

## **A More Excellent Way - Week 1**

### **The Giver, the Gifts, and the Goal**

#### **Opening Truth**

We are a Spirit-filled, Pentecostal church. We believe in the gifts of the Spirit, healing, prophecy, tongues, and the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. And we want God to move.

#### **1. The Gifts Come From the Same Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:4-6)**

Same Spirit. Same Lord. Same God.

- Spiritual gifts are given, not earned.
- Different gifts do not mean different value.
- God is at work in everyone.

Reflection: Where have you seen God working differently in others than in yourself?

#### **2. The Gifts Are Given for the Common Good (1 Corinthians 12:7)**

Spiritual gifts are not for personal status or self-expression, but for the common good.

Biblical filters for healthy spiritual expression:

- Does this help the church?
- Does this strengthen faith?
- Does this encourage someone?
- Does this bring clarity?

Spiritual gifts are tools, not trophies.

#### **3. The Spirit Decides Who Gets What (1 Corinthians 12:11)**

The Holy Spirit distributes gifts as He determines.

No one carries every gift. We need each other.

#### **4. Paul Affirms the Gifts - Then Points to Something Greater (1 Corinthians 12:31)**

Desire the gifts — but learn to walk in them in a more excellent way. Gifts are important, but they are not the destination.

### **Closing Summary**

- The gifts come from God
- They are given for the common good
- The Spirit decides who gets what
- We need each other to be whole
- There is a more excellent way

**Next week: 1 Corinthians 13-Love is the foundation that keeps spiritual power healthy.**