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**Series: People in Step with the Spirit**  
**Message: Gifts of the Spirit – What They Are**

**Transcribed Message**  
**February 3, 2019**  
**1 Corinthians 12:1-7**

If I'm reading in my New Testament correctly, there are at least six different times that the apostle Paul, as he writes to different groups of people, says he does not want them to be uninformed, that he does not want them to be unaware of some specific area of doctrine and truth. In fact, it would be a perfectly good translation to say he does not want us to be ignorant about something. In Romans 11 he says he does not want us to be ignorant about the hardness of the heart of the Jewish people. In 1 Corinthians chapter 10 he doesn't want us to be ignorant about the baptism of Moses. In 2 Corinthians 1 he doesn't want us to be ignorant about the afflictions that he's suffering and about the faithfulness of God to him. In 1 Thessalonians 4 he doesn't want believers to be unaware, to be uninformed about what happens when a believer dies. They were confused. They were concerned. They were anxious. Paul says I don't want you to be unaware of this. In 2 Corinthians chapter 2 and verse 11 he says I don't want you to be unaware about the things that Satan is doing to really obstruct and limit the work of God in your life. We have a number of times that Paul uses this terminology and as you noted as we just read in 1 Corinthians 12 he said that here as well. He says I do not want you to be uninformed about spiritual gifts.

I wonder how many of us this morning could answer with a good deal of confidence the question what is or what are your spiritual gifts. Paul, writing to the believers at Corinth hundreds of years ago, said to them I don't want you to be ignorant about these things. Here we are, as the people of God and we have God's Word in our own language. We have many opportunities to be informed about this specific area of spiritual gifts. Hopefully, before we're done over the few weeks that are there before us, we will be able to perhaps offer with a greater confidence what it is that we believe our spiritual gift or gifts are.

We're coming to the point in our study this morning on the doctrine of the Holy Spirit, the person and work of the Holy Spirit, where probably there are more differences of opinion than in all of the 16 other studies that we've done together with the possible exception of the baptism of the Spirit. So we get to dive into some stuff that unfortunately and sadly has probably divided the church more than it has been an instrument of uniting the church. But that's not going to be true of us because we're going to agree right now to disagree in an agreeable way. If we disagree, so be it, but we're going to do it in an agreeable way. We're going to keep loving each other. My promise to you is, as I have made on many other occasions, when we are in heaven I will not say to you I told you so. You know that. That is my heart. I may smile at you and you may know what I'm smiling about, but I will not say those words.

This morning, spiritual gifts. They are not so much for the sake of the saint (singular) as they are for the sake of the saints (plural). Let's begin with a quick review. If you've been at Covenant very long you know I love to do reviews. It is not that I think you forget any of this stuff. It just keeps me reminded of these things. A quick review. And we began with Point A. because Jesus left. Because He ascended, the Holy Spirit came. In fact, He said that in the Upper Room, didn't He? He said if I don't go, if I don't leave you, the Holy Spirit is not going to come. We have this huge blessing of the Holy Spirit coming because Jesus said I'm going to ascend to the Father.

Secondly, because the Spirit came, we are now indwelt. Jesus said on that same occasion that the Holy Spirit is not only with you right now, but He is going to be in you. Because Jesus ascended to the Father and sent the Holy Spirit, He is not only with us but this amazing transformative truth is He's within us.

Then point C. Because we are indwelt, we can carry on God's mission. That's what we want to see this morning. None of us is as good as all of us. That's kind of the gist of where we're going for the next few weeks. So let's begin with the most basic place that we can start and that is what is a spiritual gift. What is a spiritual gift? To get a handle on this, I want to start off by having us recognize some distinctions that probably will help us to see Scripture more clearly in this regard.

The first one is to realize that there is something called the gift of the Spirit. Singular. The gift of the Spirit. The gift of the Spirit is simply looking forward to what we

just talked about. Jesus ascending and the Spirit coming. It looks forward to Pentecost. It looked forward to the truth of the indwelling Holy Spirit. When we think of what Peter said in Acts 2:38, he said if you will believe, you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. That was the promise that God had made. So in fact we can say that there is singular, a gift, that is the Holy Spirit. Other places in the New Testament talk about salvation being a gift, the Holy Spirit being a gift. We start off by saying in one sense if we have believed and put our trust in Christ, we have received the gift. The gift. The gift of all gifts. The gift of salvation and the person of the Holy Spirit of God living within us.

