

屬靈恩賜與基督身體的成長——身體各器官的聯結運作

Spiritual Gifts and the Growth of the Body of Christ—— The Connection and Functioning of Each Member

聖經將教會比作基督的身體（林前 12:12-27；弗 4:16），每位信徒都是這個身體的一部分，各自領受不同的屬靈恩賜，如同身體的不同器官，各有其獨特的功能。只有當所有肢體彼此配搭、互相扶持，整個身體才能健康成長。同樣，教會也需要每個信徒發揮恩賜，彼此配搭，才能在數量與質量上增長。

1. 身體的聯結與教會的合一

人的身體由許多器官組成，如心臟、肺、手、腳、眼睛等，每個器官的功能不同，但都由神經系統和血液循環聯繫在一起，使身體能夠統一運作。基督的身體也是如此——每個信徒的恩賜不同，但都在聖靈的引導下運作，彼此配搭，才能發揮最大果效（林前 12:4-6）。

- **例子：**如果心臟只顧自己跳動，卻不把血液輸送到身體各部位，身體就會缺氧無法存活。同樣，如果教會的成員只專注個人屬靈成長，而不彼此服事，整個教會就會失去活力，難以成長。

2. 各肢體的獨特功能與相互依賴

身體的每個器官雖然功能不同，卻彼此需要。例如：

- **眼睛** 能看到食物，但需要 **手** 把食物送到嘴裡，嘴巴咀嚼後還需 **消化系統** 吸收營養，這些營養再由 **血液** 運送到全身。
- **教會中的應用：**傳道人需要教師來建立門徒，敬拜團需要音響團隊的支持，愛心事工需要行政管理來組織資源，每個恩賜都是教會健康運作的重要部分（林前 12:21-22）。
- **例子：**如果手拒絕餵食嘴巴，整個身體會飢餓。同樣，如果教會的信徒不願意彼此服事，只追求個人屬靈造就，整體教會就會失去生命力。

3. 彼此配搭帶來身體的成長與健康

身體的健康成長依賴於各器官的正常運作與配搭。例如：

- 若 **骨骼** 不生長，身體就無法長大。
 - 若 **肺** 不能供氧，身體就會衰弱無力。
 - 若 **血液循環** 不良，身體的各部位會失去活力。
- 教會的應用：**每位信徒的屬靈恩賜都是建造教會的一部分，當每個人都願意運用神所賜的恩賜來服事，教會才能在數量（人數增長）與質量（屬靈成熟）上都得以增長（弗 4:16）。

4. 互相連結使整體發揮最大果效

- **肌肉與骨骼的關係：**肌肉透過骨骼產生動作，骨骼提供支撐。若肌肉不運動，骨骼會變得脆弱，反之亦然。
應用：如果只有牧師或領袖在服事，而信徒不參與，教會的影響力會受限；但若每位信徒都積極參與，教會就能發展出強大的事工影響力。
- **神經系統的傳導作用：**神經負責傳遞訊號，使身體各部位協調運作。
應用：聖靈如同神經系統，使每個信徒在基督裡聯結，若信徒順服聖靈帶領，教會就能有效運作並發展（羅 8:14）。

5. 教會增長的關鍵：每個肢體都發揮恩賜

以弗所書 4:16 說：「全身都靠祂聯絡得合式，百節各按各職，照著各體的功用彼此相助，便叫身體漸漸增長，在愛中建立自己。」這表明教會的增長來自每位成員的參與：

1. **聯絡得合式** – 信徒之間需要緊密連結，而不是獨立行動。
2. **百節各按各職** – 每個信徒都應發揮自己的恩賜，而不是讓少數人承擔所有服事。
3. **彼此相助** – 透過彼此服事，整體教會才能在愛中成長。

