

**Sermon Study Guide Based on  
Pastor Weber's Message of June 7, 2009  
"Body Parts Everywhere!"**

**[Today's message focuses on how the Holy Spirit manifests differently in each of our lives through "spiritual gifts."]**

**[Topics: Holy Spirit; Spiritual Gifts]**

**Excerpt:** Two weeks ago, we talked about the fact that Jesus has ascended into heaven and that he sits at the right hand of the Father fully God but also fully human. That his flesh was received up into heaven and was glorified. Jesus told his disciples that unless he would go away he couldn't send the Holy Spirit.

And last week on the Day of Pentecost, we talked about how Jesus sent the Holy Spirit; and how the Holy Spirit came upon people and began to work in the church. Jesus needed to accomplish many things even though he was no longer here on the earth. He wanted to reach out to all of mankind. He wanted to express his love to every human being. He wants people to come and be in relationship with him.

Yes, God wants to save humanity. But the main thing he desires is being in a relationship with him. So how was Jesus going to get his work done? He accomplished that by sending the Holy Spirit. Now the Holy Spirit works differently in every single one of us. The Holy Spirit puts various gifting into us so we can reach mankind. Even though we are all different, God wants to use all of us in powerful ways.

Today's sermon is titled, "Body Parts Everywhere!" It kind of sounds like an explosion. In a way that's what it's like, because God has sent his people all over the earth. He spread us all out – to be body parts for him.

Now in today's world, body image is a huge deal. Recently Dr. Phil had two different programs on self-image. (Pastor Glen didn't watch the shows but saw only the trailers). One of them was on girls, who are basically starving themselves to death because of body image issues and because they think they are too fat. And then Dr. Phil had a show on boys, who were exercising themselves to death. They were also starving themselves in order to "look right."

Well, you know all of us make up the body of Jesus Christ. And so sometimes we spiritually have body issues. We say things to ourselves like, "I'm not what I should be." "I don't look right." "I should be different."

And so sometimes we want to change ourselves instead of letting God work in us. Our body is in the body of Christ; and all of our bodies, individually and collectively, together add up to make His body. We all add up to allow the Holy Spirit to work through us.

So what is God doing in your life? And then what is God doing in all of our lives as a congregation? Who are we as a congregation? Who would God have us reach out to and connect with?

Now let's look at what the apostle Paul said to the Corinthians about spiritual gifts. **1 Cor. 12:1, "Now about spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant."** Paul wants us to understand how the Holy Spirit works. And so that's going to be the focus of his thoughts in this next section of verses.

**4) "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit."** God flows into every single one of us and he could manifest himself the very same way in every one of us. But he chooses not to. He chooses to show himself differently in each one. And he expresses himself in what are called "gifts."

And so one of us has a different way of expressing the Holy Spirit as he works in us. Some of you are great doers. You come in here and work like a trooper and get stuff done so that services can start. Now you might never talk to anyone, but you are getting things accomplished.

Now there some others of you, who if were gave that same job to, the tasks would never get done, because you have to stop and hug everybody. You've got to stop and talk to them. You've got to fellowship with them for 10 minutes. You'll great at this, but not at the task part. As you can see, we're not all the same.

**5) "There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord."** We all serve differently. Every single one of us has a different way of doing things even if we're given the same job. Each one of us thinks differently and looks at things a little differently. Now we can become upset with each other or say, "OK, how do I work with that other person?" The task or the process gets better as we work together and negotiate ideas back and forth, whether it's VBS, or music, or working on the kitchen crew.

**6) "There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men."** So God also expresses himself in different ways. Other wise every single church in LA would look exactly the same. But God doesn't do that. He has different workings in each congregation. Each church has different ways connecting with various people.

You see, Jesus went to heaven because he was one body and he couldn't be everywhere. And so he sent the Holy Spirit, who can be with all of you all over the world. God works through all of us to accomplish what he has set forth.

**7) "Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good."** So God manifests himself in each one of us but he does it in ways that bring benefit to other people. It's sometimes called "Common Grace." Now the way God blesses everyone is hopefully through the church. Now sadly the church in America has tended to back away from society too much. So the good God wants to get done through the church tends not to get transferred to the non-Christians.

Last week Pastor Glen joked about spiritual gift inventory questionnaire because we tend not to like them very much. Now they are helpful to a certain degree. But one of the best ways to find out what your spiritual gift is, is to go out and serve and let God start showing you.

Another way is to get in a room with a bunch of people, who have known each other for many years, and get them to tell each other their spiritual gifts. Next time you are in your small group ask others what your spiritual gift is. They will tell you how God works through you for the common good.