The second thing that we would acknowledge is there are gifts of the Spirit. Plural. There are gifts of the Spirit. This is what is in view in Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4 and 1 Peter 4. It's really easy to remember the doctrine of spiritual gifts because there are two 12's and two 4's. Romans 12. 1 Corinthians 12. Ephesians 4. 1 Peter 4. So sometime in the future when somebody says something about spiritual gifts you say, oh, you mean what Paul said in Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4 and 1 Peter 4. They'll go woah! And then you can confess your sin of pride and go on into the discussion. But it's really easy to remember because those are the four passages that talk about spiritual gifts. Lord willing, we'll look at these as we go forward.

So we have the interesting fact that this phrase that we use – spiritual gifts – doesn't actually appear in the Bible. We have supplied that word “gifts”. Let me show you why we've done that. There are three Greek words that are used in these four different passages to talk about spiritual gifts. The first one is *pneumatikos*. *Pneumatikos*. *Pneuma*. Spirit. Spiritual things. Spiritual matters. When you get into the context of 1 Corinthians 12:1, he is talking about spiritual gifts. When we read in the English Standard Version “now concerning spiritual gifts” the word “gifts” has been supplied by the translator. It is not actually a part of the text but the context tells us that.

The second word is in verse 4 of this same chapter and it is the word *charismaton*. *Charismaton*. You know that word. It is the word for grace. *Charis*. This is why we can refer to spiritual gifts as being grace gifts. They're the *charismaton*, and in that sense we have grace gifts that have been given to us. We get the word charismatic from this word *charismaton*. When we use the word as we do (charismatic), we're really

most of the time limiting in our mind what that word is referencing. In the Greek, it is all of the gifts are *charismaton*. All of the gifts are charismatic gifts. It would be perfectly accurate if someone were to ask are you a charismatic, wherever you are on that spectrum, all of us should say yes. Yes, I am. If they ask if Covenant Community Church is a charismatic church, technically you should say yes, it is. Now you might want to explain further what you mean by that when you say that, but in the sense of which this is being given to us, it is talking about the grace gifts, those charismatic gifts. So in that sense we're all charismatic.

True story. When Bonnie and I moved here in '91, I got a phone call in the office one day. The guy wanted to talk about our church and I love talking about our church and especially talking to people about what we believe and how we do things. We don't get very many calls like that anymore. People go to the webpage now and they can get all of that information firsthand themselves. But this guy called and as we talked he finally got to the point where he asked if we were a full gospel Church. I grew up in the North and in the North that was not the language that I was familiar with. Full gospel. I'm sure there are full gospel churches all over the country, but in my experience I was not familiar with what he was asking. And I thought full gospel? I don't know where he's going with this but we're not a half gospel church. Of course we're full gospel. We preach the full gospel. Then he pressed a little bit more and wanted to know about this, about this, about this. And I was like oh, not necessarily, maybe, somebody might. And so full Gospel is really a word for Pentecostal, charismatic. This helps us with our understanding. This is the word *charismaton*, the grace gifts.

The last one in verse 7 is the word *phanerosis*. This is the word that is translated manifestation. All of these are talking about spiritual gifts. So we have three different words that speak to this matter of spiritual gifts. There is another distinction that we won't go into today about the gifts of the Spirit and offices in the church. The spiritual gifts of apostles and prophets, evangelist and pastor teacher. Those are spiritual gifts. Then you have offices in the church of elders and deacons with Jesus being the head of the church. He occupies that office. So that is a distinction that we could make as well

Let's look at the definition itself. How are we going to state what we are talking about when we talk about spiritual gifts? I came across actually a couple of other

definitions that I did not put in the outline and I'm going to read them to you. the first one says "gifts of grace given by the Spirit designed to build up the church". That's a spiritual gift. Grace gifts. Gifts of grace given by the Spirit designed to build up the church. Another guy defined it this way: "Jesus pursuing His mission through the members of His church." I think that needs some context and we'll see some of that, but Jesus pursuing His mission through the members of His church.

