

**MANY GIFTS
AND ONE BODY**

References:

Acts 2

Notes For Servants:

- 1.
- 2.

Objectives:

General:

Specific:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Instructions:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Bible Verse:

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

(Acts 1:8)

Lesson:

See Attached Sheets.

MANY GIFTS AND ONE BODY

THE PARABLE OF THE BODY AND ITS PARTS

one day, the different parts of the body felt discontented with their jobs. Everyday, they did the same things. The legs and feet worked, the eyes looked around, the ears heard, the arms and hands caught things... and every other part of the body had a special work to do. They decided not to continue their work and wanted to find out something else to do.

The foot said, "I want to be a hand. I want to have a higher position. I have been down to the ground all my life, doing the walking all the time"

The hand said, "I am also fed up with what I have been doing. I catch things. I put food to the mouth. I write the home-work and letters. I work all the time and I need some rest".

The ear said, "Why am I not an eye I prefer to see than to hear. I don't hear any longer".

All the parts of the body started talking like this. Each of them wanted to change its work and to do the work of some other part of the body.

But the hand could not walk, and the leg could not write. The ear tried to see and the eye tried to smell flowers and breathe the fresh air. No one of them was able to do the work of any other part. Each of them realized that it has an important job to perform, and that it cannot live without the work of the other parts. They all returned to their original work, and every part was happy with its own work. All of them praised God because he gave each of them a special work to do In the body. (Read 1 Cor. 12 :12-26).

THE BODY OF CHRIST

St. Paul calls us the parts of the single body of Christ. We are many parts of that same body: **THE ONE BODY OF CHRIST**. It has many parts, it is still one body, even though it is made up of different parts, When we are infants, were baptized and became part of the body oil Christ. Each of us has received the gifts of the Holy Spirit through the Sacrament of Chrismation.

We are then members of the Church, which is the body of Christ. Every member of the body of Christ receives special gifts, because there are, different kinds of spiritual gifts. We receive these gifts from the Holy Spirit. These gifts are different abilities to perform service in the name of Christ.

God gives us the ability to serve Him in the Church and in the world. Each one of us is given some proof of the spirit's presence for the good of all men.

WHAT ARE THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

The gifts which we receive from the Holy Spirit do not depend on our personal capabilities or intelligence. They are powers of the Spirit. The Disciples of our Lord were ordinary and simple men. But when they received the power of the Holy Spirit on the Day of the Pentecost, they were able to witness to the Risen Lord in many ways and glorified His Name. They taught the whole world and spread the teaching of our Lord and founded Christian Churches around the world.

The power of the of the Spirit transforms the ordinary capacities of the person into a spiritual power, which bears witness to the Lord. It also endows the person with special power which would not be accessible to ordinary persons.

Each one has received the gifts of the spirit. But the difference between one person and another lies in that one has recognized his gifts and tried to use them for the Glory of the Name of God, while the other has neglected his gifts, like the servant who hid the money on which his master entrusted, instead of using it and making it flourish.

(Read the parable of the three servants, Mark 25:14-30).

WHAT ARE MY GIFTS?

When I look into myself, and think about the things I can do, I shall discover that there are many things I can do.

I can also learn new things. But sometimes I might be lazy to use what I know. I might be satisfied with enjoying myself.

I know a boy who is trying to use his gifts. He is talented in painting. He decided to draw pictures of Christ and of the saints. When you look at some of his paintings, you will feel a sense of reverence to the meaning of saintly life. Another friend cannot draw, but he likes to write. He asked his colleagues in the class that they should do something for other boys and girls of their age who do not go to Church or to Sunday School. They published a little magazine every three months. Some of them wrote articles, other went to the printer and arranged all the details of getting the magazine published and distributed to their colleagues and friends. A girl was not able to participate with the colleagues, because she could not write or paint., but she was good at playing with her musical instrument. She decided to use this gift in her Church-School. Every week, she brought her instrument with her and played music for the hymns and church songs. She started also to teach some other girls and boys. Very soon, they formed a small band and offered musical celebrations to their Church.

HOW COULD I DISCOVER AND GROW MY GIFTS

A young friend read St. Paul's words about spiritual gifts and asked me; "Now, I know that each one of us has spiritual gifts. But, I am not sure that I have any gifts. I go to Sunday School, but I cannot share with other boys and girls in what they are doing. I cannot paint, I am not good at writing, and I know nothing about music. Sometimes, I hate myself because I feel that I am not useful to anybody".

I answered; "Well, my friend, do you really think that you can do nothing? If you look into yourself, you will discover that perhaps you are doing more than what all your colleagues are doing. You love your friends and they love you. Your nice relationship with them helps solve the problems that arise among them. You offer to them a good example of Christian life. They are trying to follow your good example. Do you know that humility and love are the greatest of all spiritual gifts! Through love, we can win the whole world to Christ!"

When you read the words of St. Paul in his letter to the Romans (12 : 6-10), you can see that using one's gifts for the benefit of ail is the true expression of love:

"Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them... he who contributes, in the liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; love one another with brotherly affection".

Conclusion:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me.”

(Acts 1:8)