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Women’s Activities Text “1” to #208.203.1777

Men’s Activities Text “1” to #208.203.1822

## “Power, Boldness, Spiritual Strength, Gifts“

1. You were **saved from something** and **you were saved for something**.

Acts 1:8a (NLT) “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.”

- i. Power for what? To be Jesus’s witnesses and to build His church
    1. What does that look like? Share, Connect, Minister, Disciple
  - b. God is building His church and He desires to use you to participate.
    - i. The Holy Spirit functions as the general contractor.
      1. His role is to **empower you** and **equip you**.
    - ii. **Empower you:** Give you power to live supernaturally (Ex: courage)
    - iii. **Equip you:** Give you spiritual gifts for the building up of His church
2. **In light of this:** Every believer should leave spectator-Christianity and use the spiritual gifts that God has given them for the building up of the church. Why? Because...
    - a. **Truth #1:** Every believer receives spiritual gifts.
    - b. **Truth #2:** Every believer is valuable to the body. Because no one has every gift, we need each other. You need the church and the church needs you.
    - c. **Truth #3:** Gifts are for building up the church and not for elevating the individual.
  3. **Truth #1:** Every believer receives spiritual gifts.

1 Corinthians 12:1 (NIV) “Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed.”

- a. A test: The Holy Spirit will never contradict the Word of God.

1 John 4: 6 (NIV) “We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us.”

- b. No exceptions... the Holy Spirit desires to work through you!

1 Corinthians 12:7 (ESV) “To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

1 Peter 4:10 (ESV) “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: [...]”

- c. What are the spiritual gifts? Rom. 12:6–8; 1 Cor. 12:4–11; 1 Pet. 4:10–11
  - i. **The OverTime Podcast | Week 1 | Regeneration & Indwelling**
- d. I’ve received a gift from the Holy Spirit. Great! What is it?
  - i. Obedience often precedes equipping or knowing your equipped.

(Lewis, kids version, *Chronicles of Narnia*) “I bring you what your adventures call for [...]”

- ii. The Holy Spirit, in His foreknowledge, knows what gifts to give you.

“My own belief is that no man is sufficient for any task handed out to him, but that if he faces the task, the Great Father day by day supplies all rations as they become necessary.” (Flynn 186).

- e. Prayer: “Lord, whatever You direct me to do in relation to Your body [the church], that is what I will do. I am Your servant for Your purposes” (*Experiencing God*).

4. **Truth #2:** Every believer is valuable to the body. Because no one has every gift, we need each other. You need the church and the church needs you.

1 Corinthians 12:11 (ESV) “All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.”

- a. Who gave you your spiritual gift? The Holy Spirit... as He saw fit.

1 Corinthians 12:15 (ESV) “If the foot should say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,’ that would not make it any less a part of the body.”

- b. Make war on comparison!

1 Corinthians 12:18 (NIV) “But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.”

- c. There is a part we play - by God’s strength - in using our spiritual gifts.

2 Timothy 1:6 (NLT) “This is why I remind you to fan into flames the spiritual gift God gave you when I laid my hands on you.”

5. **Truth #3:** Gifts are for building up the church, and not for elevating the individual.

1 Corinthians 12:21 (ESV) “The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you,’ [...]”

- a. We need each other!

1 Corinthians 12:22-24a (ESV) “On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, <sup>24</sup> which our more presentable parts do not require.”

- b. “But God has so composed the body [...]”
  - i. Why?

1 Corinthians 12:25 (ESV) “[...] that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.”

6. **Conclusion: Gifts ≠ spiritual maturity**

- a. Listen to: The OverTime Podcast | Week 1 | Regeneration & Indwelling
- b. Using your gifts to love God and other people = spiritual maturity

1 Corinthians 13: 1-3 (ESV) “If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.”

### Small Group Discussion Questions

**Icebreaker:** When in high school, did you like team projects? Why or why not?

**Main Text:** 1 Corinthians 12 - 13

1. Concerning spiritual gifts, what was your upbringing like when it came to this topic?
  - a. It’s okay that we come from different upbringings.
2. Read 1 Corinthians 13. Why do you think Paul talked about love (1 Cor. 13) right after he had just talked about spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12)?
3. In your Life Group, you may have differing view points on this topic. Read through the Real Life Ministries’ doctrinal statement on spiritual gifts at <https://www.reallifeministries.com/doctrinalstatement> and explain how we function as a church.
4. How would you answer someone who asks, “How do I know what my gift is?”
5. How is unity possible despite the diversity of spiritual gifts in our church?
  - a. (Hint: Think about Paul’s analogy of the body.)
6. Our faith is meant to be put into action. What is your next step?



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