

April 1st – Embracing the Change Together

When we embrace this change, we are moving in the same direction as all Christians who know Christ as Lord. The Spirit works within us to provide the gifts we need at the time when we need them to accomplish the common good. The gift is not what is important. It is whether you are in lock step with the Spirit so you can help lead others to the one who will save their life. Jesus is the Hero, yet your role is critical just the same.

Scriptures:

- 1 Cor. 12:1-13 – Gifts from one Spirit.
Gal 6:9-10 – Do not grow weary of doing good.

Discussion Questions

1. The Corinthian church was coming out of a polytheistic culture where different gods had different powers. How might this background have influenced their misunderstanding of spiritual gifts?
2. Gift Inventory: Looking at the list in verses 8-10 (wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miraculous powers, prophecy, discernment, tongues, interpretation), which of these gifts do you think are still active today? How might they look different now?
3. Same Spirit, Different Gifts: Paul emphasizes "the same Spirit" repeatedly. Why is this repetition important? What happens when we forget this truth?
4. Your Gift: What gift or ability has God given you that could benefit the church body? (This doesn't have to be a "supernatural" gift—think about patience with children, technical skills, hospitality, encouragement, etc.)
5. Gift Comparison: Have you ever caught yourself thinking your role or gift was more (or less) important than someone else's? How does this passage challenge that thinking?
6. Asking for Help: Ben mentioned that "the hardest part people struggle with is just asking for help." Why is it difficult to ask for help? What keeps you from sharing your needs with the church family?
7. "Look around the circle you're in tonight and realize other people are equipped in ways you aren't." What gifts do you see represented here? How can you encourage each other?
8. The video mentioned Tracy's baptism and how the whole group stayed to celebrate her joining the body of Christ. How does understanding baptism as joining a body (not just an new individual in Christ) change how we welcome and support new Christians?
9. Michael's Story: The video shared how Michael Allison showed up at just the right time with exactly the technical skills needed. Can you share a time when God provided someone with the perfect gift at the perfect time for a need you had or witnessed?

Key Takeaways:

1. Unity in Diversity: All spiritual gifts come from the same Spirit, not different gods or sources.
2. Purpose of Gifts: Gifts are given for the common good, not personal recognition.
3. Collective Strength: The church is better equipped when all members use their gifts together.
4. No Hierarchy: No gift is more important than another—all are essential to the body.