

Devotion 24 Abilities

Tuesday, Week 4

Just as each one of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. (Romans 12:4-6a)

Did you ever see the publication, “How to Work on Your Volkswagen for the Complete Idiot?” My college roommate should have bought it. Money was tight, and he decided that he was going to start doing his own tune-up work on his Volkswagen, even though he never had “much luck” working on cars. But he gave it the old college try. He closely followed the instructions he had. Check. Check. Check. Check. Done! Now to start it up! Three hours later, he finally called a friend who was a “whiz” at car mechanics. He gladly came over and, within 15 minutes, found and fixed the problem.

Abilities! We all have abilities. But none of us is good at everything. I’m “10 thumbs” when it comes to using a screwdriver. Our Lord, in His infinite wisdom, has woven all of society together through this one reality. He has interconnected all of us because we all need one another, each of us doing those things which we have the ability to do. This is why Martin Luther would write that the baker, farmer, judge, and teacher are only masks of God, for through these callings, and many others, it is God caring for all. The Christian, knowing this, is therefore led joyfully to use all the abilities and talents they possess serving his neighbor to the glory of God. This is Christian Stewardship with respect to the abilities that God has given us. This is why the Christian continues to evaluate where he especially can use his gifts, talents, and abilities for the good of his neighbor to the glory of God. What are some of the abilities God has given you? Where do these abilities intersect with a human need? Here is where we can especially focus on Christian Stewardship!

God has also gifted the people of His Church with many abilities. Again, we all have abilities. But none of us is good at everything. Where do your abilities lie? Where can you use them in the **“REACHING UP, OUT & IN FOR A FULLER HEAVEN”** mission of our church? It is important to reflect on the reality that your talents, gifts, and abilities might be given to the Church through an idea, comment, thought, or action that you alone would share or take at that moment with another Christian—or perhaps a guest who is not yet a Christian—to whom only you can effectively minister.

The Church is like a body, Paul tells us. We are all members. God has made each of us a part of Christ’s body for a reason! He has given each of us gifts and abilities. May He guide each of us in using our abilities, gifts, and talents in this ministry which He has given us all together! Even as we look to use all our abilities to His glory every day, so too may we look to use our abilities in His service, within the Church, for in this way we reflect God’s great service to us in Christ Jesus!

Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, You have gifted me with many abilities and talents with which to serve others. Help me always to use them to Your glory every moment of my life. Help me especially to see how and where I can use them to serve You in Your church. Help my service reflect the great service which Jesus gave to me on the cross. Amen!