian a unique ability which is reality is a gift.

I. HOW ONE GETS A SPIRITUAL GIFT

1. Gifts are not the same as natural talents. The gift may sometimes, however be an enhancement of a natural talent. Many teachy in public schools, however only the "gifted" can teach spiritual things in a life changing way.
2. Gifts are not ministries. The Lord gives gifts for each person to use for a specific purpose. No one will receive the gift of being a pastor if that person is never going to pastor. God prepares each believer for whatever He wants that believer to do.
3. Gifts are not some kind of office in the church. Many holding a church office do have gifts, but not the gift of a church office.
4. Gifts are not some degree of spiritual maturity.
5. Every Christian has a gift and that gift is given by the Holy Spirit for building up the Church. Sometimes the believer doesn't know what his/her gift is.
6. Gfts will differ from person to person although there may be within the Church family several that do have the same one.
7. Gifts are for the common good of the Church family. A single person may benefit, yet so may the entire Church family. The purpose of the gift is to benefit the whole body of Christ.
8. Gifts are given through the Holy Spirit.
9. The purpose of gifts is to edify and grow the body of Christ. If some are not using their gifts then the Church body is not growing properly.
10. Every Christian is to know about his/her gift although he/she doesn't have to put everything aside until he/she discovers that gift. Every Christian is to look at God's Word and know about gifts and then as he/she lives for the Lord, then that gift will be revealed.
11. Sadly, the gifts can be abused, such as the improper use of the gift of tongues.
12. In some situations a Christian may have more than one gift.

II. SIGN GIFTS

1. "Word of Knowledge" - The ability to search the scriptures and then be able to share the knowledge with others.

2. "Healing" - The miraculous curing of all sorts of diseases.
3. "Miracles" - A supernatural intervention of the laws of nature through prayer or a command.
4. "Discerning of Spirit" - The ability to know the difference between a spirit of truth or a spirit of error (sin).
5. "Tongues" - The supernatural ability to speak in an unlearned tongue or language.
6. "Interpretation of Tongues" - The supernatural ability to understand what is spoken by a person speaking in tongues.
7. "Apostles" - A position held by the Disciples and Paul.

III. MINISTRY GIFTS:

1. "Ministry" - This would be like the work of the Deacon. It is ministrering to the physical needs of the Saints.
2. "Teaching" - The God-given ability to search the Scriptures and then share what has been learned, by creating an interest in spiritual things for the needs of those who listen.
3. "Exhortation" - The ability to comfort and hlep those who come for assistance. The Holy Spirit does the same thing and is called the "Comforter." Those with this gift will often be sought after for advice or just a listening ear.
4. "Giving" - The ability to give financially for the ongoing work of the Lord with a voluntary giving spirit but not necessarily wealthy or rich.
5. "Ruling" - The gift to guide the Church along.

IV. DISCOVERING ONE'S SPIRITUAL GIFT:

1. Know what the spiritual gifts are, what they mean and the results of the use of the gift.
2. Go to work and find out what area one seems to be good at. Get busy in several different areas and see which one feels most comfortable and appears most productive.
3. Think about what part one would liek to have in his/her Church. The desire will be there if the gift is there.
4. Dedicate one's self to the Lord and serve Him the best that one can, allowing the Holy Spirit to control and lead.
5. Work at developing the gift that one thinks he/she might have and see if it is a gift or a talent.
6. Wait and see if others seem to think that yhou have that particular gift as well.
7. Don't worry if one doesn't know or find his/her gift, there are still many things within the Church that need doing.

V. THE GIFTS BRIEFLY EXAMINED:

1. "Prophecy" - The idea of "forthtelling" with the future.
2. "Faith" - God-given faith to see something that God wants done and go forward in planning and praying toward it.

3. "Word of Wisdom" - Wisdom that comes to one as he/she goes through life as God directs it using circumstances and certain people.
4. "Mercy" - The ability to show mercy or kindness to the body of Christ who are hurting and are in need of being encouraged.
5. "Helps" - The ability to step into any situation and assist in accomplishing whatever is going on.
6. "Governments" - The ability to help in the area of administration, not ruling, but helping the Church to run smoothly, assisting the different Church leaders.
7. "Evangelists" - The gift that enables one to share the Gospel to the lost in a way that is powerful and effective. It is not necessarily one who is called to preach an evangelistic service.
8. "Pastor-Teacher" - This is the Shepherd of the Flock who guides the flock and feeds them from the Word of God.

CONCLUSION:

1. Every believer in Jesus Christ (Christian) has a gift given to him/her by the Holy Spirit for the upbuilding of the body of Christ which is the Church.
2. God may lead one to minister where there will be no visible lasting results.
3. The Christian's responsibility is to live as he/she should and do the work that God leads one to do.
4. Every Christian needs to continually go to the Lord and ask for more of His strength.
5. Every Christian should be thankful and not prideful. Do not look down one's nose at those who don't seem to be as "productive" as they might should be. Encourage all one's brothers and sisters in the Lord for they, too, have a ministry to do for the Lord.