

WE ARE GIFTED BY THE SPIRIT

YEAR: UNITE / FOCUS: I AM CALLED
SERIES: GOD IS THE GIFT GIVER - I AM GIFTED

BIG TRUTH: WE ARE GIFTED BY THE SPIRIT

Ephesians 4:4-7; 1 Peter 4:10-11; Hebrews 2:4

BIBLE VERSE: 1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-6

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.”

BIG IDEAS

- The gifts of the Spirit are only given to those who belong to Jesus.
- The gifts of the Spirit are various and good.
- The gifts of the Spirit foster unity, not division.

BIBLE PASSAGE: 1 CORINTHIANS 12:1-11

UNITE - I AM CALLED

The Unite Year is an exploration of what it means to be united in Christ as the family of God (Romans 12:5). When we are saved, we are given a spirit of adoption as sons (Romans 8:15-16), are made a child of God, and we are also saved into a family- the Church. The Unite Year explores how we are to live as a part of a family, and to live in light of our calling as servants and disciples of Christ. We use our gifts to build up the church as we pursue unity, humility, and gentleness with our brothers and sisters in Christ (Ephesians 4:1-2).

SERIES AIMS



Every student should know that...

- Every good gift comes from the Father.
- They have been specifically and uniquely gifted to bring God glory.
- Spiritual gifts are given for the edification of the body of Christ.



Every student should feel...

- Thankful for the various gifts God has given their church family.
- Convicted of the ways they bear the fruit of the flesh.
- Secure in their standing as God’s children through the Holy Spirit



Every student should strive to...

- Pursue unity with other members of their church family.
- Use their gifts for the good of God’s people.
- Practice regular repentance and obedience.



Every student should want...

- To be known for loving others like Jesus loves.
- To learn more about their spiritual gifts and the gifts of others.
- To both suffer and rejoice with God’s people

GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week’s Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.



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BIBLE VERSE: 1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-6

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.”

God gifts His children for His work.

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit...”

- God equips His children with spiritual gifts to enable them to fulfill His purpose for their life. There is one Spirit of God and that same Spirit gives gifts to every believer.
- We are not gifted by different Spirits. We receive the Holy Spirit at salvation and that same Spirit imparts spiritual gifts to us to enable us to glorify God with our lives.

God’s gifts to His children are varied.

“...and there are varieties of service but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities...”

- The spiritual gifts that God gives to His children are varied. Every believer does not receive the same gift. There are many gifts of the Spirit that God imparts to His people.
- The gifts vary in their purpose and use. Though there is a variety of gifts, every single gift is imparted by the same Spirit and is for the ultimate purpose of bringing God glory within His body.

God empowers His children to use their gifts.

“...and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.”

- When we understand that our spiritual gifts are given to us by God and we are empowered by His Spirit to use them, we can grow in our spiritual maturity. God doesn’t just impart gifts and then expect His children to figure out how to best use them.
- He gives gifts and His Spirit works inside of every believer to empower them to use their gifts for God’s glory. God is glorified when we use our gifts in the power of the Spirit to fulfill His purpose. When we use these gifts within the church to build up and edify one another, we are using them in the power of the Spirit.

BIG IDEA #1: THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT ARE ONLY GIVEN TO THOSE WHO BELONG TO JESUS.¹

[THIS]

All people are created with talents and abilities. These natural talents and abilities are part of their created being and are not spiritual gifts. Some people are naturally athletic while others are naturally academic. Some people read at an early age and others are good at math. While these things are given by God, they are not to be confused with the gifts of the Spirit. Only those people who follow Jesus receive spiritual gifts. People who reject Jesus do not have the Holy Spirit; therefore, they cannot receive spiritual gifts. It is the presence of the Holy Spirit in a person's heart that allows them access to the gifting of the Holy Spirit. Those who have repented of their sins and believe in their hearts that Jesus is Lord have spiritual gifts.

[THEREFORE]

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-3. What part does the Holy Spirit play in the gifting of God's people?

As Paul teaches about the presence and purpose of spiritual gifts in the church, he teaches that without the presence of the Holy Spirit, a person cannot have spiritual gifts. Spiritual gifts are abilities that are the outworking of the Holy Spirit in a person's life. Without the Holy Spirit a person cannot utilize spiritual gifts because they are directly connected to the presence of the Spirit in a person's heart.

How can we confuse natural abilities or talents with spiritual gifts in our own lives and the lives of others?

Our natural abilities are things that we are created with but do not hinge upon the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. 1 Corinthians 12:7 reminds us that the spiritual gifts we receive are part of the Holy Spirit working in us. If we are naturally academic, we could confuse this gift with the gift of teaching, yet the spiritual gift of teaching cannot be performed without the presence of the Holy Spirit. Each gift given by the Spirit requires the Spirit's presence in our hearts.

[THIS]

Belonging to Jesus means being equipped and prepared to do the work of the Father. God uses His people for His work; therefore, He only gifts His people with spiritual gifts. He does not give gifts of the Spirit to people who do not believe in His Son. This is because of the purpose and function of spiritual gifts. They are for God's people and His purposes. They are given specifically to God's people for the purpose that He imparts to those who follow Him. It is God's people who are entrusted with His truth and commanded to carry this truth into the world. Spiritual gifts are part of God's equipping of His people to carry out this command.

[THEREFORE]

What does Scripture say are some of the purposes of God in your life? How has the Spirit helped you fulfill these?

Ecclesiastes 12:13, 1 Corinthians 10:31, and Romans 12:1 help us understand God's purpose for us. The Spirit helps us fulfill this purpose and God's plan for our lives.

