

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 February 3rd

### LET'S TALK:

During the last meeting together the group was to select a spiritual discipline to practice. Take time for each member to share thoughts and feelings about their experience.

### GO TO THE WORD:

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-3.

Spiritual experiences should not be dismissed or ignored but reflected on, so as to understand it's source - human, demonic, or godly. According to these verses, what is Paul's advice to the church about examining spiritual experiences?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-7.

Discuss what these verses tell us about the presence and use of spiritual gifts and their ultimate purpose.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-20.

Jesus is the head of the Church and as the church, we are the body. The body is a complex organism with cells that are interdependent. How is this image helpful in understanding God's design for the church community?

Read Romans 12:3-8.

This passage mentions various spiritual gifts but it offers directions on how to use some gifts. Discuss why the motives and attitude behind the use of spiritual gifts matters.

Read Galatians 5:22-23.

Gifts are primarily related to what we do, while the fruits are about development of our character. An individual will not have all of the spiritual gifts but every person is called to have all the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Discuss.

## **WHAT NOW:**

C4 partners globally with Christian organizations in India, Uganda and Bangladesh. In what ways do Christians there need you?

In what ways do you need Christians there?

Do you currently think that because of your gifts, age, race, gender, education, or experience you are somehow better than other Christians? This is a motive question. If you are willing for God to set you free so you can have joy in serving, repent.

Do you think you are lesser in the Body of Christ? Or are you full of anger, jealousy, and resentment towards God or others who have stronger versions of your gifts, or a different gift you would prefer? Surrender your gifts fully to Him then, you will find joy.

Spiritual gifts are for the common good. Take a moment to consider what do other believers receive and what good comes into their lives because of your role in the body of Christ?

Every gift is indispensable. You are indispensable. Do you struggle to believe and accept this?

## **PRAY:**

Pray and thank God for being the giver of all gifts. Ask God to give each of you the gifts He wants you to have and ask Him to lead you in using the gifts He gives. Lastly, pray for the character of humility and love so the gifts are made right and used rightly.

## **BEFORE NEXT TIME, ON YOUR OWN:**

There is no central passage in the New Testament where all the gifts are mentioned, and sometimes spiritual gifts are described differently. How many specific gifts can you identify in 1 Corinthians 12:8-11?

As you read through this list of gifts, are there any that make you feel uncomfortable? Why?

Read 1 Corinthians 13. Why do you think Paul wrote this passage on relating to one another immediately after writing about spiritual gifts?

Use 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 as a prayer, inviting God to transform and develop you to be more like Him.

Read Chapter 6 from 'Convergence' by Jon Thompson