



*Written by  
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## “One Body, Many Parts”

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 12: 12-27

**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:** Diversity of spiritual gifts in the "Body of Christ"

**Performance Time:** 9 minutes

**Number of Players:** 13 players (8 women, 4 men)

### Objective:

This "Christian Mime Theater" skit presents a visual picture of the diversity of spiritual gifts, which God has given to His Church to help us carry out His "Great Commission." It provides an excellent sermon illustration on the equality and the diversity of spiritual gifts.

## Synopsis:

This "Christian Mime Theater" skit illustrates the inter-dependence and diversity of the spiritual gifts, expounded upon in 1 Corinthians 12:12-27.

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. This mime skit becomes even more effective if you find people in your congregation who actually manifest these gifts in the body of your own church.

Ask one of your Sunday school teachers to portray the "gift of wisdom and knowledge." Ask someone who ministers to the emotional and physical hurts of your congregation, like an elder, to portray the "gift of healing." Ask your youth minister to portray the "gift of prophesy." Ask someone who has ventured out on a ministry in faith to portray the "gift of faith." Finally, ask someone who "signs" for the deaf of your congregation to portray the "gift of interpretation."

As the lights flash on and off during the reading of the scripture, the congregation begins to realize that all of these gifts are inter-dependent on each other, and no one is more important than the next.

## NOTE:

This mime skit is a wonderful follow up to the "Christian Mime Theater" skit, "The Importance of All Spiritual Gifts" (script #CMT4); however, **this skit stands alone**, even if the audience has not seen the previous skit. "The Importance of All Spiritual Gifts" is a wonderful opener to a sermon series on the gifts of the Holy Spirit; then spend one week on each gift (**perhaps interview someone on your church campus who uses this gift**), then present this skit as a summary of the series.

## Cast:

Narrator: *Reads the scripture "live," off stage. (Do not pre-record!)*

### *In Light Pool 1:*

Jim: *The picture of the "Gift of Wisdom"*  
*(Select any Sunday school teacher to play this part)*

Paul: *A member of Jim's class*

Sue: *A member of Jim's class*

### *In Light Pool 2:*

Greg: *The picture of the "Gift of Healing"*  
*(Select anyone who really does rescue the emotionally or physically hurting; like an elder)*

### *In Light Pool 3:*

Dave: *The picture of the "Gift of Prophecy"*  
*(Ask your youth pastor to play this part)*

5 Teenagers: *A few teens sitting at Bible study with pastor Dave*

*In Light Pool 4:*

Kathy:

*The picture of the "Gift of Faith"*

*(Select someone who has started a ministry on faith, other than teaching.)*

*In Light Pool 5:*

Connie:

*The picture of the "Gift of Interpretation"*

*(Select someone who actually "signs" for your congregation)*

**Props:**

5 beautifully wrapped gift boxes (with separately wrapped lids that lift off easily)  
*(Same gifts used in "The Importance of All Spiritual Gifts" (script #CMT4))*

**NOTE:**

Place one gift beside each person who embodies that gift in the light pools to indicate that this is a person who is "gifted" by the Holy Spirit.

**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;

however, **this mime skit can be done without lights**, just be sure that all the other action on stage freezes, so the audience is drawn to the moving stage picture.

**Music:**

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

**Stage Arrangement:** The action is contained in 5 separate light pools.

**In Light Pool 1:**

Jim teaches two people in a Sunday school class. He writes on a white board while eagerly using his gift of "wisdom and knowledge." **(Find a Sunday school teacher to play this part.)**

**In Light Pool 2:**

Greg sits in what looks like a car made of two chairs side-by-side. A steering wheel is wired to a microphone stand, so it looks like he is driving a car. He picks up the homeless and the shut-ins on Sunday morning and brings them to church. He represents spiritual and emotional healing that comes from being a vibrant part of the "Body of Christ." **(Change this to reflect anyone who heals emotional or spiritual hurt in your church.)**