Too often we sit around and think that, "I don't have any spiritual gifts, God can't do anything through me, I can't talk very much, I can't do this, etc." And so we talk ourselves out of what God might be able to do in our life. God can do things through all of us – whatever he wishes to accomplish. We need to ask the Holy Spirit to work in us to impact others.

Now in **verses 8-10**, Paul goes through the various gifts such as the gift of the word of knowledge, the gift of faith, the gift of healing, the gift of miraculous powers and prophecy and distinguishing of spirits, speaking in tongues and interpretation of tongues. These are the giftings of the Holy Spirit. But pastor Glen doesn't believe that this is a complete list. It was a list relevant to the Corinthian church.

So what are the gifts God is giving our church today? If that's "the" list of spiritual gifts then we need to get on the stick, because we don't have or express many of them. So let's not get stuck on a list, but start thinking how is God working in us? How does God use you to touch people – inside the church and outside the church? What has God planted in your life? And how do you use what God has given you to connect with others?

**11) "All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines."** So all the gifts work together. And God is determined to do something through you. Some of you have been serving for years in great, great ways and now you are kind of retiring. And God is probably using you in a different way.

**12) "The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body."** So we are all diverse and yet we form one body. We come together and reach out as a unit. Joining with other churches during the National Day of Prayer is important because we connect with the rest of the body.

**Verse 12** doesn't just apply to New Hope. It applies to the whole body. That's why pastor Glen participates with other pastors because it's important to him to be a part of the body. In a meeting with the West Side Pastors group, Glen commented at the end of the meeting that even though they were all completely different, when they come together it's like they've known each other forever.

Even though God speaks through us and moves through us in a different way, there's that connection through the Holy Spirit to make us one together. All the pastors of other denominations love Jesus the same way pastor Glen does, but they express it differently. So there is great value in understanding that we are many parts but we are one body.

And so various pastors are recognizing this and are working together in an area and not just doing their own thing. Individual churches doing their own thing these past few years haven't done very well spreading Christianity. So it's important that the churches work together to accomplish that.

Now here's a story about how we all have different abilities and how God can use them.

*A group of tools once came together for a meeting with Mr. Hammer presiding. Brother Screwdriver said, "Brother Hammer must go, because he is always making noise, always knocking." Hammer said, "Brother Screwdriver has to go, because you have to turn him around all the time to get him to do his job."*

*Someone else said, "Brother Plane has to go, because he always wants to just touch the surface. He never goes deep." Plane said, "Brother Sandpaper has to go then, because he is always rubbing people the wrong way." Sandpaper spoke up, "Then Brother Saw must go, because he is always cutting things up and leaving sawdust all over the place."*

*Then the Carpenter from Nazareth came in and said, "I need all of you. We have a job to do. Put yourselves in my hand. Let me use you." Hammer said, "Here am I, Lord, use me." Screwdriver said, "Here am I, Lord, use me." Plane said, "Here am I, Lord, use me." Sandpaper said, "Here am I, Lord, use me." Saw said, "Here am I, Lord, use me."*

*So when each gave himself to the Carpenter from Nazareth together they built: A church in which the Gospel could be preached. A bridge of understanding so different groups could come together. A house so that a home could be built. That is what happens when all the tools are used for the purpose for which they were made. (From a sermon by Scott Chambers, "Understanding What Leaders Do" 1/18/2009)*

And do you know what? We all make different noises. We all make different sounds. But meanwhile we got the job done. That's because we all work together. That's how God, through his church, comes along with us.

Now God could snap his fingers to accomplish the work he wants to accomplish here on the earth without us. But that's not his plan. His plan is that people, in the church, participate with him. He doesn't want to do it by himself.

How often do we pray, "Lord, would you please do this for me?" God's reply, "I'm not here to do that for you. I'm here to do that with you."

Now the rest of **verse 12**, "**So it is with Christ.**" Yes, we are all many parts, but one body. Jesus is in heaven, but we, on earth, are his arms and legs, hands and feet, mouths and ears and eyes, etc to accomplish what Jesus has set forth on the earth.

**13) "For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink."** It doesn't matter what background you come from, it doesn't matter your history, it doesn't matter what you've experienced, Jesus says, "I invite you to come and receive the same Spirit that I have."

Everything Jesus did here on earth, he did it through the Holy Spirit. And now he allows us to work through the Holy Spirit. When we come into baptism, part of that is entering into that body. It's not only asking for our sins to be forgiven and declaring to humanity that we are choosing to die to our old self, but also to say, "I want to enter into what God is doing on this earth and I want to be available to him." It's like saying, "Here I am Lord, would you use me?"

**14) "Now the body is not made up of one part but of many."** Do you think Paul wants us to get the point that there are many parts to the body of Christ? He keeps repeating this over

and over again. Paul wants us to understand that we are a part of something much larger than we think.