But here's the definition that I would suggest: A God-given ability to minister and serve with ease, effectiveness and enjoyment. So it's given by God to minister and serve with ease, with effectiveness and enjoyment. If you look at that definition, there probably would be a lot of things that we could say to flesh it out a little bit more. One of the first things that often gets asked in a discussion about spiritual gifts is a question of is there a difference between spiritual gifts and natural abilities and natural gifts and natural skills. You can look at this chart and it kind of breaks down a little bit of some distinctions between those two. the source in both cases come from God but natural gifts, I suppose we would say, that they come through our parents. Both of them are possessed from birth. One just happens to be natural birth. Spiritual gifts, most people believe, come at the point of our new birth. Their purpose is to benefit mankind in the broadest sense and of course more specifically to spiritual gifts is to build up the church. The process of these gifts in either case have to be recognized. They have to be developed. They have to be exercised. Natural gifts, natural abilities, natural skills lie there and if they are not developed, how useful and significant are they? And then the function. I think both can be for God's glory.

Now here's the thing. Whatever we say about the differences between natural gifts and natural talents and spiritual, the Bible doesn't address it. The Bible doesn't speak to this question that oftentimes gets asked. I would tend to think that God being the way He is and how He functions and operates in our lives, He probably takes many of our natural gift sets and uses them in connection with spiritual gifts. When you think in terms of musicians or artists or people like that, they take that skill and develop it and use it. Then very likely God takes that and channels and uses it in the context of spiritual gifts. Just because you like to talk doesn't mean you have the gift of being a

pastor teacher. You might have, but you might not have. So there's not a direct correlation between natural gifts and spiritual. The Bible simply doesn't speak to that.

As you look at that, you see that definition says that spiritual gifts are given by God and they are something that we use to minister to serve. It's with a sense of ease, effectiveness and enjoyment. I want you to note and underline that it doesn't say it's easy. It doesn't say spiritual gifts are done because they are easy. It says they're done with ease, effectiveness and enjoyment. I think the point would be there's a freedom and a comfortableness when we're exercising the spiritual gifts that God has given. There's a fulfillment that goes with that. We enjoy what it is that God has gifted us to do. It is very likely that there are people who appreciate the exercise of that gift. and so they might tell us that we do that well. I think that's all a part of this idea of the understanding what a spiritual gift is.

Let me just add two other observations with this first point. The first one is just to underscore again that spiritual gifts are freely and graciously given. They can't be earned. They aren't deserved. That's why they're called grace gifts. God gives them to us out of grace. They have nothing to do with human effort. We'll comment more on that later. But in Romans chapter 12 and verse 3 Paul specific to this whole issue is talking in that context about spiritual gifts and he reminds us that there really isn't a place for pride in that process. Listen to verse 3: "For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think." He goes on to say to be sober in your judgment about these things. If there's anything that underscores this, it is the fact that this is a grace gift. This has been graciously given to us by God.

In 1 Corinthians 12:11, and we'll develop this further in a little bit too, but there Paul says it's a sovereign work of God in giving us these gifts. So we will obviously receive this gift that God has given to us, but we need to understand that it was given to us out of the sovereign grace of God. That's a significant concept. God sovereignly determined what spiritual gifts to give to you. Sadly, in the 1 Corinthians context they had gotten this all mixed up and they had become proud of having certain gifts. They were boasting that they had a certain gift when somebody else didn't. They were saying look at me and look at my giftedness. I'm special because of that. This is part of the

correction that Paul brings to this church. These gifts have been graciously given to you by God, not deserved, not earned, out of his sovereign choice.

Secondly, right along with that point, when the church operates in the flesh, when we operate from the human perspective, that's when spiritual gifts lose their way. We begin to replace and we began to operate by aptitude and education and technique. We get all mixed up in this regard. We've commented on that when we looked at the matter of being filled with the Spirit and how it is that that the flesh has this remarkable capacity and remarkable capability of mimicking the Spirit and spiritual things. It's possible for us to do the works of God and it happens probably too much in the church that we're doing stuff in the energy of the flesh. We're doing things out of our own sense of aptitude or background or training or technique. Whatever that might look like. I think that's why tucked in between chapter 12 and chapter 14 is chapter 13. Chapter 13 is all about love for each other. It's all about not being a clanging symbol. He could've probably just as easily said when you operate in the flesh, when you try to do the works of service and ministry in the flesh, you become like a clanging symbol. He brings them back to that point.

