**SERVE 6 Different Gifts – Same Sprit 1 Corinthians 12 v 1 to 11**

**For the next few weeks, we will be looking at 1 Corinthians 12 & 13. The aim is to help us all to discover the spiritual gift(s) God has given us and to use them for His glory.**

After last weeks study, we hope you have begun to discover (or re-discover) the gift(s) God has given you with which to bless your fellow believers. But discovery is only the beginning. After you open a present, you want to respond by using a practical gift or enjoying something a friend has put a lot of thought into. Putting it in hiding is not a good plan.

Paul clearly wants the Corinthians to both be aware of their gifts and to use them helpfully.

1. ***‘Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant’.*** (12:1)

Try to list as many gifts as you can – there are over 20 listed in the Bible so you’re unlikely to get them all

After you’ve had a go, look at the three lists in the Bible

1 Corinthians 12:7f & 14:26f

Romans 12:6f

Ephesians 4:11f

Do any of these gifts strike you as one you may have?

Do any of these gifts strike you as one which another member of the group may have?

***You will find a list of the gifts mentioned in the Bible at the end of these notes***.

Verses 1 to 3 are a useful measure of whether someone is exercising a gift or trying to make themselves look good. Paul says anyone who is using God’s gift will speak about Jesus as Lord and use their gift for his glory and not their own.

1. Is it possible to use a gift you may have for the wrong reasons?

Perhaps it gives you status or popularity!

It could even make you rather self-important!

Are there any other dangers?

Paul’s next section in verses 4 to 6 is fundamental and yet very obvious. There are many different gifts – no one has all of them. But they all come from the same giver – ‘the same Lord’ (v5). We all work in different ways but it’s the same God who works in all of us.

1. How easy is to become jealous of someone else’s gift? ‘I wish I could preach like her’ – ‘I wish I was better at hospitality than him’.

How should we react when we see someone else using their gifts?

Is there a gift you think you may have and you have never used?

Paul moves on to talk about who benefits from the gifts apparent in each church community. His answer is very simple. They are for the ‘common good’ (v7) – that is EVERYONE. And gifts are given to ‘each one’. So, everyone who is a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ has at least one spiritual gift which is to be used for the benefit of others. If you don’t use yours, you are depriving your sisters and brothers. That’s why it’s so important for you to know about your gift(s).

1. Have a think about the people in your group – try to describe the gifts each person has in your group. (Make sure you cover everybody)

You may like to pray and give thanks for the gifts of people in your small group.

Think about people in church whose gifts have been a blessing to you and thank God for them.

Paul then gives a list of gifts which were probably appropriate to the church in Corinth. The two other lists apply to the churches in Rome and Ephesus. But as a whole, the three lists give us a good selection of the gifts we should be looking for. Each gift he mentions is coupled with the phrase ‘same/one spirit’ emphasizing again who the gifts come from.

None of the passages give a complete list of all the gifts – and many would argue they are not meant to be exhaustive. Some people today have gifts, given by the Spirit, which are not mentioned in the three lists. Which gift covers the divine ability to use modern technology for the sake of the gospel?

1. Is it possible that some of the gifts Paul lists are no longer relevant today? The gifts listed are
* Wisdom
* Knowledge
* Faith
* Healing
* Miracles
* Prophecy
* Distinguishing between spirits
* Speaking in tongues
* Interpretation of tongues

Is it possible to say that some gifts are more central to the life of the church than others?

Always remember that it is God who decides who gets which gift. It is our job to discern what our gift us and then use it to bless the believers in our community. So, make sure you have some clarity about the gift God has given you.

***NOTE If any of you would like to do a more detailed assessment of your spiritual gifts, there is a diagnostic tool available in the office if you ask for it.***

**The Gifts of the Spirit - A collation of the major New Testament Lists**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Romans 12:6** | **1Cor 12:8f** | **1 Cor 12:28** | **1 Cor 12:29** | **1 Cor 14:26** | **Ephesians 4:11** |
| **1** | - | - | Apostles | Apostles | - | Apostles |
| **2** | Prophets | - (see13a) | Prophets | Prophets | - | Prophets |
| **3** | - | Wisdom | - | - | - | - |
| **4** | - | Knowledge | - | - | - | - |
| **5** | Service | - | - | - | - | - |
| **6** | - | - | - | - | Hymn | - |
| **7** | - | - | - | - | - | Evangelists |
| **8** | Teaching | - | Teachers | Teachers | Teaching | PastorsTeachers |
| **9** | - | - | - | - | Revelation | - |
| **10** | Exhortation | - | - | - | - | - |
| **11** | - | Faith | - | - | - | - |
| **12** | - | Working of miracles | Workers of miracles | Working of miracles | - | - |
| **13** | - | Gifts of healing | Healers | Gifts of healing | - | - |
| **13a** | - | Prophecy (see 2) | - | - | - | - |
| **14** | - | Discerning of Spirits | - | - | - | - |
| **15** | Contributing | - | - | - | - | - |
| **16** | Giving help | - | Helpers | - | - | - |
| **17** | - | - | Administrators | - | - | - |
| **18** |  | Tongues | Tongues | Tongues | Tongues | - |
| **19** | - | Interpretationof Tongues | - | Interpretation | Interpretation | - |
| **20** | Acts of mercy | - | - | - | - | - |