**In Light Pool 3:**

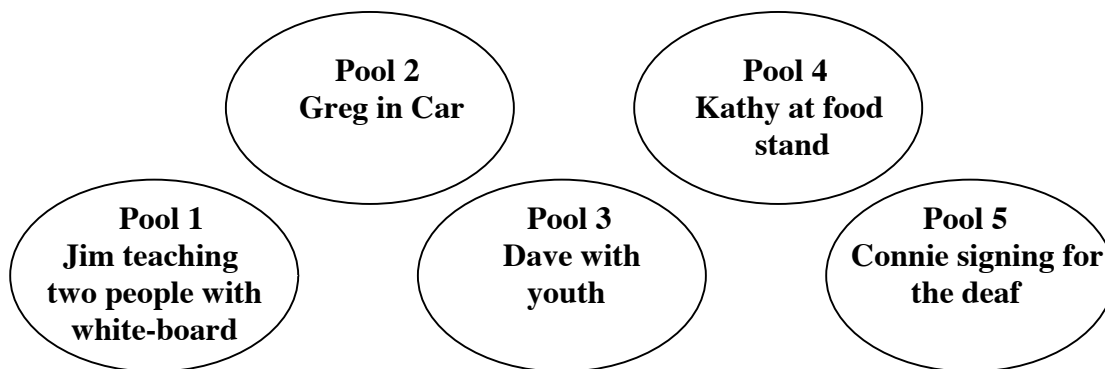
Dave enthusiastically explains the word of God to a group of teens, who gather at his feet. He holds the Bible in one hand while gesturing his sermon with the other. **(Ask a youth pastor and a few of the teens to play this part.)**

**In Light Pool 4:**

Kathy stands at what looks like a coffee and do-nut stand because she moved forward in "faith" to begin a "food and fellowship" ministry. **(Select anyone in for church who has moved out in faith to begin a ministry, other than teaching.)**

**In Light Pool 5:**

Connie sits in a chair, facing the audience, "signing" for the deaf. She shares her "gift of interpretation" by opening doors of communication between languages. **(Select someone who actually does sign for your congregation.)**



## The Script:

### NOTES:

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.

The people portraying the use of their gifts “come to life,” and exercise their gifts when the lights come on:

In pool 1: Jim teaches; his class interacts

In pool 2: Greg drives, adjusts his mirror, etc.

In pool 3: Dave preaches; the teens react

In pool 4: Kathy talks with imaginary people while handing serving them a donut

In pool 5: Connie signs for the deaf

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

**LIGHT: UP ON ALL LIGHT POOLS**

### Mime Action:

*(All the parts of the "Body of Christ" are busy doing what they do. See the explanation of their action above under "Stage Arrangement," above.)*

**Narrator:** The body is a unit,  
though it is made up of many parts;  
and though all its parts are many,  
they form one body.  
So it is with Christ.

For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body;  
whether Jews or Greeks,  
slave or free,  
and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

**LIGHTS: BLACK OUT**

**Narrator:** Now the body is not made of up of one part, but of many.

**LIGHTS: UP ON POOL 2**

**Narrator:** If the foot should say,

**LIGHTS: LEAVE POOL 2 UP, UP ON POOL 4**

**Narrator:** "Because I am not a hand,

**LIGHTS: OUT ON POOL 4, LEAVE POOL 2 UP**

**Narrator:** I do not belong to the body,"  
it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body.

**LIGHTS: OUT ON POOL 2, UP ON POOL 5**

**Narrator:** And if the ear should say,

**LIGHTS: LEAVE POOL 5 UP, UP ON POOL 1**

**Narrator:** "Because I am not an eye,

**LIGHTS: OUT ON POOL 1, LEAVE POOL 5 UP**

**Narrator:** I do not belong to the body,"  
it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body.

**LIGHTS: OUT ON POOL 5, UP ON POOL 1**

**Narrator:** If the whole body were an eye,  
where would the sense of hearing be?

**LIGHTS: OUT ON POOL 1, UP ON POOL 5**

**Narrator:** If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be?

**LIGHTS: ALL POOLS UP FULL**

**Narrator:** But in fact,  
God has arranged the parts in the body,  
every one of them,  
just as He wanted them to be.  
If they were all one part,  
where would the body be?  
As it is, there are many parts,  
but one body.

