

Spiritual Gifts – Part 2
David Jett | July 19, 2026
1 Corinthians 12:12 – 13:13

“Thou shalt not do at all what others do badly.”

1 Corinthians 14:1a (ESV) — Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts ...

The word, “Pursue”, is our first imperative/command...

διώκω (dioko) – to do something with intense effort and with definite purpose or goal—‘to do with effort, to strive toward.’

Pursue – “To do something with intense effort and with a definite purpose or goal”

We must each pursue to walk in God’s Love.

The phrase, “Earnestly desire”, is our second imperative/command...

ζηλώω (zaloo) – to be deeply committed to something, with the implication of accompanying desire—‘to be earnest, to set one’s heart on, to be completely intent upon.’

Earnestly desire – “To be deeply committed to something, with the implication of accompanying desire.”

We must each be deeply committed to expressing Spiritual Gifts.

In today’s message we are going to learn how the Holy Spirit teaches each of us to understand the Body, our Part within the Body, and how, when exercised correctly, the Body becomes an unstoppable force.

UNITY – We are one body

1 Corinthians 12:12–13 (ESV) — For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

When a person gives their life to Jesus, the Holy Spirit plunges that person into the Body of Christ.

The Spirit is the adhesive glue that binds us together as one.

Romans 8:9b (ESV) — ... Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

This UNITY takes effort... It doesn’t come naturally.

Our sinful nature wants control and comfort.

Ephesians 4:3 (NLT) — Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace.

Our unity isn't built around language, culture, skin color, social standing, personality, or skill set. It's built around ONE Spirit.

UNITY – We are one body

DIVERSITY – We each have unique functions

1 Corinthians 12:14–20 (ESV) — For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

1 Corinthians 12:18 (ESV) — But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.

HUMILITY – We need each other

1 Corinthians 12:21–24 (ESV) — The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it,

Philippians 2:3–4 (ESV) — Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

NECESSITY – We must all work together

1 Corinthians 12:24b–26 (ESV) — ... But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

1 Peter 4:10 (ESV) — As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace:

INTEGRITY – Wholeness must guide Effectiveness

1 Corinthians 13:1–3 (ESV) — If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Our gifts are only whole when the inner character of Christ matches the outer expression of the gift.

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1 Corinthians 13:4–7 (ESV) — Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Verses 1–3: gifts without the inner character of Christ — hollow, noisy, nothing. Verses 4–7: the inner character of Christ finally finding its outward expression. Integrity is what happens when those two come together.

Colossians 3:12–14 (NLT) — Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.

Love isn't one more virtue on the list. It's what holds the list together.

1 Corinthians 14:1a (ESV) — Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts ...

Are you pursuing the Love of Jesus with all your heart?

Does the Love of God flow through you?

Do you earnestly desire the Gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow through you?