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My Unique Place

Can you imagine someone you know requesting a private meeting to ask for your financial help? This person is highly athletic and dreams of competing in the Olympics to win a gold medal. They plan to travel to a city known for training athletes in various sports, hoping to qualify for a team. They're seeking your financial support for one year to help make their dream come true. You agree and commit to a monthly contribution.

After a year, they return with a disappointed look on their face to give you a report. They explain that they were diligent, training for over twelve hours daily with some of the best athletes. However, they failed to secure a spot on any team. In an attempt to console them, you ask a simple question, "Which sport were you training for?" Their answer surprises you, "I was training in seven different sports. I switched from one to another each day, like long-distance running on Monday, swimming on Tuesday, gymnastics on Wednesday, and soccer on Thursday."

At this point, you stop them and pose a common-sense question, "Why didn't you focus on one sport?" If you were in this situation, you'd be puzzled by your friend's strategy because each sport demands unique skills and foundations. Athlete's mindsets and physical bodies develop differently depending on their chosen sport. After a year of twelve-hour days, you'd be in great shape but lacking the specialized training needed for any one sport.

This is a powerful example of how many believers navigate their journey with God. They often seek wisdom from various teachers, each with their unique perspective rooted in their personal relationship with the Lord. While these teachings are valuable, they can sometimes leave believers feeling frustrated in their own spiritual walk. Filling up on many different teachings can lead to learning about Christ but not becoming like Christ. I believe this is why so many today are puzzled by their apathy in serving God.

The standard advice is to find a good church that can nourish you with God's Word and love. Initially, this guidance is essential, especially when we're new to the faith and unsure about the Holy Spirit's guidance. However, there comes a point when we realize that a good idea isn't necessarily God-given. He desires to place you into a specific group instead of you choosing for yourself.

Once you're convinced of a specific calling in your life, fulfilling it should be your primary focus. The Lord intends to place you in His Body so you can carry out the tasks He has directly assigned to you. Many believers spend much time listening to preachers from various backgrounds but neglect to grow in their specific calling by the Holy Spirit. This leads to hidden frustration in their daily journey. Sometimes, people try to satisfy their desire to serve God by engaging in many good works except the one they are genuinely called to do. I can relate to this, as I was actively involved in various forms of ministry – witnessing, door-knocking, handing out tracts, contributing to charity, praying for others, and church activities. However, these

commendable deeds brought temporary satisfaction, leaving me feeling unfulfilled. No amount of good work could fill the void in my faith.

It was only when I allowed the Holy Spirit to guide me to my specific calling that I found God's perfect will and my relationship with Him became a source of peace and stability. As 1 Corinthians 12:12-14 tells us, *"For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit, we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact, the body is not one member but many."*

It's easy to get lost in the crowd if we interpret "the Body of Christ" to mean that all Christianity is one body. It can feel like we're swimming in a vast sea of believers, all serving as God's helpers on earth. Paul's letters were primarily written to a single church group, addressing their needs. Personally, I prefer to view this statement of the Body as addressing a specific group of people, making it more relatable. This means that each group of people placed together is a Body of Christ, a single part of the whole family of God.

We can then see that every group God brings together is a unique Body of Christ working in harmony towards a specific purpose, rather than seeing a billion believers as one enormous body. In this light, we recognize that different groups have different assignments. You have a responsibility alongside a group of people called the Body of Christ, and it can't fulfill its purpose without you. It says in Ephesians 4:16, *"from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."*

Let's avoid the trap of being like athletes who never achieve their goal of winning because they won't commit their hearts to a single team. Instead, let's invite the Holy Spirit to guide us into our community of believers, where we can fulfill the unique purpose God has given us. God understands the challenges and imperfections we might encounter within our group, both the good and the not-so-good aspects. Yet, He trusts that we will remain steadfast in line with His plan, always keeping our focus on Jesus as our leader, our sole guide, the Head of our Body. A tremendous revival awaits us in the future as we stand shoulder to shoulder, growing together as the Body of Christ.

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