

Mosaic: Painting Christ (1)
1 Corinthians 12:1-11, Week of Feb 04, 2018
Bay Park Life Groups - Leader

The Holy Spirit, like the Father and the Son, is not just a doctrine, an idea, or an experience to be tagged on to the other doctrines and experiences of our Christian life. He is the God who has invaded our lives with his transforming presence.
Craig S Keener¹

Sadly, if the Holy Spirit was removed from the earth, many churches wouldn't even notice. Conversely, in some circles, everything that happens is attributed to the Holy Spirit even though he has little or nothing to do with it. There is a better way!

Warming up . . .

1. Pick one and go for it
 - The Craig S Keener quote got me thinking about how . . .
 - Sunday's sermon got me thinking about . . .
 - The craziest thing I ever saw in the name of the Holy Ghost was . . .

Digging in . . .

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 together

2. What verses or ideas stand out to you most and why?
3. What common myths does 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 blow out of the water?

Leaders: The myth that . . .

- the major evidence of the Holy Spirit in a person's life is their ability to speak in tongues (4).
- the more public the gift the more mature and spiritual the person (5-7).
- some Christians have less to contribute (7).
- I can be a church of one (7, 11).
- pastors should be the only ones teaching because they went to seminary (8).
- we get to ask God for the gifts we want (11).

4. How might verse 7 help someone struggling to figure out what their gift is?

Leader - 1 Cor 12:7 sheds light on two fundamental questions:

- Do I have a gift? If you're a believer the answer is absolutely!
- What is my gift? Whatever it is, it's something that benefits the church. Knowing this helps narrow the list. Let's say I've always longed to be a rock star. I might assume my gift is singing (1 Cor 14:27). If the church isn't built up by my croaking, then music isn't my gift. If on the other hand, I find myself drawn to

¹ Craig Keener, *Gift & Giver*, (Baker Academic, 2001) p 18

those who are down and our time together puts a smile on their face and a skip in their step, I probably have the gift of encouragement (Rom 12:8).

5. Verses 8-11 was never meant as a complete list of the gifts of the Spirit. Other passages like Romans 12:6-8, Ephesians 4:11, and 1 Peter 4:9-11 add to the list. What's the complete list of gifts? Jesus! Check out Colossians 2:9. As we (the church) use our gifts together, we are painting the mosaic of Christ. Making the invisible tangible in and out of church.

Here's a concise definition to help you understand each gift mentioned in 8-10:

Wisdom (*sophias*) – ability to apply godly insight to current challenges.

Knowledge (*gnoseos*) – depth of theological and doctrinal insight.

Faith (*pistis*) - uncommon measure of trust in God.

Healing (*iamaton*) – ability to restore health.

Miracles (*dunameis*) – supernatural workings of power.

Prophecy (*propheteia*) – perceiving and declaring God's will for his people.

Discerning of spirits (*diakriseis pneumatou*) – ability to discern what is of God and not of God.

Tongues (*gene glosson*) – ability with known and/or heavenly languages. (If you can read and understand the Greek you have it!)

Interpretation (*hermeneia glosson*) – translation of spoken and/or heavenly languages.

Looking over the list, how does the exercise of each gift help paint the picture of who Christ is and what he is doing today? Or, if any one of the gifts was absent in the church, what part of Jesus would we be missing?

Leaders – your group might tend to get hung up on tongues, interpretation, healing and/or miracles. Don't worry about trying to come to any fixed conclusions at this point. We will be addressing these gifts in more depth in weeks to come. Especially tongues as it's a major focus of 1 Cor 14. Reassure your group of this and help them focus on what they do know and understand.

6. Speaking of gifts, and remembering that no bible list is complete . . .
- What gifts make most sense to you - are you most comfortable with?
 - What gift(s) do you definitely not have and why?
 - What gift(s) would you be voted most likely to have?

Leader – if your group knows each other well and is comfortable together, you might consider opening up the last question for comments by others – what gifts do you see in each other? Be sure to help your group think beyond the list in 8-10. You might want to have people turn to the other passages mentioned in question #5.

Driving it home . . .

7. How can we pray for each other?
- Discernment re discovering my God given gift for the good of the church?

- Desire and courage to share my gift with my church?
- Other?