**Many Talents**

**Now there are diversities of gifts, but there is only one Spirit.**

**And there are diversities of ministries, but there is only one Lord.**

***(1 Corinthians 12:4-5)***

# To each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit

**for the common good.**

***(1 Corinthians 12:7)***

**The List – Five athletes who became actors:**

**Richard Gere – College gymnastics scholarship**

**Louis Gossett Jr. – College basketball scholarship**

**Gene Autry – Offered pro baseball contract**

**Tommy Lee Jones – Champion polo player**

**Nick Nolte – Played college football (for five schools in four years).**

***(Norm Clarke, in Rocky Mountain News)***

**In addition to my job with a package-delivery company, I’m an emergency medical technician and volunteer firefighter. As I drove home from work one day, I heard a radio call about a woman in labor. I went to the address and, sizing up the situation, told the expectant mother, “You’re going to have this baby right here, in the living room.” The birth was perfect. After I announced she had a beautiful, healthy baby6 girl, the mother looked at me and saw the emblem on my shirt. “Oh, my gosh!” she gasped. “My baby was delivered by UPS!” *(Richard Williams, in Reader’s Digest)***

**In 1994, Michael Crichton became the only writer in history to have had the number one movie (Jurassic Park), the number one TV show (ER), and the number one book (Disclosure) simultaneously. Crichton was trained as both a physician and a physical anthropologist at Harvard University. *(Don Voorhees, in The Super Book of Useless Information, p. 205)***

**They created popular dishes:**

**Hidden Valley Ranch dressing – created by ex-plumber**

**Jell-O – by cough medicine manufacturer**

## Instant coffee – by English chemist living in Guatemala

**Marmalade – by doctor to Mary, Queen of Scots**

**Croissant – by Polish soldier**

**Baked Alaska – by American doctor. *(World Features Syndicate)***

**The very first detailed and accurate anatomical drawings were not done by a doctor or scientist, but by an artist, Leonardo da Vinci, who used cadavers to detail the functions of the human body and its organs. *(Omaha World-Herald)***

**Walking down the street, a dog saw a sign in an office window. “Help wanted. Must type 70 words a minute. Must be computer literate. Must be bilingual. An equal-opportunity employer.” The dog applied for the position, but he was quickly rebuffed. “I can’t hire a dog for this job,” the office manager said. But when the dog pointed to the line that read “An equal opportunity employer,” the office manager sighed and asked, “Can you type?” Silently, the dog walked over to a typewriter and flawlessly banged out a letter. “Can you operate a computer?” the manager inquired. The dog then sat down at a terminal, wrote a program and ran it perfectly. “Look, I still can’t hire a dog for this position,” said the exasperated office manager. “You have fine skills, but I need someone who’s bilingual. It says so right in the ad.” The dog looked up at the manager and said, “Meow.” *(Donald Weinstein, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Benjamin Franklin gave guitar lessons. *(Noel Botham, in The Best Book of Useless Information Ever, p. 175)***

**Benjamin Franklin attended school only between the ages of 8 and 10. That’s all it took to produce one of the wisest and most revered men in our history. George III called him “the most dangerous man in America.” We call him our answer to Leonardo da Vinci, the Universal Man. Ben could and did do just about everything worthwhile. He invented all kinds of things, including bifocals, the Franklin stove, the lightning rod, the rocking chair, the street lamp, and white duck clothing used in tropical climes. He also invented a glass harmonium or harmonica and Mozart and Beethoven composed music for it. He also organized the first circulating library, although it wasn’t free. And finally he organized a street-sweeping service in Philadelphia, charging each householder 6 pence per week for twice-a-week sweeping. *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 43)***

**The same person who led the attack on the Alamo, Mexican Military General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, is also credited with the invention of chewing gum. After retiring to Staten Island, New York, the general successfully commercialized a gum product developed from a wad of chicle (dried sap of the sapodilla tree) he brought with him. *(AOL Fabulous Facts, in Catholic Digest)***

**The Graham cracker was named after Sylvester Graham (1794-1851). A New England minister, Graham not only invented the cracker but also published a journal in Boston that took a rabid stand against tea, coffee, feather beds, and women’s corsets. *(David Louis, in Fascinating Facts, p. 125)***