So let's look then further at this passage and see how it is that spiritual gifts are given. How are they given? We've already touched on it but this is a rather remarkable teaching that Paul develops in 1 Corinthians 12. This is the deal. The giving of spiritual gifts is so important that the entire Godhead is involved in this process. I don't know what that says to you, but I hope that says this puts spiritual gifts into the category of creation. All members of the Godhead are spoken of as being involved in creation. It also puts spiritual gifts in the category of salvation. Because just as in salvation we hear of the work of the Father and the Son and the Spirit, so in this matter of spiritual gifts. I think that's why Paul begins in the 1<sup>st</sup> verse of this 12<sup>th</sup> chapter by saying I don't want you guys to miss this. I don't want you to be uninformed about this. There is something wrong if, as the church is functioning, they're doing so without an understanding of this very truth that Paul says he doesn't want us to be ignorant about.

So let's look at this. We can start off by saying that the Holy Spirit and gifts are addressed first of all in verse 7 and in verse 11. Verse 7: "To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." Verse 11: "All these are empowered

by one and the same Spirit who apportions to each one individually just as He will.”

When we talk about these being gifts that have been sovereignly given, then we identify within the Godhead that member of the Trinity that is specifically said to be the one who is giving these gifts. Here it is the Holy Spirit who sovereignly distributes the gifts. So as a believer in Christ, you not only have the gift. The gift of the Holy Spirit. You have, and I think probably most of us have, more than one spiritual gift. I think clearly everybody has at least one and I would think that most people have multiple spiritual gifts. So you have the gift and then you have the gifts of the Spirit. The Spirit of God is said to be the one who sovereignly decides which gifts are given to us. I think that's pretty significant linking again this idea of the spiritual with this matter of grace. These are grace gifts. Paul reminds us that they come from God and that they are gifts that He gives.

Notice secondly, the Lord Jesus and this matter of service. The Lord Jesus and this matter of ministry. Verse 5: “And there are varieties of service but the same Lord.” In Ephesians chapter 4, Paul talks about the ascended Lord giving gifts. He's talking about the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord is involved in this matter of spiritual gifts. Specific to this 12<sup>th</sup> chapter, he is talking to us about this idea of service. I wonder if he isn't talking about spheres of service, places where we might be serving, different ways that we serve. I don't think for instance that you can support from the Bible that there is a spiritual gift of working with children. I don't think there's a spiritual gift of working with youth. I don't think there's spiritual gift of working with adults. Now the children's ministry people and the youth ministry people did not ask me to say that because I know that will not allow you when they ask you the next time to say that is not my spiritual gift. But that doesn't mean that you might not be as effective in one area as another. I think when you have a spiritual gift, you have the capacity, the ability to use that gift in a variety of places – children, youth and adults. You may have a certain preference. Maybe you're more effective in terms of this relating on a personality level with a particular group. I think he's saying to us it is Jesus who is Lord over all of these different spheres. Some people minister and use their gifts for instance in inner-city. We're being challenged about outreach and some of these opportunities that are out there that are going to take us into places that are different than ours. You may get into that setting and realize this is really my heart's passion. God may grow that within you as that gift develops. That's a

sphere or a place of service. Somebody else serves overseas. Spiritual giftedness is in this sense being under the Lordship of Christ in all of these different places and ways that we can serve.

There is an interesting interchange in John 21 between Jesus and Peter. I would imagine that Peter has the gift of pastor teacher. and he was involved in the lives of a number of churches. In 1 Peter 5 he kind of gives us a beautiful description of what this looks like within the life of the local church. I would imagine that one of the gifts Peter got was probably being a pastor teacher. You remember that interchange as Peter is challenged by the Lord to feed His sheep. Jesus says Peter, feed My sheep. That was obviously also the time of healing and restoring Peter. But the charge to Peter was Go, feed My sheep. Equip the body. I've gifted you to do that. Remember in that interchange, John evidently was standing somewhere nearby and Peter asks Jesus what about John over there? What is he supposed to be doing? Remember what Jesus says to him? Basically, He says Peter, don't get into somebody else's affairs. Mind your own business. You take care of Peter and I'll work with John. There's just a life principle there. When we think God needs our help with other people, He just gently says to us take care of your world. Take care of your space. Do what I called you to do. I think that's what's going on here. Jesus is Lord over our ministries and the places that He has put us to serve and to use these gifts that the Spirit has sovereignly given.