God invites us into the body because he has a lot of work he wants to accomplish in working with mankind. It means more than bring people to Christ. It means helping people in their hard times. It means being with people when they are in difficulties. It means reaching out to out communities and helping them become transformed.

Now in **verses 15-17**, Paul says one part of the body can't say, "Well you don't need me because I'm just a hand, I'm just an eye, or I'm just an ear." Paul is writing that every part is valuable to the body.

**18) "But in fact God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be."** In our physical bodies he did that. Thankfully he didn't put our hand on top of our head. God put our hand at the end of the arm where we needed it.

Now in the church, God does the exactly the same thing. He puts us in the body where we need to be. One of the biggest problems in the church today in America is that people don't understand that. When you drive into any small town in year's past, there's usually a listing of the various churches located there and at the top is a sign that says, "Go the church of your choice."

That is one of the most ungodly signs in America, in Pastor Glen's opinion. God doesn't put us in the church of our choice. He puts us into the church where we can most effectively serve. Unfortunately for too many American want to go to the church where they feel the most comfortable and where they can enjoy various programs. They often leave the church they're in to find this new church instead of building up the church they are already a part of.

God puts us in the body where he wants us, not where we will feel good! Sometimes God pushes us out of our comfort zone. If you see a need, help fill the need. That's why the Holy Spirit is stirring in us. But too often we want to run off and find that program some one else has done and just coast along with that.

Many Christians are rushing around switching churches trying to find comfort. God didn't promise us comfort.

Then in **verses 19-26**, Paul writes that we can't say to other parts of the body, "I don't need you." The eye can't say to the hand, "I don't need you." Every part is important. We can't say to someone else, "I don't need you."

In fact, we should be saying, "I do need you. I need what you have. I need what you offer to the congregation. I need what you offer to me, personally." We should need one another.

**27) "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."** We are the body of Christ, but we aren't the whole body of Christ. We are a very tiny part of the body of Christ in Eagle Rock/Pasadena area. So hopefully, we cooperate together to make a difference in our community. We need to look at opportunities to participate in what the body is doing.

In the rest of the chapter, Paul talks about how the Holy Spirit has given us apostles, prophets and all the other giftings to lead the church. And in **Ephesians 4**, Paul wrote that those people are given those positions to help equip the rest of us to go do ministry. It's not just the pastor's job to do ministry.

The Holy Spirit will do good things through you even if you don't believe in Jesus Christ. He'll bless other people through you. He'll put you in the right spot and you will say the right thing at the right time. The Holy Spirit works in the lives of all people, whether they are a little cooperative, medium cooperative or a lot cooperative.

That's because every good thing comes from God. Now, if you are cooperative and come to Jesus that's even better – because that means you want to be a willing instrument. Now in **Ephesians 4:16**, Paul says that the church grows "**as each part does it's work.**" God is working in each one of us. God has something good in you for you to use.

(At this point, a short non-narrative video was shown). That's the miracle – Christ lives in you as this video portrays.

This brings us to the point of Christ living in us and us being his body that we come to the communion table. Jesus' body was broken for us ahead of time. His body was beaten and broken. And so we have an opportunity to enter into that.

When we come to the communion table, we get to partake of what he's given us. **1 Cor. 10:14-16, "Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry. 15) I speak to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. 16) Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?"**

The bread here has been broken as a symbol of Christ being broken and we enter into that as a part of his body. We have an opportunity to participate with him and say, "I want to participate in his body as he works in me."

And so we can partake of the bread and also of the cup. We have wine or grape juice (you're choice), which reminds us that Christ's blood was shed for us. You are encouraged to come. Our table is open. We invite everyone to come, even if you are a visitor. This is about coming to Jesus. And if you want to start that journey to come to Jesus and invite him into your life, please come.

We come to the table with joy because we are not only remembering his death, but also his resurrection and that we can enter in and be a part of his body and be used by him. In a way we are saying, "Here I am Lord."

**Key Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:4-7.**

**General Group Question:** What is the overall purpose of the Holy Spirit giving different spiritual gifts to different people in the same congregation?

**Additional questions for the entire group or in groups of two or three of the same gender (15-20 minutes). If appropriate, please pray for each other's needs afterwards.**

1. Who works through the various gifts Christians have?
2. For whose good is the manifestation of the Spirit given?
3. So what are the gifts God is giving our local congregation today?
4. And how are we to use the spiritual gifting we've been given both inside and outside the church?
5. In what way is the local congregation like the human body?
6. In what way are the various churches in this area like the human body?
7. Is the body of Christ comprised of one church or all the various Christian churches?
8. Why is it important for the various parts of the body – the various Christian churches – to work together?
9. How can you better use your spiritual gift for the benefit of the people in your church and those in neighborhood and community?

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