

The Body Needs You!

Today's Reading Romans 12:1-8

I never knew my ankle was such a critical part of my body...until I sprained it! While doing my morning run, I stepped on an unseen rock. That caused my ankle to twist. It promptly went on strike by swelling beyond recognition and refusing to carry its own weight causing me to walk with an awkward gait. It even reminded me of its unwillingness to cooperate by giving a jolt of pain with every step I attempted to take. As a result, my whole body gained a new appreciation for the work done by my ankle.

In today's Bible reading, the apostle Paul describes the church with a body illustration. The corporate "body" of our church is comprised of "parts" in the form of the individual believers. Each "part" or "member" of the body is unique. You are not exactly the same as anyone else. That means that you are to make a specific and distinctive contribution to the overall internal well being and external outreach of our church.

One of the factors that makes you different from others and critical to the function of the church is your unique gifting. The Spirit of God has graciously and sovereignly given you at least one special ability that is intended to

bless others in the church. Your involvement in the church, then, is not optional. We need you! Without you, the church would limp along in an area where you could offer assistance. Paul even includes a list of some of these special abilities. Though this list is not exhaustive, your spiritual gift may be one of these: prophecy, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leadership, or showing mercy. Do any of those seem to resonate with you? If you need further help in identifying your spiritual gift, you can...

1. Evaluate what types of things you experience great joy/ fulfillment (maybe even fruitfulness) in doing.
2. Invite others who know you reasonably well to provide input.
3. Try out different ministries looking for a good match
4. Take a spiritual gifts "test" like the one provided at www.teamministry.com.

Put your special ability to use!

