

Hi, I'm Crawford Loritts with a Legacy Moment.

I know a man who pastors a very large, incredibly diverse church. There are people from all walks and all stations in life attending this one church. One of the features of this man's ministry, however, is that he encourages the people to use their gifts, abilities and resources to enrich and meet the needs of others in the congregation. Occasionally, during the service, he has members of the church stand up (for example) who need jobs, and then have those who own businesses or who are in positions to hire people to stand, as well. Then he says, “Take a look around you. I want you all to meet after the service. I'd like for you to get together.” He matches the need with the opportunity and with the resource.

That's a picture of how the body of Christ should function. Christianity is not an individualistic religion that's “me and Jesus and we go merrily along our way.” No, we belong to each other.

I love the words given to us in 1 Corinthians chapter 12, verses 4 through 7. Listen to these words; “Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries and the same Lord. And there are varieties of effects but the same God who works all things in all persons. But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

Did you catch that? “For the common good.” God has given us gifts or abilities, unique ways in which we can serve God and serve other people, to bless and benefit the entire body.

Here's what I want you to remember today. The Spirit of God has given you at least one spiritual gift, but it's not for you. Your gift belongs to the body. Give it to the body. Use it for the family.