

Community: Where Everyone Knows Your Name.

The "Break Through" Series – Part 03

Connect: Share a brief story on how your small group meeting has impacted your life.

Hook: Florence made frequent trips to the branch post office. One day she confronted a long line of people who were waiting for service from the postal clerks. Florence only needed stamps, so a helpful observer asked, "Why don't you use the stamp machine? You can get all the stamps you need and you won't have to stand in line." Florence said, "I know, but the machine can't ask me about my arthritis."

Florence needed more than just postage stamps. She needed that human connection where someone knew her name and cared that she suffered with arthritis.

Read the following quote from Pastor Rick Warren. What sentence provokes the strongest response to your heart this evening?

"Time is your most precious gift because you only have a set amount of it. You can make more money, but you can't make more time. When you give someone your time, you are giving them a portion of your life that you'll never get back. Your time is your life. That is why the greatest gift you can give someone is your time.

It is not enough to just say relationships are important; we must prove it by investing time in them. Words alone are worthless. "My children, our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action." Relationships take time and effort, and the best way to spell love is "T-I-M-E." - Rick Warren, The Purpose Driven Life: What on Earth Am I Here for?

Book:

1Co 12:4 There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. 5. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. 6. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. 7. A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. 8. To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. 9. The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. 10. He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. 11. It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have. 12. The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. 13. Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit. 14. Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. 15. If the foot says, "I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand," that does not make it any less a part of the body. 16. And if the ear says, "I am not part of the body because I am not an eye," would that make it any less a part of the body? 17. If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything? 18. But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where He wants it. 19. How strange a body would be if it had only one part. 20. Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. 21. The eye can never say to the hand, "I don't need you." The head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you." 22. In fact, some parts of the body that seem

weakest and least important are actually the most necessary. 23. And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect those parts that should not be seen, 24. while the more honorable parts do not require this special care. So God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity. 25. This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. 26. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad. 27. All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it. -1 Corinthians 12:4-27 NLT

Look:

According to the above scriptures, what similarities do we each share with one another?

What differences can be found in each of us?

Why are spiritual gifts given to believers?

How does a believer's giftedness relate to being in community with one another?

How are you currently using your gift? What obstacles or hindrances prevent you from doing so?

How is our local body of Christ (Grace Hills) enhanced because you are a part of it?

Who do you need to reach out to this week and invite them into community with you?