



1 CORINTHIANS 12:1-11

Community Group Study Guide Week of July 21, 2019

This week we looked at the first half of 1 Corinthians 12 where Paul continues his plea for unity and diversity in the Body of Christ by helping the Corinthians better understand the purpose and diversity of the Spiritual Gifts. God creates every person with natural gifts, talents, and abilities that make them more adept in some areas than others. When a person becomes a Christian, however, they are also given "Spiritual Gifts" that make them adept at serving the Body of Christ in specific ways. In this passage, Paul highlights the Spiritual Gifts of wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miraculous powers, prophecy, discernment, tongues and interpretation.

To modern Bostonians, this list might seem strange and archaic, but most Christians can testify to witnessing these gifts in others, and having them ourselves. Scripture teaches that every Christian is Spiritually Gifted, but also that it's possible through sin or neglect to grieve or quench the Holy Spirit's power in our lives. If we're not fully experiencing this Spiritual Gifting from God, we should search our hearts, repent of sin, and as Paul taught Timothy, "fan into flame" the gifts that we've been given. One final reason that many Christians don't fully experience these gifts today, is because they are isolated from the Body of Christ. The assumption of Scripture is that these gifts are used in the context of Christian community. For us to exercise our Spiritual Gifts, and for us to be blessed by the gifts of others, we need to be joined to a local Church and a close community of Christians who are committed to living out the Gospel and Mission of Jesus Christ.

It's important to note that having a Spiritual Gift does not mean having the ability to wield it anytime on command. The power is not from us, but from the Holy Spirit. The gifts are not for us alone, but are ultimately given for us to bless others and draw attention to Jesus and the Gospel. God is still sovereign and our gifts must be humbly used in submission to His will. This means that a person may have the gift of Wisdom, but that does not guarantee everything they ever think or say will be wise. A person may have the gift of healing, but that does not mean God will always heal when they ask. Many televangelists and traveling con artist "faith healers" have counterfeited these gifts in order to take advantage of people in need. This is a tragic evil mockery of the truth. The proper use of these gifts will always be done in humility, motivated by love, and used for the sake of building up the Church in its mission to advance the Gospel and glorify Jesus Christ.

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

To understand the purpose and proper use of Spiritual Gifts.

Heart

To discern how God has gifted us and "fan into flame" the Spiritual Gifts we've been given.

Hands

To use our gifts to bless those we are in community with for the sake of building up their faith and advancing the Gospel.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership or Baptism:

Contact
admin@mosaicboston.com to sign up for our next membership class or learn more about baptism.

Mosaic JP:

Please keep Mosaic JP and other faithful Boston church plants in your prayers. If your CG would like to serve Mosaic JP together on a Sunday please contact
andy@mosaicboston.com.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

- Many churches have abused the Spiritual gifts, and many con artists have counterfeited them to swindle people out of money (i.e. faith healers). In response, other churches have thrown these gifts out and taught that they no longer exist in the church today. How has your background shaped the way you think about Spiritual Gifts? Did the sermon this week change or challenge your understanding of the Spiritual Gifts in any way?
- We tend to think about gifts as things we receive for our personal enjoyment, but Paul says the Spiritual Gifts are given for “the common good.” How does this help us better understand the purpose and proper use of these spiritual gifts?
- The Holy Spirit’s desire in gifting Christians is to empower them to serve one another for the common good (v7), but ultimately to do so in a way that draws attention to the reality that “Jesus is Lord” (v3). How does this also help us better understand the purpose and proper use of these spiritual gifts?
- What would an improper use of the Spiritual Gifts look like, and how should we respond when we see someone misuse or abuse the Spiritual Gifts?
- Are there any gifts on this list that you’ve seen present in yourself or that others have noticed in you?
- Why is it important to know that every Christian is Spiritually Gifted, but also that not every Christian has all or the same Spiritual gifts? How should this shape the way we view and live in community?
- Scripture tells us that we can grieve the Spirit (Eph 4:30), quench the Spirit (1 Thes 5:19), but also “fan into flame” the gifts the Spirit has given us (2 Tim 1:6). How do we grieve or quench the Spirit; how do we fan our gifts into flame? How should these passages shape the way we view our spiritual gifts?
- What other comments or questions did you have about the text or sermon? Was there anything else that really stood out, convicted, challenged or encouraged you?