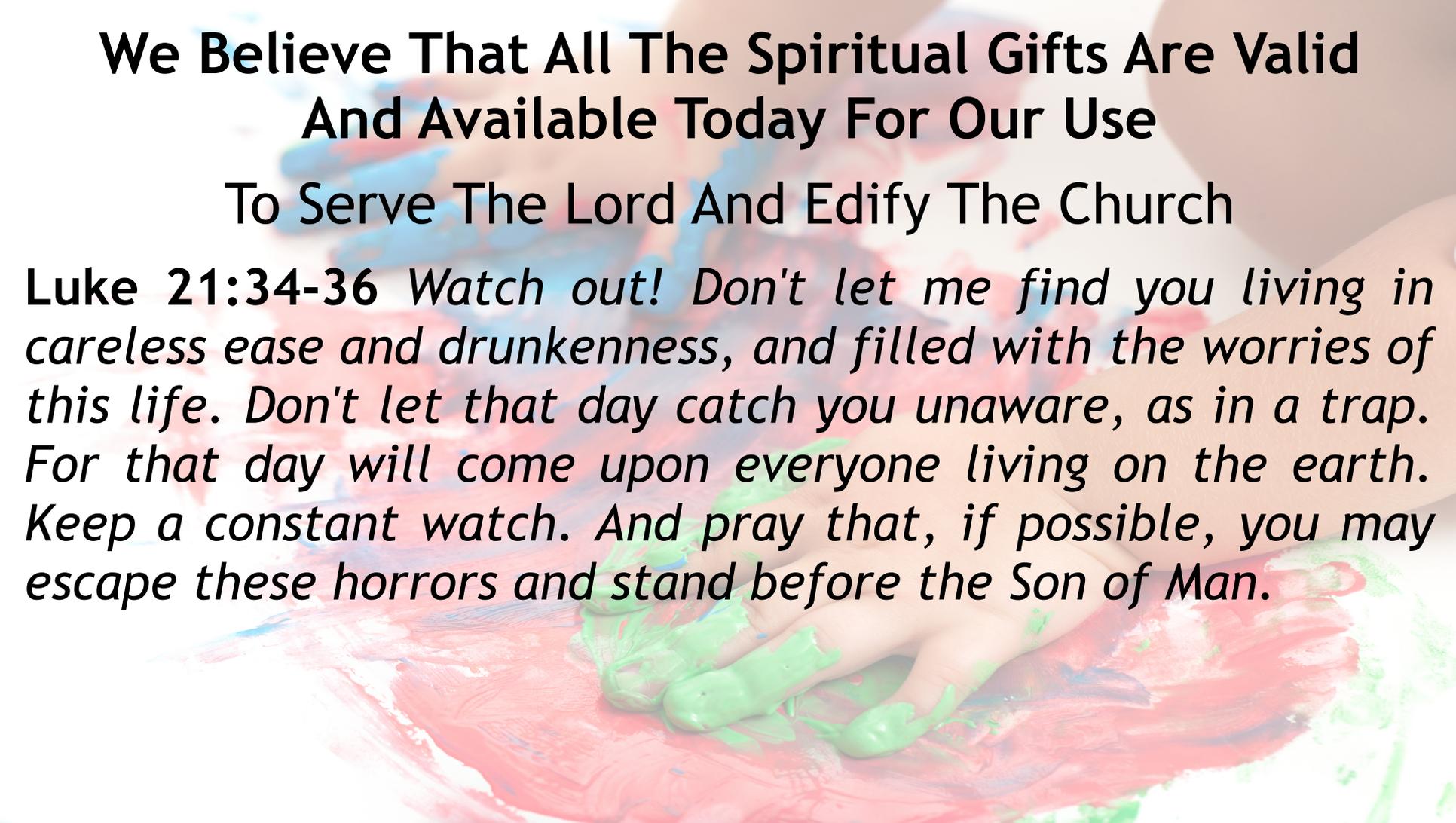




THE MESSY GIFTS

1 CORINTHIANS 12:7



**We Believe That All The Spiritual Gifts Are Valid
And Available Today For Our Use**

To Serve The Lord And Edify The Church

Luke 21:34-36 Watch out! Don't let me find you living in careless ease and drunkenness, and filled with the worries of this life. Don't let that day catch you unaware, as in a trap. For that day will come upon everyone living on the earth. Keep a constant watch. And pray that, if possible, you may escape these horrors and stand before the Son of Man.

The Messy Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:1-6

Now, dear brothers and sisters, regarding your question about the special abilities the Spirit gives us. I don't want you to misunderstand this. 2 You know that when you were still pagans, you were led astray and swept along in worshiping speechless idols. 3 So I want you to know that no one speaking by the Spirit of God will curse Jesus, and no one can say Jesus is Lord, except by the Holy Spirit. 4 There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. 5 There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. 6 God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.

The Messy Gifts

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. 8 To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. 9 The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. 10 He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. 11 It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have(NLT).

Our Lives Are Transformed BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 Now there are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but it is the same Holy Spirit who is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service in the church, but it is the same Lord we are serving. There are different ways God works in our lives, but it is the same God who does the work through all of us. A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church.

God creates AMAZING DIVERSITY in the church and with so much diversity, ESSENTIAL to our success is our UNITY!