Then notice lastly, the Father. The Father and this matter of activities in verse 6. There are varieties of activities but is the same God who empowers them all in every one. Activities could be translated workings. It could be translated energy because this is the word literally from which we get our word energy. So it's talking about power, talking about energy. I almost wonder if there isn't an indication here that as the Spirit sovereignly gives these gifts, as Jesus brings us into spheres and places of ministry in the use of the spiritual gifts, if we aren't being told here that it is the Father who is giving the energy and maybe the results are flowing out from the work of the Father. In the exercise of our gifts, one of the things that the Scriptures certainly do not promise is that every time we use our gift in whatever setting we been called to use it, there's no promises far as I can see that the outcome and the result is going to be the same every time we use it. We leave that to the Lord, don't we? We leave that perhaps to the

Father. However that gift results in its impact in people's lives, that's the work of the Father. He's the one who is directing in that regard.

Just think of two biblical examples. John the Baptist. Jesus said he was the greatest prophet who ever walked the earth. There is not one recorded instance of John the Baptist ever doing anything miraculous in his ministry. I don't know if he did or didn't, but the Bible doesn't tell us if he did. Then you have apostles like Paul and Peter and they're doing miracles quite regularly. Maybe that is a snapshot of what it is that we are to get a hold of here. And that is we leave those results to God. We allow the Spirit and the Son and the Father to equip and work in somebody else's life and use their gifts and their abilities in the way that He has designed for them. So here we have the Holy Spirit sovereignly giving those gifts. Jesus Lord over those areas of ministry. The Father giving results as He sees fit.

The second thing I want you to see in this regard is that God loves diversity. God loves diversity. You can see this in the opening verses of this 12<sup>th</sup> chapter. Undergirding this matter of importance and Paul talking about how we are called to faith and how it is that we confess Jesus as Lord by the Holy Spirit. So everything centers around Christ. But this unity clearly is not uniformity. There's unity and then there's uniformity. We're not called to uniformity. We're called to unity. and what you see as you study this matter of spiritual gifts is there's great diversity here within the gifts that God has given. That's part of the picture that we want to walk away from as we go through this short look at spiritual gifts. The diversity with which God has equipped the body and how He has given different people different capacities and different abilities and different gifts to do the things that He's called them to do. bringing people from different backgrounds, different life experiences, different ethnicities and different upbringings, social, economic and all of the rest, He brings all of that together to mix and to produce something that only He can within the life of the particular body. Someone said God makes snowflakes. Everyone of them is different. God makes snowflakes. We make ice cubes. They all come out the same. They all can look the same. We need to resist that. We need to embrace the beauty that is the diversity within the body of Christ. After all, if the church would be compared to an orchestra, I mean, who doesn't love a good tuba. But who wants to have 100 tubas up here playing? Now, if you're a tuba person, I apologize. We

want to hear the broad range of everything, don't we? We want all of the instruments. and that's the way it should be in the body of Christ because that is God intended for it to be. We need each other. We work together with each other in that way.

Let's look at this last point. Who has spiritual gifts and why? Who has spiritual gifts and why? Verse 7 is something of a transitional verse because it looks back on the one hand and looks forward to what's coming. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. So we start off by asking who has spiritual gifts. Hopefully by now you know the answer is every one of us because that's what he says. Each and every believer. Peter said the same thing in 1 Peter 4:10. Each one. To each one has been given this matter of the spiritual gifts. I would understand what the Bible teaches about this is if you are a brand-new believer, if you're new in your walk with God, you've got a spiritual gift or gifts. If you've been walking with God for 50 years, you've got a spiritual gift or gifts. I think the Scriptures are clear. Every child of God by faith in Christ has a spiritual gift. You may not know what that gift is. If we were just to go down the row and everybody stood up and said I think my spiritual gift is... and it came to you and you said I'm not sure. That doesn't mean you don't have a gift. It might be that you have a gift, you know what that gift is, but that gift is largely unused. It's just kind of latently laying there. It is not being utilized. It is dormant. But you still have a spiritual gift or gifts.

Every one of us has been gifted by God and the beauty of this is there are no super Christians. It wasn't God's intent to have a body of believers come together and to form a local community and have two or three or 10 or 15 be all gifted and everybody else just kind of takes off of their gifts. That's not what God intended. In fact, it is the opposite of that. God has gifted everybody in the body and what we're going to see is that there are gifts that are of greater value in terms of the import they bring in terms of the equipping of the Word. But there are no gifts that are of greater value in the overall picture of building up the body of Christ. Every one of them uniquely adds to and does its work just as God intended. Everybody is needed. Everybody is gifted.

