



*Written by  
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## **“The Importance of All Spiritual Gifts”**

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 12: 1, 4-11

**Dramatic Category:** Christian Mime Theater

### **What is "Christian Mime Theater"?**

During the “voice over” reading of the scripture, people come to life in various light pools across the stage. The people represent modern enactments of the timeless Word of God, which is being heard by the audience. For example, in the “Parable of the Great Banquet” in Luke 14, the actors reject the king’s invitation to the great banquet because they are admiring their new car during the reading of the scripture, “I have purchased a set of oxen, and I must go try them out. Please consider me excused.” The potential for staging these animated scripture readings is endless; all it takes is imagination to transport the messages from yesterday into today.

"Christian Mime Theater" provides very memorable introductions, conclusions, or midway examples for the pastor as he presents the sermon.

This form has the same qualities as the "Skermion," which gives your drama ministry a firsthand opportunity to creatively translate scripture into visual pictures. This is a very effective way to present the "scripture reading" in your service, or link with the pastor to create a sermon illustration that will compliment any topical or expository sermon.

**Topic:** Spiritual gifts

**Performance Time:** 9 minutes

**Number of Players:** 12 players (8 women, 4 men)

### **Objective:**

To show how much God delights in equipping His Church through the gifts of the Holy Spirit. All we have to do is ask for them, then have the faith and the courage to use them.

## Synopsis:

This "Christian Mime Theater" skit illustrates the wonderful "Spiritual Gifts of the Holy Spirit," expounded upon in 1 Corinthians 12:1, 4-12.

Five sets of characters spread out across the stage, each one representing one of the uses of the gifts of: wisdom, faith, healing, prophesy, or interpretation. A character, dressed in a tweed suit, atop a tall ladder, at center stage, represents God. He distributes beautifully wrapped gifts to those who climb the ladder and ask for them.

When these believers accept the gift God gives, and returns to the situation from whence they came, we see them faithfully use the gift God gave to solve their problem. Bob opens his gift to find a Bible inside; he then shares his gift of "wisdom" to calm his friend, Jim. Patrice opens her gift to find a tiny little Bible inside; she then shares her gift of "faith" to help her friend Beth stop her human striving. Donna opens her gift to find a small flask of oil; she then shares her gift of "healing" and prays for her friend, Anne. Jack opens his gift to find a bullhorn; he then finds boldness to share his gift of "prophesy." Finally, Sharon opens her gift to find a headset; she then shares her gift of "interpretation" to bridge communication between her friends Paula and Laura.

## NOTE:

This Mime Skit is a wonderful opener to a sermon series on the "Gifts of the Spirit"; however, **this skit stands alone**. Following this skit, spend one week on each gift (**perhaps interview someone on your church campus who uses this gift**), Then, present "One Body, Many Parts," (script #CMT5) as a great way to summarize and finish out the series.

## Cast:

Narrator: *Reads the scripture off stage ("live," not pre-recorded)*  
Mike: *Portrays God*  
Bob, Jim: *Gift of Wisdom*  
Patrice, Beth: *Gift of Faith*  
Donna, Anne: *Gift of Healing*  
Jack: *Gift of Prophecy*  
Sharon, Paula, Laura: *Gift of Interpretation*

## Props:

5 beautifully wrapped gift boxes (with separately wrapped lids that lift off easily)

Order of gifts:

- Gift 1: A gift with a Bible inside of it
- Gift 2: A gift with a very small Bible inside of it
- Gift 3: A gift with a small flask of oil in it
- Gift 4: A gift with a bullhorn in it
- Gift 5: A gift with a headset in it

## Costumes:

Mike (God): *dressed in kaki slacks, bone sport coat, white shirt  
(light colors, but not in white; otherwise, he looks like a milk man)*

