

serving/helps
admin
mercy
giving
teaching
exhortation
apostleship
leadership/ruling
pastor
evangelist
prophecy
gifts of tongues
interpretation of tongues
intercession
faith
discernment of spirits
healing
works of power
words of knowledge/wisdom
celibacy

spiritual gifts

there are different
kinds of gifts, but
the same Spirit
distributes them

1 CORINTHIANS 12:4

Sunday March 31st

LET'S TALK:

Take time for each member to share something they learned from examining the Scriptures about their own particular spiritual gift(s).

As the last two gifts in this series were described in the sermon, which one(s) did you find you now understand better? In what ways?

GO TO THE WORD:

Read 1 Corinthians 7:5, 32-34

Chastity is a form of fasting and it is a spiritual discipline that we're all invited to practice. In the beginning of this chapter Paul refers to the discipline of chastity and later in the chapter, about his spiritual gift of celibacy. In what ways are these different? In your experience, how you have seen this gift build the body of Christ and bring glory to His name?

Read Matthew 5:11 and 1 Peter 4:12-16.

Discuss the meaning of these passages. Jon said "this decade has been the highest level of persecution in church history", and yet what encouragement or strengthening do you receive from these texts and from the example of Jesus' martyrdom?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27.

Using the illustration of the human body, what is Paul teaching about the various members of Christ's body? There are many gifts but one purpose for them, what is it? Does this passage challenge how you have perceived those with particular gifts? In what way?

WHAT NOW:

Read through these helpful definitions. Do you find yourself resonating with one or more of these gifts? Who else do you know has these gifts?

Celibacy is the special ability that God gives to certain members of the Body of Christ to remain single and enjoy it; to be unmarried and not suffer undue sexual temptation. Definition by C. Peter Wagner.

The gift of martyrdom is the special ability to undergo suffering for the faith even to death while constantly displaying a joyous and victorious attitude that brings glory to God.

As you look around the group, do you have at least a preliminary idea of the gifting of each individual? What are some of the ways you can see your group welcoming gifts as some of the members are working at exercising their giftings?

PRAY:

Pray that your group and our church is a place where every gift and every believer is a vital part of the body of Christ. Pray for each member to discover the gifts God has given them and to use them to edify others.

BEFORE NEXT TIME, ON YOUR OWN:

LOVE Gifts manifest the love of God in practical ways.

WORD Gifts clarify the nature, action, and purposes of God.

POWER Gifts demonstrate the power, presence and reality of God.

Recall a time in your past when you disagreed with a fellow believer and it created a rift between you. Knowing what you know now about spiritual gifts, was the disagreement caused or elevated because of gift tension? What steps can you take towards reconciliation?

Read Ephesians 3:14-21.

Read this amazing prayer several times. Notice the Trinity working together for you and for the Church. Think about your experience of the width, length, height, and depth of Jesus' love. Ask for whatever His Spirit brings to mind, confident that He will always do more, better, beyond what we can imagine.