

✍ We started looking at the topic spiritual gifts, different gifts, through different people with different experiences resulting in different results, all fitting where they were made to fit in the Body. The critical issue is not gifts but Lordship; Jesus must be Lord of each of us so that His gift can flow through us to the enrich the "Body." One of the important lessons from the Corinthian church is that having a gift doesn't necessarily make you spiritual. There is no replacement for submission to the control of the Holy Spirit as He washes us and changes us through His Word. It is only as we surrender to the direction and control of the Holy Spirit that we will know our gifts and be able to apply them to needs of the Body. Our gifts are our obligations to the Body, they are our indebtedness to its function because nobody else can do what we do and the way we do it.

1. Mixing our Metaphors

- ✓ The Church is called the Body of Christ here in Chapter 12, but it was referred to as God's field and God's Building back in Chapter 3. So, which is it? It is all of them, we have to mix our metaphors to get a full picture of all that God intends His church to be. We are God's field that He plants and that grows and produces a harvest, but we are more than that. We are God's building with our foundation on Christ, and God's dwelling place/His address on earth, but we are more than that. We are God's Body through which God works on earth, "we are His hands and feet." Watch Paul mix his metaphors: Ephesians 2:21, a building doesn't grow does it?, but this one does! Last time I added another metaphor to explain the Church, the metaphor of a puzzle, all unique pieces that have to come together to complete a picture. Another metaphor is that of a band or orchestra: many different instruments all with their particular purpose, but one sound.

2. If we are one band and one sound, what is the "sound" that we make?

- ✓ Some estimate the church to be nothing more than an organization that exists to hold meetings on behalf of its membership. Others feel that the church is making all the sound it should when comes together to do a little missionary enterprise, a little help for the poor. Its opus boils down to ushering, singing on Sundays, preaching short sermons, teaching a little Sunday school and working on a few committees. The formation of the band on a field is different than the sound it makes! Our formation may have all those elements but that doesn't make us a church any more than forming in lines and marching on a field makes a band. It's the sound that makes a band, what is the sound of the legitimate church? Jesus made a prediction of what that "sound" would be, He said that we would do the things that He did, and even greater things because He was going to the Father. His going to Father meant that the Holy Spirit would be sent to replace Him, gifting and empowering His church to do the things and make the sound He had called us to make.
- ✓ Luke 4:18-19; John 14:12; John 20:21, a church without that "sound" is not a legitimate church. These are supernatural results which means that we can only accomplish them through the Holy Spirit, it's not about what we can do but what God can do through us. We are His Body, and He works through us uniquely through His gifts.

3. To produce this "sound", means we've got to have a vital link to the Head of the Body.

- ✓ Again, it is a lordship question not a salvation question. We all have to be "playing our instruments" to make the proper sound, 1st Corinthians 12:7.

One band, one sound, if we are missing even one instrument, we all suffer.