**LIGHTS: BLACK OUT, THEN UP ON POOL 1**

**Narrator:** The eye

**LIGHTS: LEAVE POOL 1 UP, UP ON POOL 4**

**Narrator:** cannot say to the hand,  
"I don't need you!"

**LIGHTS: OUT ON POOL 1, OUT ON POOL 4, UP ON POOL 3**

**Narrator:** And the head

**LIGHTS: LEAVE POOL 3 UP, UP ON POOL 2**

**Narrator:** cannot say to the feet,  
"I don't need you!"

**LIGHTS: OUT ON POOL 3, OUT ON POOL 2,**

**LIGHTS: ALL POOLS UP FULL DURING THE FOLLOWING READING**

*(All the people in the light pool are busy with their ministries.)*

**Narrator:** On the contrary,  
those parts of the body that seem to be weaker  
are indispensable,  
and the parts that we think are less honorable,  
we treat with special honor.

And the parts that are un-presentable,  
are treated with special modesty,  
while our presentable parts need no special treatment.

**LIGHTS: BEGIN A SLOW FADE ON ALL LIGHT POOLS TO GO TO BLACK BY THE  
END OF THE READING.**

But God has combined the members of the body  
and has given greater honor  
to the parts that lacked it,  
so that there should be no division in the body,  
but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.

If one part suffers,  
every part suffers with it;  
if one part is honored,  
every part rejoices with it.  
Now you are the body of Christ,  
and each one of you is part of it.

**LIGHTS: BLACK OUT, THEN FADE UP TO SERMON LIGHT**

## Sermon Options

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

All the players remain on stage.

The pastor steps onto the stage.

The pastor steps into each pool as it lights up across the stage.

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 LIGHT**

The pastor makes his comments introducing this summary of the "Gifts of the Holy Spirit," then proceeds to visit the first light pool.

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

*(The characters are FROZEN in a stage picture (tableau).)*

The pastor expounds on the "gift of wisdom and knowledge" as he picks up the gift that has been sitting at Jim's feet. When he is finished, he takes the gift with him, and moves on to the next light pool.

*(Jim and his class exit.)*

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

*(Greg, or an elder, is FROZEN in a stage picture (tableau).)*

The pastor expounds on the "gift of healing" as he picks up the gift that has been sitting beside Greg on the next seat.

When he is finished, he takes the gift with him, and moves on to the next light pool.

*(Greg exits.)*

#### **LIGHTS: FADE UP POOL 2, FADE UP POOL 3**

*(The characters are FROZEN in a stage picture (tableau).)*

The pastor expounds on the "gift of prophecy" as he picks up the gift that has been sitting at Dave's feet. When he is finished, he takes the gift with him. By now, he is juggling three gifts, and his hands are full.

He might comment on how many people have multiple gifts, but that it makes more sense to spread them out.

He moves on to the next light pool.



*(Dave exits)*

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

*(Kathy is FROZEN in a stage picture (tableau).)*

The pastor expounds on the "gift of faith" as he picks up the gift that has been sitting beside Kathy on the counter.

This is good opportunity to highlight someone in the congregation who has stepped out in faith to begin a ministry.

When he is finished, he takes the gift with him, and moves on to the next light pool.

*(Kathy exits)*

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

*(Connie is FROZEN in a stage picture (tableau).)*

The pastor expounds on the "gift of interpretation" as he picks up the gift that has been sitting at Connie's feet.

At this point he can expound on any and all aspects of the "gift of interpretation."

When he is finished, he takes the gift with him, and moves back into the center of the, now empty stage.

*(Connie exits)*

**LIGHTS: FADE OUT POOL 5, FADE UP SERMON LIGHT**

The pastor concludes 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.