I. SPIRITUAL GIFTS

A spiritual gift is a special empowerment by the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:11 *But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills (NKJV).*

Spiritual gifts are given to us by God for edification of the church

Spiritual Gifts are discovered. Every believer who has received the Holy Spirit when they were first believed and received Jesus as Savior and Lord.

The Gifts Are Received Not Achieved

- (1) One of the ways we can discern Spirit-gifted people from the fake people is whether they confess Jesus as Lord (vv. 1-3) and by the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-24)
- (2) All the gifts come from the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (vv. 4-6).
- (3) All Christians have at least one gift (v. 7 a).
- (4) Gifts are ALWAYS for the building up, edification of the church (v. 7).
- (5) There is amazing diversity yet always with unity (vv. 8-10).
- (6) The gifts are given as the Spirit determines (v. 11).

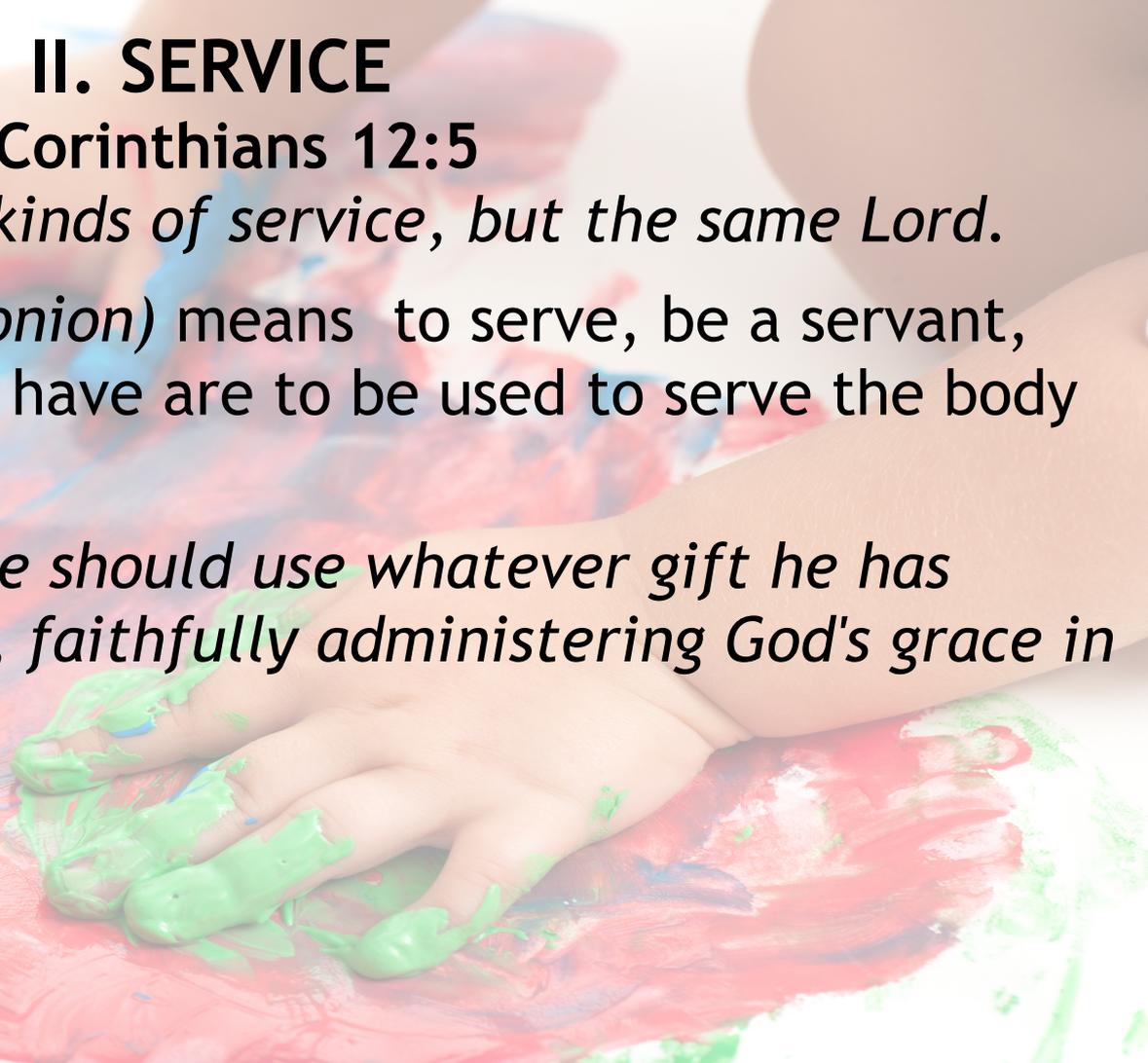
II. SERVICE

1 Corinthians 12:5

There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.

The term "*service*" (*Diakonion*) means to serve, be a servant, do ministry. The gifts we have are to be used to serve the body of Christ.

1 Peter 4:10-11 Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms...



III. WORKINGS

1 Corinthians 12:6 *There are different kinds of workings but the same God works all of them in all men.*

The Gifts Are Purposed By God For Specific Reasons

1 Corinthians 12:7 *A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church.*

