

Parable of the Spilled Coffee

My reputation for coffee is widespread. And I do admit that it is an important part of my day – regardless of the time.

It has even gotten to the point that when I pull up to the drive-through speaker at the local Starbucks store, before I can place the order, the barista will say: “Hi, Beecher! Your drink will be waiting at the window.”

Maybe that’s why I was particularly attracted to a little story I read recently about a Bible study group meeting in a home to study how various ministries should work in the body of Christ. One member commented, “I don’t understand how different gifts can work together.”



At that moment, a woman accidentally dropped her cup, which broke and spilled coffee all over the floor. Each group member responded differently to the mishap, according to their spiritual gifts.

- The teacher gave some advice. “Next time if you will put your cup on the coffee table, that won’t happen again.”
- The administrator responded by organizing a cleanup committee. “Bill, please go find a mop. Sally, could you help him with a towel?”
- Bill, who had the gift of service, hurried to get the mop.
- Sally, who had the gift of helping, followed Bill to assist him.
- The person with the gift of exhortation said, “We all make mistakes, so don’t let it get you down.”
- The woman with the gift of mercy put her arm around the woman who dropped the cup, patted her hand and said, “I feel badly for you.”
- The man with the gift of giving exclaimed, “I’ll buy a new set of coffee mugs to replace the broken one.”

They all used their various gifts together to resolve the situation.

In reflecting on that story, it occurred to me that the people I know in Life Care and Century Park don’t fit so evenly in one or more of those categories of gifts; they have several, and could easily spring into action in any or all of those situations with the spilled coffee.

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The truth is: Each of us in Life Care and Century Park has been given a gift or gifts, and all are necessary to make our organizations function. Think about it.

What are your gifts, and how are you using them to advance our mission? And do you recognize how important your talents are to the success of our work?

It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have (1 Corinthians 12:11 NLT).

– Beecher Hunter