

Gathering

CONNECTION

Have you ever heard the old song:
*“Toe bone connected to the foot bone
Foot bone connected to the heel bone
Heel bone connected to the ankle bone
Ankle bone connected to the shin bone...”*

It's a great way to remember anatomy – and to be reminded of how the human body is put together; and made to WORK together.

The same is true of the church – the body of Christ. God puts us together as His body to do His work together. We need each other to do the work Christ has called us to do for Him. As the song says, the ankle bone won't work efficiently without the heel bone, which won't work well without the foot bone – and so on. In our spiritual work, we need each other in the same way to work efficiently and well for the Lord. Ephesians 4:16 tells us

“From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”

Some days we are called to support each other and then there are times we are called to do the hard work for someone else. Neither is more important – it takes both to function and accomplish God's good work. The goal is that we build each other up in love as we each do our part in our personal ministries.

After reading Scripture consider these questions:

- How are you connected to the body of believers that you are meeting with right now?
- How can we accomplish God's work, our calling – and build each other up in love?
- Are there some parts of the body that are easier or more comfortable for you to function?
- How can you strengthen (grow) your connection to the body of Christ in some tangible ways?

Complete your monthly report and turn it in to the Corps Officer.

Ephesians 4:16

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EPHESIANS 4:16

Take a moment to read Ephesians 4
— the whole chapter!



How does God call us to live?
(*v. 1-3*)

Christ divides out His gifts to us (v 7). These are called spiritual gifts. What gifts does He provide to the body of Christ? (*v. 11*)

Which gift do you see exhibited in your life? (*keep in mind it may differ then the gift you desire!*) Ask a friend or your Corps Officer if they see this gift in you as well.

Here is a link to a spiritual gift survey:

<https://gifts.churchgrowth.org/spiritual-gifts-survey/>

Once you have the results, be sure to share them with a trusted spiritual mentor or mature Christian leader. They can help affirm the gifts in your life and help you understand how you can connect your gifts to your service just where God has placed you!

Just a reminder... it's important to remember too that God calls us to function outside of our gifting at times. It's never ok to say — *"I can't do that — it's not my gift!"* While others may be stronger in areas than you are, God still requires that we serve Him with ALL our abilities!

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