

Bible Reading

Pastor Mike

1 Corinthians 12: Spiritual Gifts in the Church Body

Getting started: Is there a relationship between spiritual gifts and natural talents? How would you explain it?

Read vv. 1-11 Basic information about Spiritual Gifts

1. How do we explain the ignorance in Corinth about spiritual gifts? (vv. 1-2) How can we discern the presence of the Holy Spirit in a person's life?
2. Who is behind and empowering the gifts regardless of their diversity? (vv. 4-7) Who is responsible for their distribution in the body? How many Christians receive a spiritual gift? (v. 7, 11).
3. List the gifts named in verses 8-10. Provide a definition/description of each if you are able. Underline the gifts that you believe to be active in churches today.

Read vv. 12-31 Unity in Diversity

4. How does the human body demonstrate unity in diversity? (v. 12) How are members in the church similar to the human body? (v. 12-14).

5. Why is every member important even though it cannot perform the function of another member in the body? What would be lost if one member shifted its function and chose to do something else? (v. 15-17) Who decides which members and which gifts end up in each church? (v. 18)
6. How is the church like a human body? (vv. 19-20) What value do the feeble members have according to Paul? (vv. 22-24).
7. What is Paul hoping to avoid by discussing the importance of each gift? (v. 25). What could the church do to show solidarity with each of its members? (v. 26)
8. Another listing of gifts is given in verses 28. Does it match the list back in question 3? What conclusion might we draw from that comparison? In your opinion, how might you correctly identify your spiritual gift?
9. What were the top three gifts in Paul's opinion? Which gift had the Corinthians placed at the top of the list? Which gift did Paul put at the bottom of his list? What is the point of the rhetorical questions in vv. 29-30? Which gifts should we be most interested in acquiring?