

September 28, 2014
Gifted

1 Corinthians 12: 6 – *[A]nd there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.*

Gifts from the Spirit, all of them. Paul reminds the Corinthians that every Christian has a gift of his or her own. Not all gifts are the same, nor should they be. Not all of us are capable of being doctors, not all of us are capable of being teachers, not all of us are capable of ministering to cancer patients, not all of us are capable of wielding a hammer or a paint brush. But, we are all able to do something.

All too often in the Lutheran world, we get so focused on our guilt and our sin that we forget that God has blessed us with wonderful gifts. We have been given gifts of service and gifts of love. If we focus so much on our own sin and guilt, we forget this fact and compound our own sin. Christ died and rose for us that our sin would be condemned in his flesh, so STOP WORRYING. You are forgiven, you have his life. Now, go and use your gifts.

Even now that I have told you this, some of you are thinking, “Well, I don’t do anything special, others have these gifts but I just eek by.” Others of you are thinking, “I don’t have any gifts, I just do what’s needed.” Well, I’m here to tell you that both of those mindsets are wrong! *So get over them!* When you do something good, whether it is painting a door, caring for the sick or elderly, volunteering your time at church or another service

Roots

organization, studying for a test, reading the bible or even praying, you are doing something good.

And, not only that, but it actually is God who is working through you to accomplish his will!

When we belittle ourselves or sell our work short, we are denying the very work that the *Spirit of God* is doing in and through us.

Whoa! So no, we do not all have the same gifts, but we all have the same God who uses all of our gifts to expand his kingdom. This week, I want you to take a little time each day and thank God for working through you in some way, no matter what it is, acknowledge your gifts and thank God for them. Thank God for working in you, because he is!

Forgive me if I sounded a little harsh in places in this Roots. This is a message I need pounded into me as well. God’s peace.

News

If you are able, we are tearing down the old pavilion to make room for the new at 12:30 today and would love your help. So come on out if destruction is one of your gifts (That’s a funny). Also, in case I forget to announce this, I cordially invite all adults to attend my confirmation classes. In fact, I encourage it, because a refresher never hurt anyone, and it will show the current students that confirmation is not a graduation from church. Hope to see you there.

Pastor Christy Jh