**Lighting:**

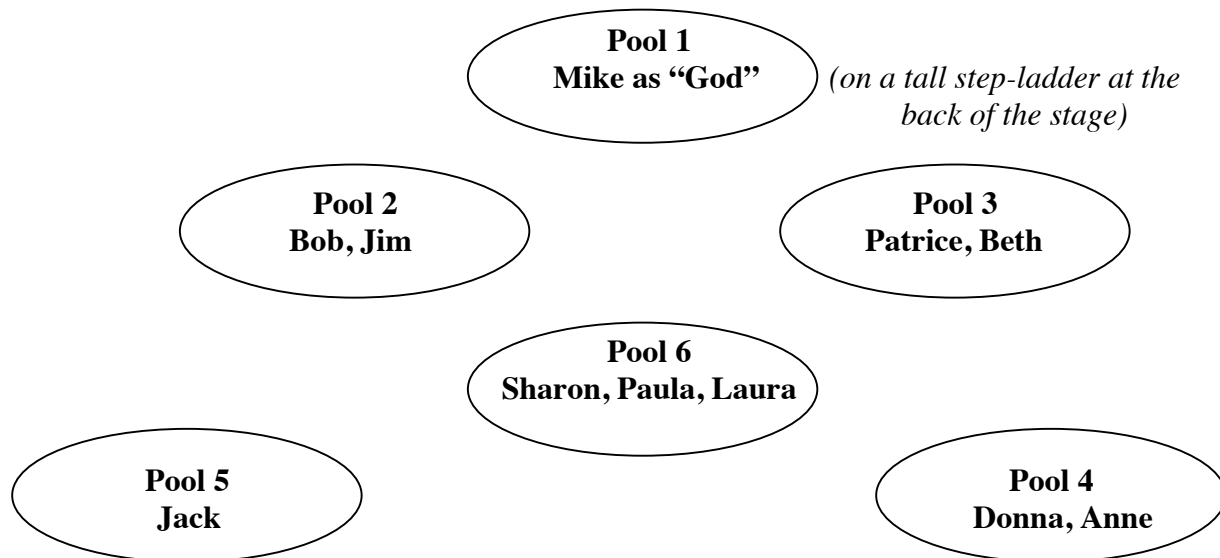
The effectiveness of this mime is greatly enhanced by the use of light pools. You will notice cues throughout the script that signal the fading up and down of lights. Focus one bright light at the top of the ladder, where “God” is; then, isolate five more light pools across the stage.

**Music:**

Play an instrumental praise song under the reading. This can be "live" or recorded.

**Set:** The tallest ladder your sanctuary can accommodate, on center stage

**Stage Arrangement:**



## The Script:

### NOTE:

The narrator reads the scripture **from "off stage."** **Do not prerecord** it. To have him/her read it on stage would cause a split focus that hurts the overall effect of the mime drama.

**MUSIC: BEGIN INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC UNDER THE SCRIPTURE READING**

**LIGHTS: UP ON POOL 1 ("God" at the top of the ladder)**

### Mime Action:

*("God" is at the top of the ladder. He has the five gifts stacked up, as though they were all his at the start of this mime. He surveys the world below him, as though he were looking to see who needs help. Continue this action during the reading of the following text:)*

**Narrator:** Reading from 1 Corinthians 12: 1, 4-11:  
"Now, about spiritual gifts, brothers,  
I do not want you to be ignorant."

### Mime Action

#### Scene 1:

*("God" arranges the gifts on the various rungs of the ladder, directly below him, indicating that we have to "go to him" to get the gifts. He continues to survey the audience and the "world below" during the reading of the following text:)*

**Narrator:** "There are different kinds of gifts,  
but the same Spirit.  
There are different kinds of service,  
but the same Lord.  
There are different kinds of working,  
but the same God works all of them in all men.  
  
Now to each one  
the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good."

**LIGHTS: LEAVE POOL 1 UP, FADE UP POOL 2**

**Narrator:** "To one, there is given through the Spirit,  
the message of wisdom;  
to another, the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit..."

### Mime Action

#### Scene 2:

*(Bob listens as Jim, who is obviously angry, as Jim paces back and forth. Bob looks helpless, then walks over to the ladder, steps up a few rungs. He taps on "God's" foot, "God" notices him. Bob points to a fuming Jim, who is still pacing and waving his hands wildly. "God" hands Bob a gift. Bob walks back over to Jim, opens the gift, pulls out the Bible, sets the gift box on the floor, opens the Bible, Jim stops pacing, Bob calls him over to look at a Bible passage. Bob and Jim FREEZE.)*

**LIGHTS: LEAVE POOL 1 UP, FADE OUT POOL 2, FADE UP POOL 3**

**Narrator:** "...to another, faith by the same Spirit..."

**Mime Action**

**Scene 3:**

*(Patrice watches as Beth faces the audience and pounds on an imaginary door with all her might. Patrice approaches "God," climbs a few rungs of the ladder, pulls on his pant leg, and points to Beth, who is still pounding on the door. "God" gives Patrice a gift and she returns to Beth. Patrice opens the gift, pulls out a very small Bible and opens it. Beth stops pounding and walks over to see the Bible. They both FREEZE.)*

**LIGHTS: LEAVE POOL 1 UP, FADE OUT POOL 3, FADE UP POOL 4**

**Narrator:** "...to another, gifts of healing by that one Spirit;  
to another, miraculous powers..."

**Mime Action**

**Scene 4:**

*(Donna comforts Anne, who is sobbing uncontrollably. Donna looks in the direction of "God," then walks over to him. She too, climbs up a few rungs, gets a gift from him, and returns to Anne. Donna opens the box, and pulls out a small flask of oil. She opens the bottle, puts a drop of it on her finger, then dabs in on Anne's forehead. They both bow their head in prayer and FREEZE.)*

