

Kids' Chronicle

The Holy Spirit gives many gifts

BY JOE SARNICOLA

My dear friends,

In your letter to me, you asked about the Holy Spirit. I will try to explain. There was a time when you were not following God, but you were lost in idolatry. Any one who is still leading that way of life will be unable to praise God from his heart. It is the Holy Spirit that makes it possible for us to tell others that Jesus is the Lord.

Now God has only one spirit, but that spirit has many gifts to share with us. There is only one God to serve, but we may not all serve him in the same way. God gives each of us different talents and abilities so that we may join together to meet the needs of each other and to be able to show love to those who do not know God.

One person may receive wisdom. Another may be given a special knowledge. The same spirit has given both gifts in order for us to glorify God. Faith may be given in great measure to one person, and the ability to heal or perform miracles to someone else.

If God has a message for his people, he may use one of us to declare it. Sometimes messages come to us in sounds or languages we do not understand, so God may provide someone else with the ability to interpret what was said. Yet another person may be able to tell the presence of God's spirit from the presence of a lying spirit that pretends to be from God, but is not.

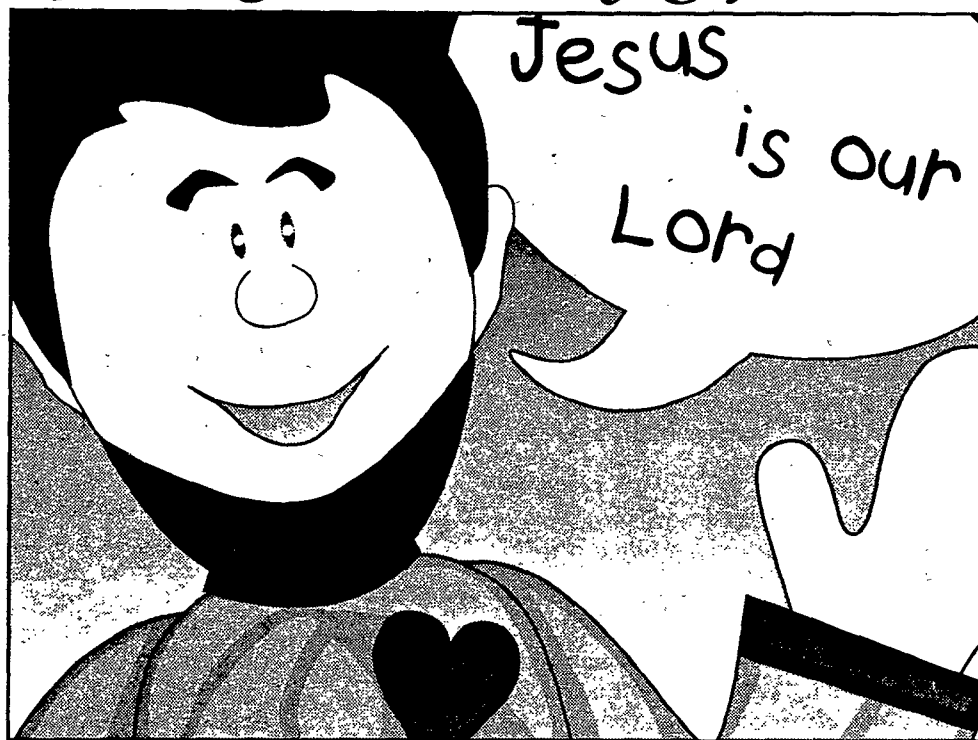


Illustration by Zoe Woodruff

And again it is the one spirit that gives all gifts to all people. There are not individual spirits for every gift. That would only lead to confusion.

A person has only one body, but that body has many parts. Each part works together for the benefit of the whole person.

Can an ear separate itself from a person? Or if a person did not have a nose, how would he be able to smell? And can one part of the body say it is more im-

portant than another? The truth is, the parts that may seem to be the least important are the most important and those that seem the most important are the least.

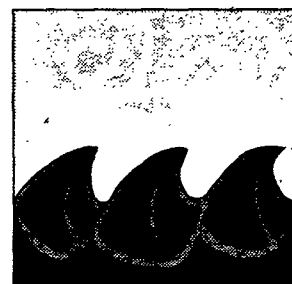
Even more, we are the body of Christ. God provides the gifts we need to serve him and we work together to be one with him. And the bond that keeps us together is love.

Q&A

READ MORE ABOUT IT: 1 Corinthians 12

1. How many spirits did Paul say God has?
2. What is the purpose of the gifts?

Bible Accent



The word "spirit" has its origins in the Latin word "spirare," which means "to breathe."

When God made the first man, he breathed life into him. The words "inspire" and "respiration" are based on the same root. The Hebrew word "ru'ah" has a similar meaning, but also means wind, another symbol of the Holy Spirit.

In the first account of creation in Genesis, a mighty wind moved over the water. On the day of Pentecost, a strong wind filled the room where the Apostles were praying. God gave us life through his Holy Spirit, and that same spirit gives us the power to live as good Christians.

St. Matthias

After Jesus ascended into heaven, the Apostles frequently gathered in a room in Jerusalem to pray. At one of these meetings, Peter quoted from the Psalms and said that a new Apostle must be named to replace Judas.

The method for choosing was the casting of lots, an ancient custom of placing small bits of wood or stone in a lap or vase to represent the possible choices.

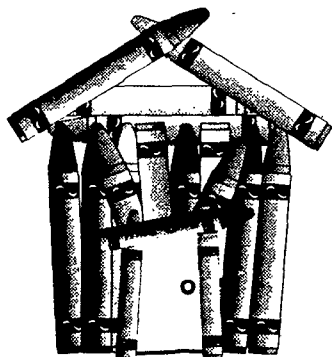
In this case, the lot representing St. Matthias fell out and he was selected. St. Matthias traveled extensively, preaching the word of God wherever he went. We remember him on May 14.

Puzzle

Paul wrote letters to the churches in several cities. Use your Bible as a guide to help you unscramble their names. *Answers on page 5.*

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Kids' Club



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in an upcoming issue of *Kids' Chronicle*.

Last month's winner was **Lee Fleming**, a sixth-grade student at Mother of Sorrows School, Greece. In response to the question, **Jesus said he is our shepherd. Why is it important for us to listen to him?** he wrote:

It is important for us to listen to him because Jesus will do anything to protect us like a shepherd would do anything for his sheep. He is always with us and watches over us day and night.

I should listen in my heart and at Mass for him speaking to me. I always try to go to a quiet place when I pray because then he can hear me and I can hear him.

Jesus cares for me as a shepherd cares for his sheep.

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