Describe ways the Spirit has helped you fulfill God's purpose for you?

Romans 8:9 reminds us that the Spirit is present only in God's people. The Spirit serves as our helper to enable us to fulfill God's purpose for our lives. John 16:13 and Acts 1:8 shows us the help the Spirit gives us. It is through Him that we are able to do anything for God.

1. 1 Corinthians 12:7: *God's gifts to His people are varied and good.*

BIG IDEA #2: THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT ARE VARIOUS AND GOOD.²**[THIS]**

In 1 Corinthians 12:7, Paul states that gifts are a manifestation of the Spirit. A manifestation of something is an event, action, or object that embodies or shows something. To manifest the Spirit means to act in a way that reveals the Spirit. It means to live and act in a way that showcases some aspect of the Spirit. Spiritual gifts are abilities given to believers that showcase some part of the Spirit through them. These gifts cannot be acquired or earned. They are not innate abilities that people inherit from their parents. They are only possible with the Spirit because they are of the Spirit. These gifts are varied and everyone does not receive the same ones. Though people may have some of them in common, no two believers are gifted exactly the same way.

[THEREFORE]

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-10. How does the variety of spiritual gifts help manifest the Holy Spirit more perfectly?

This list of spiritual gifts is not complete, but it gives a picture of the variety of gifts the Spirit gives. These gifts are all the outworking of the Spirit in the lives of believers, yet they serve different functions within the body of Christ. It is a perfect picture of the Holy Spirit at work within God's people.

[THIS]

Later in 1 Corinthians 12:7-27, Paul teaches the importance of every gift. The Holy Spirit is God and God is good. That means that the gifts that the Holy Spirit imparts are good. Because these gifts are each the manifestation of the Spirit of God, every single one of them matters. To value one gift above others would be to say that one part of the Spirit is less perfect and valuable than other parts. Each gift is necessary for God's people to fulfill His purposes for them. God has ordained that each gift is important and necessary to His body; therefore, we must submit to His will and treat each gift as necessary. We must use our gifts for His glory and encourage others to do the same.

[THEREFORE]

Which gifts have you been tempted to see as more important than others?

Romans 12:4-5 helps us understand that each gift is equally important. There is no gift that is more valuable or important than another because they are all an outworking of the Spirit in His people. We can be tempted to value or elevate gifts such as teaching and prophecy over the other gifts, such as serving.

Why is it important to value each spiritual gift and to live in the truth that every gift matters?

In 1 Corinthians 12:7, we see that the spiritual gifts are manifestations of the Spirit. It's important for us to not rely upon our own thinking concerning spiritual gifts. Instead, we should trust that what God has said about His gifts is true and we should live accordingly. Because God says each gift matters, then we should live the same way.

2. 1 Corinthians 12:7: God's gifts to His people are varied and good.

BIG IDEA #3: THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT FOSTER UNITY, NOT DIVISION.³**[THIS]**

Unity is the quality of being one. Unity in the body of Christ is the state of being united with one goal in mind. Unity is necessary in God's body. God doesn't just command it; He equips His people with one Spirit to enable it. In 1 Corinthians 12:4-6, Paul teaches that every believer receives the same Spirit, which means every believer has the power of that Spirit working inside of them. The Holy Spirit inside of one believer will not lead them to hate or mistreat another believer because it is all the same Spirit. This one Spirit gives spiritual gifts to foster unity within the body of Christ. These gifts are to be used to unite believers and to bring them together out of a need for one another in order to fulfill God's purposes. These gifts are for the building up of one another, not the tearing down.

[THEREFORE]

Practically, what should unity look like in your local church? How does this compel you to pursue unity also?

Unity within the body of Christ is possible in the power of the Holy Spirit. Because it is the Spirit who unites believers to one another, it is possible for people to pursue Christ in harmony. 1 Corinthians 1:10 and Ephesians 4:1-6 help us understand the importance and necessity of believers using the power of the Holy Spirit to promote unity within the body of Christ. Our spiritual gifts are given to help us do this.

Look at 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 1 Peter 4:10-11, and Ephesians 4:11-16. How have you used your spiritual gifts to foster unity within the church?

People can use their individual spiritual gifts to foster unity in their church. If they use their gifts in service to others, they will invariably foster unity and not cause division. If they have the gift of mercy, they can show mercy to all and foster unity. If they have the gift of teaching, they can use this gift to help others see the importance of unity. Whatever the gift, it can be used to bring about unity.

[THIS]

Because of our sin natures, we tend toward self-promotion. Paul spoke against using the gifts of the Spirit to elevate ourselves in 1 Corinthians 12:24-25. These gifts are meant for unity and not division. They aren't meant to be dividing lines that separate people according to abilities or talents. They are intended to reveal how dependent the body of Christ is upon the Spirit and one another. The Holy Spirit does not work against Himself, so if there is division over gifts, it is our sin natures producing it. Because each gift is a manifestation of the Spirit, they bring believers together because each is needed to really reflect God. We encounter division within the body because we are sinful and our hearts desire our own glory over God's.

[THEREFORE]

How can you avoid division within the church and pursue unity instead?

To avoid division, we must submit ourselves to God and humble ourselves before Him. Colossians 3:14, Philippians 2:2, and 1 Peter 3:8 teach us the importance of living humbly before the Lord and pursuing peace and unity with other believers. This does require us to set aside our preferences in order to allow room for others.

3. 1 Corinthians 12:24-25: *Spiritual gifts are used to foster unity and are not to divide God's people.*