

## **All Hands on Deck**

### **1 Corinthians 12:14-26**

#### **Story:**

This sermon reminds me of a phrase used by the Navy in the nineteenth century. The phrase is “all hands on deck”. This phrase was used to put crew members in a position to help where extra hands were needed. The crew could be playing cards, eating, sleeping or performing other chores, but when the captain made the call “all hands on deck”, the crewmen stopped everything they were doing to get into position and help in the problem area. Imagine what would happen if the crewmen never answered the captain's call. So I want you to ask yourself when was the last time you stopped everything you were doing to answer God's call for kingdom business? When was the last time you raised your hands to God and asked Him, what do you need me to do?

#### **Introduction:**

Jesus' body was always used for God's work. His hands most of all were used in God's kingdom in Matt 8:3 healed the blind man, Matt 9:25 rose girl from the dead, and he was also a carpenter. His hands were used to bless the people He was around. Our hands are a very important part of our body as well. We eat with our hands, we put our hands on people's shoulders to show them compassion, we help others build projects, we also give and receive with our hands. The hands are very important to our body and to God.

Yes, there are other parts of the body that God gave us to use. The feet that run and quickly carry the message of God to evangelizing in neighborhoods and other countries. The mouth that prays and speaks the truth of the Gospel, and the ears that listen to the needs of people and hears the voice of God for direction. All of these parts are important (!) and this church does a great job with these parts outwardly. Today, I need us to take a look inwardly and think how much more the body can be effective when the hands inside the church start to work. In verse 27 Paul says, *27 All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it.*

There are several positions that need to be filled in order for this church to function. Once these positions are filled, the church can be more effective to us and the community. Paul says in verses 4-5, *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.* God, through His Holy Spirit, gave us gifts that help serve the church and these gifts work like body parts to create a body like Jesus Christ to serve the people of this world. Some may have one gift, some two, and some more. Just know your gift is important to us.

As I go through this powerpoint, challenge yourself to step up to the position or think about someone you can bring into the church to volunteer and lend a hand. I recommend that when you start your position, build a team, involve some of the youth, and be creative.

**The first position is:**

**Greeter-** Help welcome people in the church with a wave, hug, handshake, or pointing to the nearest restroom. (at least 1)

**Nursery Overseer-** Help Liliana with the kids in the nursery, return the kids as they came. Two are better than one, plus people need breaks. Read the kid's bible stories, point to in the children's books. (at least 2 responsible)

**Usher-** Hand out bulletins, pass the offering plate (at least 2)

**Bank Deposit Runner-** On Mondays someone willing to take Sunday's deposit to the bank. (at least 2 or 3)

**Liturgist-** Read liturgy for service (call to worship, offering prayer (write out if you like), and Scripture reading)

**Slides Master-** Hands in the sound room to allow Shawn to focus on lighting and sound. Must pay attention to or familiar with how service is running.

**Social Media Master-** Someone familiar with Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to share posts and events with the public and answer the questions that come through our Social media sites.

**Worship Volunteer Coordinator-** Creates and distributes the worship schedules each month based on who has volunteered for each position. Includes communion servers, preparers, nursery overseers, greeters, ushers, and tellers. They send reminders by email, text, or phone. The worship coordinator also volunteers in finding replacements if someone is unable to volunteer on their scheduled day.

**Facilities Manager-** Someone who regularly checks up on our facilities and lets us know about stocks of supplies and upkeep on the property.

**Kids Worship Box Maker-** Someone to refill the kid's containers to keep the kids occupied during worship.

**Visitor Bags Coordinator-** Someone to help fill and hand out these bags to visitors or create a different style of bag.

**Church Sign Writer-** Someone to create clever sayings when we do not have events to advertise.

Proverbs 18:16 says, your gifts will make room for you and put you before great men, which means your gifts will open doors for you and take you places you never thought you would go. God gave you gifts for kingdom work and if you do it well, God will use this to train and prepare you for your future. It's not too late for you to start and you're not too young or old. You never know where the Worship Box Ministry will take you, or what you can make it. There is never a small task, just small thinking.

**Close:**

“Christ has no body now on earth but yours,  
no hands but yours,  
no feet but yours,  
Yours are the eyes through which to look out  
Christ's compassion to the world  
Yours are the feet with which he is to go about  
doing good;  
Yours are the hands with which he is to bless men now.”  
— **St. Teresa of Avila**