

One-Liners . . . That Changed My Life!

48 ***“I think you have the gift of mercy.”***

The Holy Spirit was much in evidence during the widespread outbreak of faith in the late 1960's and early 1970's. It was life-changing when a friend took us to Dallas to hear Bill Gothard. Disjointed pieces of the puzzle finally began to fall into place.

Later, we attended a Gothard conference in Los Angeles devoted to understanding and identifying the gifts of the Holy Spirit. When someone said, ***“I think you have the gift of mercy”***, I rebelled, afraid it might destroy my career. I related the gift to a nurse in a white hat at the hospital and thought no-one would want a lawyer involved in labor relations, to have such a sensitive gift.

Yet, as I finally accepted God's gracious gift, I found it was a perfect fit, *if* I was not trying to win at all costs but rather to eliminate discord and bring a spirit of reconciliation and harmony into the workplace! When Ellie and I understood each other's gifts it helped resolve our differences and bring us even closer together. And seeing and understanding the spiritual gifts of other believers let us better appreciate and interact with them.

I gradually discovered the Body of Christ contains many gifts and each has a valuable part to play. When we listen to the Holy Spirit speaking through our own gifts and also through the gifts of others around us, we can stop playing a solo, or someone else's instrument, and begin to be a part of the great orchestra of God.

And when we do it in love—real harmony begins!

From Grandpa With Love

A Note From the Writer

Moving into my nineties caused me to reminisce. It was eye-opening to realize how much I had been changed by one-liners. I decided some of these might give others a new insight or a chuckle, so—enjoy! You can reproduce this material, provided the copies are complete, including this copyright note, and circulated free of charge. © 2017 Marvin J. Martin