

**26 September 2017**

One of the best things a church can offer any of us is a place to use our gifts. Combined every congregation has a vast arsenal of things that they can do if they are but willing and able to offer themselves as volunteers in some kind of mission. It may be teaching or guiding children or youth; it may be helping with meals or gardening; it may be in driving for family promise or coordinating the Thanksgiving meal on I-35. Whatever your gift, there is a way for the church to employ it for the glory of God.

My friend Brian Bauknight shared a story about a man and his perceived gift:

A husband and wife were walking through an arcade on the Boardwalk in Atlantic City, N.J. They saw a machine that purported not only to tell their weight, but also print out a character reading as well. The husband stepped on the scale and deposited his quarter, whereupon the machine produced a ticket which read, "You are the proud possessor of that keen, competitive edge that can leave the whole world behind." He beamed as he handed the ticket to his wife. She read it with a smile and said, "It has your weight wrong, too."

It is not always easy to discern your gifts, but it is necessary, even imperative that we do so.

**Come, Worship  
Stay, Learn  
Go, Serve**