**Although one of Thomas Jefferson’s first loves was farming, his mind roamed the world of ideas. There have been hundreds of books chronicling the major events of his life: born April 13, 1743, to an aristocratic Virginia plantation family; married widow Martha Wayles Skelton in 1772; wrote the Declaration of Independence in 1776; became governor of Virginia in 1779; minister to France in 1785; secretary of state in 1789; vice president of the U.S. in 1796; U.S. president in 1801; founded and designed the University of Virginia in 1819; died at Monticello in 1826. (*Margaret Carlin, in Rocky Mountain News)***

**The man who invented Jell-O ran for president. Can you name him? Peter Cooper. He also made hats, brewed beer, built coaches, designed the first commercial American steam locomotive (the “Tom Thumb”), helped lay the first Atlantic cable and founded the renowned Cooper Union for free education in arts and sciences. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**James Joyce, the great Irish author, was a man of many talents. He had an expert’s knowledge of music, was a gifted tenor, a student of medicine; he was prepared to launch a large daily newspaper but was dissuaded; he owned a movie theater and was active in the legitimate theater. T.S. Elliott called him the greatest master of the English language since Milton. *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 38)***

**Abraham Lincoln was a licensed bartender. *(Russ Edwards & Jack Kreismer, in The Bathroom Trivia Digest, p. 61)***

**Charles Lindbergh was instrumental in the development of a method for preserving human tissue outside the body. He co-authored a book on the subject, The Culture of Organs, with the French scientist Alexis Carrel. Lindbergh was also among the first to perfect a mechanical heart, a pumping apparatus that supplied blood to organs to keep them alive outside the body. *(David Louis, in Fascinating Facts, p. 129)***

**Glenn Miller graduated from Fort Morgan High School in 1921. In 1920, the Fort Morgan Maroons football team won the Northeastern Conference championship and Miller was acclaimed by some as “best left end in Colorado.” He was offered a football scholarship to Colorado State College of Education in Greeley, now the University of Northern Colorado. Miller even considered becoming a football coach. *(Rebecca Jones, in Rocky Mountain News)***

**Clement C. Moore was a teacher of classical languages. In the course of his career, he published a Hebrew dictionary and was a major benefactor of the General Theological Seminary in New York City. But it is not for the seminary or his dictionary that he is remembered. It is for a set of verses dashed off in 1822 in an hour of yuletide inspiration – verses that he stuffed away as if of no importance. The magic lines begin: “’Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house. . . .” They never brought Moore a penny, but they did bring him immortality. *(Dale Turner, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Fourth-largest blue marlin ever hooked weighed 1,358 pounds. The fisherman was some golfer named Jack Nicklaus. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**What do revolutionary Che Guevara and clairvoyant Nostradamus have in common? Both had careers as doctors. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 240)***

**Occupations of eight inventors:**

* **Kentucky bourbon whiskey – Baptist minister**
* **Coffee percolator – Archbishop of Paris**
* **Tabasco sauce – a banker**
* **Hansom cab – an architect**
* **Phosphorous match – a shoemaker**
* **Anagrams – a schoolteacher**
* **Roller skates – a musical instrument maker. *(World Features Syndicate)***

**The people behind office-product inventions:**

* **Liquid paper -- an American secretary**
* **Paper clip – a Norwegian patent clerk**
* **Fax machine – a Scottish clock maker**
* **Lewis Waterman fountain pen – an American insurance salesman**
* **Pencil sharpener – a French mathematician**
* **Ballpoint pen – a Hungarian journalist**
* **Eraser head – an English chemist. *(World Features Syndicate)***

**Talent does you no good unless it’s recognized by someone else. *(Robert Half, employment guru)***

**Did you know Theodore Roosevelt also was a movie actor? Teddy played himself in a one-reeler in 1908. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Aside from writing 38 plays and composing 154 sonnets, Shakespeare was also an actor who performed many of his own plays as well as those of other playwrights. *(Noel Botham, in The Best Book of Useless Information Ever, p. 194)***

**Child-care guru Dr. Benjamin Spock won the 1924 Olympic gold medal in rowing. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 240)***

**Mel Blanc did the voices for Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, Foghorn Leghorn, Sylvester the Cat, Tweety Bird, Woody Woodpecker, Porky Pig, Yosemite Sam, Pepe LePew, Speedy Gonzales, the Tasmanian Devil, Marvin the Martian, Wile E. Coyote, Mr. Spacely, Frito Bandito, Barney Rubble, and Dino the Dinosaur. He also did vocal effects for Tom Cat and Jerry Mouse. *(Don Voorhees, in The Indispensable Book of Useless Information, p. 47)***

**Walt Whitman served for three years in the Civil War . . . as a nurse. (*Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Wise Up!, p. 240)***

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