

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.