**LIGHTS: LEAVE POOL 1 UP, FADE OUT POOL 4, FADE UP POOL 5**

**Narrator:** "...to another, prophecy..."

**Mime Action**

**Scene 5:**

*(Jack surveys the audience, hesitates in speaking, then goes to "God," steps onto the ladder, and calls to him in mime. "God" looks down at Jack, hands him a large box, Jack steps down and returns to his light pool. He opens the box and pulls out a bullhorn. He looks puzzled, pretends to turn it on, puts his mouth to it, and mimes a speech for a few seconds, with confidence, then FREEZES.)*

**LIGHTS: LEAVE POOL 1 UP, FADE OUT POOL 5, FADE UP POOL 6**

**Narrator:** "...to another,  
distinguishing between spirits;  
to another,  
speaking in different kinds of tongues;  
and to still another,  
the interpretation of tongues."

**Mime Action****Scene 6:**

*(Paula and Laura chat wildly, but cannot communicate; they become agitated with each other. Sharon goes to “God” with her frustration. She points to the two women, trying to communicate. “God” hands her a gift. She takes it back, opens it, and pulls out a headset. She puts it on, then listens intently to Paula. She hushes Paula with her upheld hand, then speaks to Laura on behalf of Paula. Laura chats with Sharon, who then relays Laura's message to Paula. They all relax now that communication is established.)*

**LIGHTS: LEAVE POOL 1 UP, FADE UP ON ALL POOLS**

**Narrator:** All these are the work of one and the same Spirit,  
and He gives them to each one,  
just as He determines.

**Mime Action:****Scene 7:**

*(All the "Mime Action Pools" come back to life for a very few seconds as the music swells. “God” surveys the gifts he has given, and he is pleased. The characters FREEZE when the lights go down and the music fades out.)*

**LIGHTS: FADE TO BLACK ON ALL POOLS**

## Sermon Options

### Sermon Option 1: "A Skermon" (*skit and sermon combined*)

All the players remain on stage.  
The pastor steps onto the stage.  
The light pools repeat in their same order.  
The pastor steps into each pool once the action freezes and expounds on the gift.  
The players exit from each pool as the lights go down and the pastor moves into the next light pool.  
This is the order of the "Skermon" option:

#### **LIGHTS: FADE UP ON SERMON LIGHTS, FADE UP ON POOL 1**

The pastor introduces the concept of spiritual gifts.  
He explains that God delights in helping His people who earnestly serve Him.  
All players freeze in position.

#### **LIGHTS: LEAVE POOL 1 UP, FADE UP POOL 2**

*(Bob points out a passage to Jim, puts his hand on Jim's shoulder and mimes a conversation with him for a few seconds, then they freeze.)*

The pastor steps into the light pool and expounds on the gift of wisdom.  
The players exit when the pastor moves on to the next light pool.

#### **LIGHTS: LEAVE POOL 1 UP, FADE OUT POOL 2, FADE UP POOL 3**

*(Beth turns to the imaginary door and begins pounding on it again. Patrice opens the door by gently pulling instead of pushing. All this time Beth has been trying to open a door marked "PULL" by pushing with all her might. Beth stares in amazement, then they freeze.)*

The pastor steps into the light pool and expounds on the gift of faith, especially that "faith opens doors" that we cannot open for ourselves.  
The players exit when the pastor moves on to the next light pool.

#### **LIGHTS: LEAVE POOL 1 UP, FADE OUT POOL 3, FADE UP POOL 4**

*(Donna continues to pray for Anne. They finish, then hug each other, then they freeze.)*

The pastor steps into the light pool and expounds on the gift of healing, including the fact that our "sufferings" often perfect us and one day all believers will receive the "ultimate healing" when we see Christ in glory.  
The players exit when the pastor moves on to the next light pool.

#### **LIGHTS: LEAVE POOL 1 UP, FADE OUT POOL 4, FADE UP POOL 5**

*(Jack continues to use the bullhorn in his imaginary address to the audience, then he freezes.)*

The pastor steps into the light pool and expounds on the gift of prophecy.  
Jack exits when the pastor moves on to the next light pool.

**LIGHTS: LEAVE POOL 1 UP, FADE OUT POOL 5, FADE UP POOL 6**

*(Sharon continues to interpret between Paula and Laura, then they freeze.)*

The pastor steps into the light pool and expounds on the gift of interpretation.  
Jack exits when the pastor moves out of the light pool to conclude his message.

**Sermon Option 2:**

The players exit the stage after the lights fade to black.  
The pastor steps onto the stage and expounds on the gifts with none of the players on stage.