



July 1 & 2

GHOST:

The Gift Giver

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Introduction

At the dawn of World War II, Thomas Overton graduated at the top of his class at the Chicago-Kent College of Law. He insisted on sharing his academic honors with friend and classmate Stanley Kasprzyk. Thomas, who was blind, had carried Stanley's books around school while Stanley, who had no arms, would read aloud to Thomas during their study sessions. Throughout their time in college, each student's deficiency was compensated for by the other. This week, as we study the gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12, we learn how God uses each of us to minister to one another. Like Thomas and Stanley, we complement each others' shortcomings by using the gifts the Holy Spirit gives us, no matter how big or small. What matters most is not what part we play but rather that we play our part for His work.

Discussion

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-31 and 1 Peter 4:10-11. Then discuss the following.

1. Susan has been praying about making a difference in the lives of the teenagers in her church. This week, the children's ministry coordinator texts Susan to ask if she'll teach third graders every other Sunday morning. Although Susan has had very little experience with elementary-aged children, the coordinator insists she would be a "perfect fit for this group of children." How should she respond?

2. Jim and Sherri volunteer to serve together in the church café. Then, the volunteer coordinator asks if they'll consider splitting their duties. Jim can direct traffic in the parking lot while Sherri prepares coffee in the café. Sherri privately complains she's been looking forward to serving alongside Jim to "do something as a couple for once." How would you advise Jim and Sherri?

Think About It

Billy Graham writes the following about spiritual gifts in *Hope for Each Day: Words of Wisdom and Faith*: "Some people have a warped idea of living the Christian life. Seeing talented, successful Christians, they attempt to imitate them. For them, the grass on the other side of the fence is always greener. But when they discover that their own gifts are different or their contributions are more modest (or even invisible), they collapse in discouragement and overlook genuine opportunities that are open to them. They have forgotten that they are here to serve Christ, not themselves." Remember, what matters most is not what part we play but rather that we play our part.

Do Something

1. Take the AssessMe inventories, available online at prairielakeschurch.org. These assessments will show you how God has wired you to serve in His Kingdom.
2. If you're not already serving at PLC, check out prairielakeschurch.org/volunteer for serving opportunities at all of our campuses. Look for areas you're naturally interested and gifted in and submit a volunteer interest form to let us know you're available.
3. Talk with someone you trust about your passions, especially for those things the Lord may use for His purpose. Explore what is stopping you from moving forward on these, and talk about what steps you'll take to overcome any obstacles.