

The Body at Work

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans 12:3-8.

B. A Christian learns to depend upon the indwelling life of Christ.

II. How the Christian life looks when it encounters the world.

A. Christian experience starts at the surrendered will.

B. The evidence of a surrendered will is an available body.

III. The body at work.

A. Do not try to do everything.

1. Something exciting ought to be happening with the true Christian from time to time.

2. It begins only when one realizes that God is the one working through the believer.

3. Excitement prevails whenever the Spirit is at work.

4. There is a division of labor in the body—other members are filled with the Spirit and need to exercise their gifts as well.

a. All the gifts are needed to operate the body.

b. Not one person has all the gifts.

5. The distribution of spiritual gifts.

a. We are not to pray for the manifestation of any gift as individuals, but gifts for the body.

b. The gifts can be exercised with an evil spirit.

6. How to exercise the gifts God has given.

a. Start with what one can believe God can do through a person.

b. Do not wait for a call.

7. Gifts.

a. Prophecy.

1) This is the gift of preaching.

2) It can be exercised in the flesh or in the spirit.

b. Service. This is also known as the gift of helps. (I Corinthians 12)

c. Teaching. This is a God-given capacity to instruct.

d. Exhortation. This is the capacity to compel the will into action.

e. Giving.

1) All Christians are expected to give, but some have a special gift of giving.

2) One should not leave his giving until after he is dead. (II Corinthians 5)

f. Giving aid.

1) It is the gift of administration. (I Corinthians 12)

2) It plans and organizes.

g. Mercy. This gives consolation and encouragement.

B. Whatever you are given to do, do it whole-heartedly.

1. If you are not using the gift God gave you, you are robbing Christ of the inheritance of the saints.

2. Give yourself to whatever gift you have.

Application questions:

1. What is the proper attitude to have in pursuing the gifts of the Spirit?

2. What gift do you have? How do you know?

3. Are you exercising your gift to the fullest? What is something you can do today to put your gift to use? Explain.
