

MESSAGE.

The Holy Spirit gives the church exactly what it needs to build up believers and do God's work. These spiritual gifts are distributed according to God's will rather than human merit, meaning they are meant for serving others rather than showing off. True spiritual experiences must always line up with the Bible and point back to Jesus, not just emotional moments. In the church, every person is important, and visibility does not equal value. Instead of letting pride or insecurity divide the community, believers should pray for the Spirit's power and look for practical ways to serve one another, just as Jesus did.

PRAYER.

Father,

You are Good. You give me everything I need and have gifted me through Your Spirit in ways that I can love and serve those around me. Help me, Lord, to identify those gifts and to use my gifts for Your glory.

Amen.

ENGAGE.

Opening Questions

- "Inferiority says, 'you don't need me,' while superiority says, 'I don't need you.'" Which of these two mindsets do you think is easier for Christians to fall into today, and why?
- In our culture, the most visible people (on stages, screens, or social media) are often treated as the most valuable. How does this cultural mindset creep into how we view ministry and serving in the church?
- What is the practical difference between treating a personal strength or gift as a "merit badge to display" versus a "servant towel to wash feet"? How does changing that mindset change how we show up on Sundays?

Digging Deeper

- Looking at verses 1-3, Paul reminds the Corinthians of their pagan backgrounds where chaotic or dramatic spiritual experiences were common. According to verse 3, what is Paul's primary, non-negotiable test for whether a spiritual experience is genuinely from the Holy Spirit?
- In verses 4–6, notice how Paul repeats the words *varieties* and *same* in these verses. Why is it important that the *same* God gives *varieties* of gifts? What would a church look like if it had unity but no diversity, or diversity but no unity?
- Verse 7 states that the manifestation of the Spirit is given "for the common good." Based on this verse and the sermon notes, how does scripture correct someone who uses their spiritual gifts primarily for personal emotional experiences or private status?

Living it Out

- Think about your own role in the church. Do you need to repent of *pride* (thinking your role or gift is more special because it is visible) or *insecurity* (withholding your service because you think you don't matter)?
- We ought not to just sit around waiting for a supernatural revelation or rely solely on an online quiz to find our gift. What is one practical area of service in our church or community you can try out this month just to see where God might use you?
- Jesus promises in Luke 11:13 that the Father gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask. If you feel like you've been serving entirely in your own strength lately, write down or share a specific prayer asking the Holy Spirit to empower your service this week.

For these cities. For all people.