

Serving God's People

Believers receive special gifts from God for service to Him and His people.



The Transformation for Adult LifeGroups

1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-12,21-26

February 17, 2019/ February 20, 2019

TODAY'S TEXT

Text: 1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-12

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. ⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. ¹² Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:21-26

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" ²² On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, ²⁴ while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, ²⁵ so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. ²⁶ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

FIRST THOUGHTS

- Has anyone seen or heard of the Netflix special "Tidying Up with Marie Kondo" or read any of her books? If so, explain it to our group.
- According to Marie Kondo, what is the one question you need to ask yourself when deciding whether to keep or donate each item?

Today we are going to hear from Paul on the importance of spiritual gifts and at the end of the lesson I'll give you some tools to help you discover yours and to see if you are serving according to your gifts.

UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

God gives spiritual gifts to His people. These gifts are parallel to natural talents in many ways. Spiritual gifts, however, are received by individuals not when they are born biologically; rather, they are given to us when we are born again. Further, just as natural talents must be recognized and developed through practice before they are very beneficial, so it is with our spiritual gifts. In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul told the Corinthian Christians that each of them had received a special gift, or gifts, from God. These gifts were meant for service.

"Now about the gifts of the Spirit," Paul wrote in verse 1, signaling a new subject he wanted to address. The Corinthian believers were seeking guidance on a variety of issues, including marital relations and singleness (7:1,25), food sacrificed to idols (8:1), divisiveness around the Lord's Supper (11:17-20), spiritual gifts (12:1), the resurrection (15:1), and collecting money to support other believers in need (16:1).

Paul's discussion of spiritual gifts stretches from 12:1 through 14:40. He wanted them to know that they did not lack any spiritual gift. He also wanted them to understand the proper application of spiritual gifts in the church—the "better way" (12:31)—which is love.

EXPLORE THE TEXT

DIVERSE

> Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

- Paul continued to correct practices within the Corinthian church that caused divisiveness. What would help a divided church begin to function with unity in service to God?
- What is the difference between gifts, ministries, and activities?

SPECIFIC

> Read 1 Corinthians 12:7-10

- ° Why would it be important to know that every believer receives a spiritual gift?
- ° How can believers use the gifts of the Spirit effectively?

INTENTIONAL

> Read 1 Corinthians 12:11-12,21-26

- ° What is the likely result when believers don't use their spiritual gifts?
- ° How should believers regard the spiritual gifts of one another?

SUMMARIZE AND CHALLENGE

Now that we have seen the importance of spiritual gifts, the challenge for us is:

- 1) Do you know which gifts you've been given?
- 2) Have you opened them?

At Chets we call this process of discovery our S.H.A.P.E. which stands for:

Spiritual gifts, Heart (what are you particularly passionate about?), Abilities (natural or learned skills), Personality and Experiences (the unique things you have gone through - good or bad - that gives you empathy and understanding) How do you know if you are serving out of your SHAPE?

Our Father is so good to design us this way - that not only does He call us to serve but He give us gifts that bring us joy when we use them!

How do you find your spiritual gifts?

Here's a link to a list of spiritual gifts with explanations and an inventory you can take to help you discover yours. Blog.LifeWay.com/ExploretheBible. Select Resources tab, select Adult and click on the "read more" under the first article listed

Don't get stuck in paralysis of analysis! You may not find the "perfect" choice right away but instead, try a few things and see what sparks joy - for you and for those you are serving. This is all for His Glory and the building up of His Church. If believers discover and use their spiritual gifts, then God promises astounding results (Eph . 3:20-21). Churches grow stronger, pastors become healthier, believers discover purpose, and people experience Jesus. Ministry flourishes when the people are serving according to their SHAPE. As Paul said, let's not be uninformed about our spiritual gifts.

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK

- Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-14
- Do receive more comfort from a person who has gone through the same thing you are facing or someone who has not?
- Why it why not?

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

17th – Numbers 1-2; Acts 24 | **18th** – Numbers 3-4; Acts 25 | **19th** – Numbers 5-6; Psalm 22; Acts 26 | **20th** – Numbers 7; Psalm 23; Acts 27 | **21st** – Numbers 8-9; Acts 28 | **22nd** – Numbers 10-11; Psalm 27; Mark 1 | **23rd** – Numbers 12-13; Psalm 90; Mark 2