

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Understanding Spiritual Gifts

Key Takeaways:

1. The Holy Spirit's gifts are for unity and edification of the church body.
2. Spiritual gifts should always point to Jesus and align with Scripture.
3. God distributes spiritual gifts as He wills, not based on our desires.
4. Balance, self-control, and discernment are crucial in understanding spiritual gifts.

Discussion Questions:

1. What stood out to you most from the sermon? Why?
2. The pastor mentioned two extreme views on spiritual gifts: *cessationism* and *sensationalism*. Have you encountered either of these views? How do you think we can maintain a balanced approach?
3. How does the idea that spiritual gifts are meant to unify the church body challenge or encourage you?
4. The sermon emphasized that spiritual gifts should always point to Jesus. Can you think of examples where you've seen gifts used appropriately or inappropriately in this regard?
5. Which of the spiritual gifts mentioned (wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment, tongues, interpretation) intrigues you most? Why?
6. How can we cultivate an environment in our church where people feel free to use their spiritual gifts without falling into division or competition?
7. The pastor said, "Nothing the Spirit does will cause division." How can we apply this principle when we encounter disagreements about spiritual gifts in the church?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, reflect on how God might be gifting you to serve the church. Pray for discernment and openness to His will.
2. Practice extending grace to fellow believers who may have different views or experiences with spiritual gifts than you do.
3. Look for opportunities to encourage others in their spiritual gifts, focusing on how their gifts edify the body and glorify Christ.
4. Study the passages mentioned in the sermon (Romans 12:6-8, Ephesians 4:11, 1 Peter 4:9-11) for a more comprehensive understanding of spiritual gifts.
5. If you're uncertain about spiritual gifts, commit to learning more through prayer, study, and conversations with mature believers.

Closing Prayer:

Lord, thank you for the gift of Your Holy Spirit and the ways You empower us to serve Your church. Help us to seek unity, exercise discernment, and always point to Jesus in how we use our gifts. Give us wisdom to recognize and appreciate the diverse ways You work through each member of the body. Pour out your Spirit upon us. In Jesus' name, Amen.