

THE BREATH OF GOD GIVES US SPIRITUAL GIFTS

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Open in Prayer.

One of the questions philosophers have asked over the years is, “How can we have both unity and diversity? How can there be the one and the many?” The answer is found in the Triune God. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. One God in three persons. United yet diverse. One but three.

The answer is the same for mankind and for the church. We are one. One human race, yet we are diverse. The Church is one body and united, yet we are to be diverse “from all nations” and we have all been given different gifts. And as humans and even more so in the Church, we are to be united and yet celebrate our differences which make us stronger. They make us better. The unity in the midst of our diversity reflects our Maker – the Triune God. And this Triune God is a gift giver.

Once we say “yes” to Jesus as Lord, God the Holy Spirit gives us Spiritual gifts, which are not to be used selfishly but to be used for the common good of the Church.

- God the Holy Spirit gives us spiritual gifts for the common good of the Church.
Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 CSB.
 - Stop and discuss with your group one gift you have been given by the Holy Spirit. (It’s ok if you’re not sure – we’ll help you find out your gift later in the study)
 - How is your gift used for the common good of the Church?
- What about tongues, prophecy, and healing?
 - Missional Tongues
Read Genesis 11:7-9, Genesis 12:1-3, and Acts 2:1-13 CSB.
 - Read again Genesis 11:7-9.
 - What do you see happening to their language?
 - What happened to the people? Why?
 - Those who were once united are now divided!
 - Now read Genesis 12:1-3.
 - What is the promise made to Abraham?
 - Who was promised to be a part of Abraham’s family?
 - Why is it significant that Abraham was not from Israel?
 - Note that this promise to Abraham is in the very next chapter after the Tower of Babel event. What does this tell us about God and His love, grace, and purposes for all mankind?
 - Now head over to Acts 2:1-13. This takes place after Jesus ascended into Heaven, and on the day of Pentecost those who were gathered together were filled with the promised Holy Spirit.
 - In verses 7-8, what do we read?
 - Looking back to Genesis 11, what is happening?
 - How is this related to Genesis 12:1-3?
 - How does this help you trust God more deeply?
 - Can you see what He is doing, or wants us to do, in the Church today? Can you see the Biblical “norm” of the Church being “multiethnic, multigenerational” rather than the exception?

- Private Prayer Tongues
Read 1 Corinthians 14:1-4 CSB.
 - Here Paul is writing about speaking in tongues in private. He is contrasting “prophecy” which is for the entire Church body, whereas tongues is for “building up self” – usually meaning when alone.
 - This is known as a “prayer language.” It should be noted that like other gifts, not everyone has this gift. The Holy Spirit gives gifts as He pleases.

- Prophecy is primarily communicating the Gospel. In the Old Testament, a prophet would speak on behalf of the Lord (2 Kings 7:1; Isaiah 43:14, and in many other passages). The prophet’s words were the very words of God. Now that the Bible is fully written, when Pastor Derwin or anyone who is preaching the Word of God, they are saying “thus saith the Lord...”and therefore communicating like a prophet.
 - When you’re sharing the Gospel and quoting the Bible, you can rest in His words and His power.

- Healing is guaranteed in the resurrection.
Read Revelation 21:4 CSB.
 - In this verse we see that He is the source of ultimate healing. How does this give you peace as friends or family suffer through a difficult illness or time?**Read Colossians 2:13-14 CSB.**
 - From the video in which we saw the generosity of Robert F Smith’s, how do we see both spiritual and physical debts being erased? How does this relate us back to the Insurgency series when Jesus prayed, “On earth as it is in Heaven”?

How do we discover our gifts? By exercising them...using them. Someone who can run fast will never know it until...they run! So we are to use our gifts serving in the Church. Many times we know our gifts because we serve using them without thinking about it! We also have tools to help us assess or to confirm our gifts. See the link in the Soul-Tattoo below.

Soul-tattoo: Take a Spiritual Gift Assessment Test and Study the Spiritual Gifts at www.TransformationChurch.tc/gifts.