

# 1 Corinthians 12:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?

## Analysis

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**If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?**—Paul personifies body-parts to dramatize gift-envy. The foot's complaint—"I'm not a hand, therefore I don't belong"—exposes faulty logic: difference doesn't equal deficiency. The rhetorical question expects an obvious "No!"—the foot's self-assessment doesn't alter its membership.

This addresses believers who feel inferior because they lack prestigious gifts. The Corinthian who cannot speak in tongues might conclude, "I'm not truly spiritual; I don't really belong." Paul declares such thinking absurd—the Spirit's sovereign gifting determines membership and function, not self-perception or others' evaluation. The foot isn't malfunctioning; it's fulfilling precisely the role the head (Christ) designed. Its value derives not from being a hand but from being a foot—perfectly suited for walking, while the hand cannot.

## Historical Context

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Lower-class Corinthian Christians, lacking education or oratorical skill, might feel marginalized in worship gatherings dominated by the wealthy and articulate. Paul affirms their indispensable value despite lacking high-status gifts.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. When have you felt like the 'foot' wishing you were the 'hand'—envying others' gifts?
2. How does understanding God's sovereign gifting combat feelings of spiritual inadequacy?
3. What practical steps can churches take to help 'foot' Christians feel as valued as 'hand' Christians?

## Interlinear Text

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Ἐὰν	εἴπῃ	ό	πούς	Ὅτι	οὐκ	εἰμὶ	χείρ	οὐκ	εἰμὶ
If	shall say	G3588	the foot	Because	not	I am	the hand	not	I am
G1437	G2036		G4228	G3754	G3756	G1510	G5495	G3756	G1510

ἐκ	τοῦ	σώματος	οὐκ	παρὰ	τοῦτο	οὐκ	ἔστιν	ἐκ
of	G3588	the body	not	it therefore	G5124	not	is	of
G1537		G4983	G3756	G3844		G3756	G2076	G1537

τοῦ σώματος  
G3588 the body  
G4983

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