One of the things that I love to see it at Covenant is all kinds of different people serving in different capacities. We obviously have a paid full-time staff and a paid part-time staff. They are using their spiritual gifts and their abilities and their talents as God has given to them. But the beauty of the body as it works most effectively is that the

equipping that is taking place by the staff, the pastors if you will, is to build up the body to get out there and do the works of service and to use the gifts and abilities that God has given. That's the joy of getting to see hundreds of people using their gifts and serving in that way.

Why do we have these gifts? We'll see this as we go on as well, but in the last part of verse 7 notice again. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For the common good. That is why we have them. JI Packer said our exercise of spiritual gifts is nothing more or less than Christ Himself ministering through His body to His church. Did you get that? Spiritual gifts. You exercising your spiritual gifts is nothing less than Christ Himself. The Spirit of God is living within you. He has gifted you and He wants to use you. The reality is this, my friends. God's plan has always been incarnation. When God the Son was on this earth, it was God Himself in the flesh. When Jesus ascended and went to be with the Father and He sent the Spirit to live within each one of us, to indwell us, this now represents the indwelling of God on the earth today. We are to be the incarnation of the life of Christ because the Spirit lives within us. So we take this treasure that we have found to the world. There is within us this treasure. There is a treasure within this earthen vessel. It is always the same and it is the equipping and building up and the ministering of the body in its spiritual giftedness for the common good that enables us to do the works of God in the world. Spiritual gifts are not given for the sake of the saint but are given for the sake of the saints.

So what do we take away? Just this. Being connected to a local church and using your spiritual gifts to build up the church is God's will for your life. There is a pronouncement that we can make based on the Word of God. This is God's will for your life. Paul starts off verse 1 that I don't want you to be ignorant about these things. I want you to be informed about these things. I want to be knowledgeable about these things so that you can do the things that God has called you to do and to be. You know, as you ask God to work in your life, as you ask God to work in your marriage, as you ask God to work in the lives of your children, as you ask God to use you in your place of work, or all of the different places that you go and represent Christ, have you ever considered the fact that God wants you connected to a local body using your gifts to equip and build up the body of Christ so that He can answer the very prayers that we're praying about

the work that we want Him to do in our life and in our marriage, in the lives of our children and in the places that he has us. Because I believe, if I'm reading my Bible correctly, that is exactly why God has given us the gifts that He has so that we will do this for the common good, so that there will be a building up of the body of Christ.

Here's my challenge to you. If you come to Covenant, God wants you connected into the life of this church. He wants you connected into the life of this church beyond 9:30 to 10:45 on Sunday morning. He wants you to do more than come slipping in right at the last moment and then slipping right out at the very end. That's not sharing your life for the common good of the body in the most effective way that it could be. It doesn't all happen here. It happens in community groups. It happens in small group Bible studies. It doesn't all happen obviously on Sunday. There are lots of ways that you impact and equip and build into each other's lives by the spiritual gifts that God has given you. Rubbing shoulders and sharing life together. That, my friends, is God's will for every one of us. When we do that, we take this treasure to a broken and hurting world.

That treasure is the gospel and that gospel is what makes it possible for me to have a relationship with God. That gospel is what speaks of the restoration of my brokenness with God. Sin has separated me from God and Jesus came to deal with that separation. He came to deal with that brokenness. When He died on the cross, He did so for my sin and for yours. He did so that we could be in a restored relationship with God. He did so because He wants us to know the glory, the wonder, the beauty of this treasure which is the gospel which is eternal life. Receive that. Receive that as a gift. Receive that by believing in what Jesus did was all that needed to be done. Turn from your own works and your own human efforts and say God, I agree with you that what Jesus did was all that needed to be done. I believe that what He did, He did for me. In that moment of trust, in that moment of belief, the divine transaction takes place and God gives you eternal life.

Let's pray. Father God, thank You for the blessing of Your Word. Thank You for the church, Lord. Thank You for every believer who is a part of Covenant for the gifts that You've given them for the common good of this body and of the ways that You want

to use this body to show the love of Christ to this world that is around us. So equip us to that end. We pray in Jesus's name, Amen.