

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

## **The Gift of Helps**

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All of us at some time in our life benefit from those with the gift of helps! Rarely do we think of those who help us in the course of our daily life as some special gifted person. Especially we don't think of simple acts of helps as a gift of the Holy Spirit. We need a surgery of the heart and mind!

My wife has Alzheimer Disease. There are times when she is not steady in her walking or have difficulty judging how high she is to raise her foot in order to negotiate steps. One Sunday as I was helping her walk up the aisle of the church to the altar rail to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus, I became aware of a man on the opposite side helping her. He gently held her arm, he on one side and I on the other, assisted her in walking and climbing the steps to the altar rail. When time came to rise and return to the pew, he was on the opposite side from me helping her down the steps and back to her seat. If I were to ask him if he understood he had the "gift of helps from the Holy Spirit" the probability is he would look at me with a confused stare. Doubtfully he would consider that assistance as something given him from the Holy Spirit. Why not? We need a surgery of the heart and mind!

Liturgical churches have ladies who take care of setting the altar for Holy Communion. They spend considerable time washing, pressing the cloths, polishing the altar ware, preparing the elements, putting everything in proper place, and then clean up after the service. They are not paid.

I have noticed people who following a service of worship go through the pews removing left bulletins, replacing hymnals in the rack, turning up kneelers left behind by the worshipper. They are not paid!

There are those who greet you upon entering the church building and possibly hand you a bulletin in which you can follow the service and obtain information published by the Pastor. They are not paid!

There are men and women, young people and children, who give of their time to rehearse on a week night so they are prepared to lead the congregation in singing the hymns, spiritual songs, and liturgical responses. They are called "the choir". Years ago my sister took music lessons and plays the piano and organ at her church without pay. It is her ministry; her gift of helps!

And what about those who prepare the coffee and pastries for the holy Coffee hour? Can such a service be considered motivated by the Holy Spirit? We need a surgery of the heart and mind!

I know of one couple got so excited about their church that they prepared breakfast prior to the worship service, and invited everyone. There are times when they also

prepare a meal and bring to our house as an assist to me since June no longer knows how to cook. Is the Holy Spirit motivating them?

Are you getting the picture?

There are so many things that go on in the Church that we fail to consider as a prompting from the Holy Spirit, yet St Paul in First Corinthians 12: 28 says the Holy Spirit puts within the Church those with the gift of helps. When simple acts of service are done without expected compensation or applause, those people are responding to an unconscious, unanticipated, unexpected move of the Holy Spirit on their life. We need to be made aware that their service does not go unnoticed by Jesus. In St. Matthew 10:42 He says, "And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you he shall not lose his reward." If such a simple act brings forth a reward from God, what will He not give to those who unselfishly serve in various and numerous ministries within their Church?

I am thankful for those many unsung saints who have the gift of helps!