結論

如同身體的各個器官彼此連結、各司其職，使整體身體健康成長，教會中的每個信徒也需要發揮神所賜的恩賜，彼此合作，才能讓教會在質與量上都得以增長。當每位信徒認識自己的恩賜，並願意在基督的身體中互相配搭，教會就會像健康的身體一樣，充滿活力，並有效地完成神的使命。

===== English =====

Spiritual Gifts and the Growth of the Body of Christ: The Connection and Functioning of Each Member

The Bible likens the church to the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 4:16), where every believer is a part of this body, each receiving different spiritual gifts, just as different organs in the body have unique functions. Only when all members work together and support one another can the whole body grow healthily. Likewise, the church needs every believer to exercise their gifts and cooperate with one another to grow both in quantity and quality.

1. The Connection of the Body and the Unity of the Church

The human body consists of many organs, such as the heart, lungs, hands, feet, and eyes. Each has a different function, but they are all connected through the nervous system and the circulatory system, allowing the body to function as one. The body of Christ operates similarly—every believer has different gifts, but under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, they work together in harmony to produce the greatest effect (1 Corinthians 12:4-6).

- **Example:** If the heart only beats for itself but does not pump blood to the rest of the body, the body will lack oxygen and cannot survive. Similarly, if church members focus only on their personal spiritual growth but do not serve one another, the church will lose its vitality and struggle to grow.

2. The Unique Functions of Each Member and Their Mutual Dependence

Each organ in the body has a different function, but they all depend on each other. For example:

- **The eyes** can see food, but they need **the hands** to bring the food to the mouth. The mouth chews the food, and **the digestive system** absorbs the nutrients, which are then transported by **the blood** to the whole body.
- **Application in the Church:** Preachers need teachers to disciple believers, the worship team needs the support of the sound team, and mercy ministries require administrative management to organize resources. Every spiritual gift is essential for the healthy functioning of the church (1 Corinthians 12:21-22).

- **Example:** If the hands refuse to feed the mouth, the whole body will starve. Likewise, if church members do not serve each other and only focus on their own spirituality, the church as a whole will lack vitality.

3. Coordinated Functioning Leads to Growth and Health

The healthy growth of the body depends on the proper operation and coordination of all its organs. For example:

- If the **bones** do not grow, the body cannot increase in size.
- If the **lungs** fail to supply oxygen, the body will weaken.
- If the **circulatory system** is blocked, different parts of the body will lose energy.

Application in the Church: Each believer's spiritual gift contributes to building up the church. When everyone is willing to use their God-given gifts to serve, the church will grow both numerically (more people coming to faith) and spiritually (believers becoming more mature) (Ephesians 4:16).

4. Interconnection Enables Maximum Effectiveness

- **The Relationship Between Muscles and Bones:** Muscles produce movement through bones, while bones provide support. If muscles do not move, bones become weak, and vice versa.

Application: If only pastors or leaders are serving while the rest of the believers remain passive, the church's influence will be limited. However, if every believer actively participates, the church's ministry will have a powerful impact.

- **The Role of the Nervous System in Coordination:** The nervous system transmits signals that allow different parts of the body to function in harmony.

Application: The Holy Spirit is like the nervous system, connecting all believers in Christ. When believers follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the church will function effectively and grow (Romans 8:14).

5. The Key to Church Growth: Every Member Exercising Their Gift

Ephesians 4:16 states: "From Him, the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

This verse highlights three important points about church growth:

1. **Being joined and held together** – Believers need to be closely connected rather than acting independently.
2. **Each part doing its work** – Every believer should exercise their gifts rather than relying on a few leaders to do all the ministry.
3. **Building up in love** – Through mutual service, the entire church will grow in love and strength.

Conclusion

Just as the organs in the body must connect and function together for the body to grow healthily, every believer in the church must exercise their God-given gifts and cooperate with others. Only then can the church grow both in quality and quantity. When each believer recognizes and utilizes their gifts while working in unity with others, the church will be like a healthy body—full of vitality and effectively fulfilling God's mission.