11/8/2026

COMPETENCE IN SERVICE

"IF YOU'RE A DUCK, SWIM!" by Joe R. Barnett

The following parable was written by Charles Swindell:

> "A group of animals decided to improve their general welfare by starting a school. The curriculum included swimming, running, climbing, and flying.
> The duck, an excellent swimmer, was deficient in other areas; so he majored in climbing, running, and flying, much to the detriment of his swimming.
>
> The rabbit, a superior runner, was forced to spend too much time in other classes that he soon lost much of his famed speed.
>
> The squirrel, who had been rated 'A' as a climber, dropped to a 'C' because his instructors spent hours trying to teach him to swim and fly.
>
> And the eagle was disciplined for soaring to the treetop when he had been told to learn how to climb, even though flying was most natural for him."

This parable painfully portrays what often happens in the church. We each have a gift. Our gifts differ. Some of us try to do so many things we lose our effectiveness in our most gifted area. As a result, the body suffers.

Romans 12 exhorts us to use the gift we have. It shouldn't distress us that someone may do another thing better than we. If God made you a duck saint, you're a duck.
Swim, friend, swim like mad.
And don't get bent out of shape because you waddle when you run.
Running isn't your thing. But, boy, can you ever swim.

Another thing. If you're an eagle saint, stop expecting squirrel saints to fly like you do, or rabbit saints to build the kind of nest you do. They're doing their own thing, using their own gift.

Diversity of gifts makes the body effective.

11/8/2026

COMPETENCE IN SERVICE

"IF YOU'RE A DUCK, SWIM!" by Joe R. Barnett

The following parable was written by Charles Swindell:

> "A group of animals decided to improve their general welfare by starting a school. The curriculum included swimming, running, climbing, and flying.
> The duck, an excellent swimmer, was deficient in other areas; so he majored in climbing, running, and flying, much to the detriment of his swimming.
>
> The rabbit, a superior runner, was forced to spend too much time in other classes that he soon lost much of his famed speed.
>
> The squirrel, who had been rated 'A' as a climber, dropped to a 'C' because his instructors spent hours trying to teach him to swim and fly.
>
> And the eagle was disciplined for soaring to the treetop when he had been told to learn how to climb, even though flying was most natural for him."

This parable painfully portrays what often happens in the church. We each have a gift. Our gifts differ. Some of us try to do so many things we lose our effectiveness in our most gifted area. As a result, the body suffers.

Romans 12 exhorts us to use the gift we have. It shouldn't distress us that someone may do another thing better than we. If God made you a duck saint, you're a duck.
Swim, friend, swim like mad.
And don't get bent out of shape because you waddle when you run.
Running isn't your thing. But, boy, can you ever swim.

Another thing. If you're an eagle saint, stop expecting squirrel saints to fly like you do, or rabbit saints to build the kind of nest you do. They're doing their own thing, using their own gift.

Diversity of gifts makes the body effective.