

# COLLOQUIES with Pastor Brian

## Laity Sunday's Spiritual Gifts

I can think of no greater opportunity to speak of spiritual gifts than on Laity Sunday. One of the great strengths of our faith practice is the emphasis on the ministry of All People. While we reserve some sacramental work for our Pastoral Elders and Deacons to do, almost all other church behaviors can and are run by lay people. Our Ministry boards, our finances, our lay involvement, our outreach, our sharing from the pulpit, our evangelism; any and all of these are either headed or supported directly by our church membership.

One reason for this is practical. When the US frontier was newly opened to European settlement, pastors rode "circuits" or repeatable routes so they could cover more territory. This meant an ordained pastor only came around once a month if that frequently. The work of the church couldn't wait for the pastor's return. Laity filled the different ministry positions, including some that used to be reserved for the pastor directly.

Today, Christ can't wait for a pastor to lead in every area. Truth is, biblically speaking, pastors have some roles they fill but spiritual gifts ARE given to all for the support and growth of the Kingdom. To rely upon any one person, no matter how talented or credentialed, is a spiritual and biblical mistake. I am glad to say our congregation is filled with capable and gifted laity and we are able to celebrate your gifts not just this Sunday but every week.

Please join with me then in praying for our preacher this week, Ted Lammi. Many of you know Ted from "Ted Talks" or as the chair of our finance committee. Ted is also recently retired from commercial piloting, yet as far as I've heard, Jesus still has him keeping our congregation aloft and moving forward. I hope his message finds ways to strengthen you, put wind under your wings, and help name your own gifts going forward.

I leave you with several scriptures (please see below) that reference spiritual gifts in the Bible. Maybe you'll see some that name your gift. Maybe it is time to do some discovering. Whatever the case, we'll worship with you ONLINE this week as Ted brings the message of Spiritual Gifts to our congregation.

Peace to you all,

Pastor Brian

### **Romans 12:6-8 (NIV)**

*<sup>6</sup> We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; <sup>7</sup> if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; <sup>8</sup> if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.*



**1 Corinthians 12:8-10; 28-30 (NIV)**

<sup>8</sup> To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.

<sup>28</sup> And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup> Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup> Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?

**Ephesians 4:11 (NIV)**

<sup>11</sup> So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers,

**1 Peter 4:9-11 (NIV)**

<sup>9</sup> Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. <sup>10</sup> Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. <sup>11</sup> If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

*“Attitude toward God really does matter.  
Be present with the right attitude!”*

— Pastor Brian