

THE SPIRITUALIZER

(The “Spiritualizer” is a large box with a protruding hose and a dial or meter that is movable from the inside. It is placed in the chancel area. One person needs to be in/behind the box to control the meter.)

Characters:

#1: Loud, somewhat obnoxious, highly confident Christian (Brad Dean)

#2: Somewhat soft-spoken, inquisitive Christian (Patrick Miles)

#3: Quiet/silent/prayerful/grateful Christian (Roger Knopf)

#4: Someone to stand behind the Spiritualizer and work the lever (Brad Hilleary)

(#1 comes down the center aisle, a Bible in one hand, a church bulletin in the other.)

#1: All right! Time for worship! And I’m ready, after my morning men’s prayer breakfast and my Sunday School class. Boy breakfast was great today! I think that was the longest prayer I’ve ever prayed! Too bad we had to wake some of the guys up. And Sunday School was okay, but I’m not sure about that teacher. After I had to correct him for the third time on how to pronounce “Abimelech” I’m starting to wonder how much he really knows about the Bible. I’m sure I could do a lot better job—maybe I’ll ask the pastor if he’ll get that guy to step down so I can take over...*(Looks at bulletin)* Let’s see what’s happening this morning... Oh man, not another hymn that I don’t know! I guess I’ll have to talk to Pastor about that too. Boy, this place would just go to pieces if I wasn’t around.

(Notices Spiritualizer)

Hey, what’s this?

(Walks up to Spiritualizer and reads “directions” on the outside)

“The Acme Spiritualizer 2000...Find out how much you are under the influence of the Holy Spirit. Simply blow into the hose and the dial will show you how much the Holy Spirit is a part of your heart and your life.”

Wow, pretty cool! They must have brought this in just for me, so I could show the rest of these spiritual midgets what a Spirit-filled person really looks like! I hope they kept the receipt, because after I blow that meter right off the scale they’re probably going to want to take it back!
(Blows into the hose. The meter quivers and then returns to zero. He blows harder, and the same thing happens. He keeps blowing until he collapses on the floor—the needle never going more than a small distance.)

(In a huff) Boy, it’s just like this place to buy some piece of new equipment and not check it out first to see if it works! What a piece of junk! *(He stomps off the stage)*

(#2 comes down the aisle while reading his/her Bible)

#2: Wow, since I've joined this church a couple of weeks ago and joined that small group, I can't believe what I've already learned! Who knew that this book contained all these great stories and all of these great instructions about how to live like Jesus wants us to. The other night we were reading this passage from 1 Corinthians where it lists all of these gifts that the Holy Spirit gives to people. I must admit, I never thought I was gifted at anything until I started hanging around here. And I've been reading ahead to see what story we're going to hear this morning, and it's a fantastic story about the Holy Spirit coming down like wind and fire and bringing everyone together... . Now I just need to figure out how to use my gifts to help other people, and how to work with all of these other wonderful people I've met here. I think that might be what the Bible means when it says that I'm now a part of the "body of Christ".

(Notices Spiritualizer and goes up and silently reads the directions)

Boy, they never told me about this in the new member class! I guess I still have a lot to learn about what you might find in a church!

(Looks around, as if to see if anyone is watching, then blows into the hose. The needle rises about halfway).

Gosh, that's pretty good! Just think what I'll be able to do next time, when I've figured all this "Holy Spirit" stuff out a little more!

(#2 leaves stage, still reading his/her Bible)

(#3 comes down center aisle silently, pausing to hug and shake hands with people. At one point, he/she pauses, takes out a band aid and puts it on a person's arm. To another person, he/she takes out a cookie and gives it to them. As he/she reaches the front, he/she kneels at the prayer rail to pray silently. Then he/she proceeds up to the altar, pausing to look up at the cross and raising hands to it. He/she notices the Spiritualizer, reads the directions, blows into the hose, and the needle goes to the top. He/she smiles sheepishly and leaves the stage, pausing to put an offering envelope in the plate near the ramp.)