

1st Corinthians: Be A Believer

The Same Spirit, The Same Lord

1st Corinthians 12:1-7

Refresher

- Written by Paul to the church in Corinth
- A major port city
- There was a saying “**To live like a Corinthian**” untethered lifestyle
- Corrective letters
- “Consider the Source”
- Communion, division, fleshly priority

Friends over yesterday...great fellowship...talking about the church, pastoral roles, people spectating, maybe not realizing, not being grown up into the things God has for them

[Ephesians 4:11-16 NKJV] And He Himself gave some [to be] apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ-- from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

The pastoral ministry is to build up the body. Build up those who are under the teaching and guidance...to be strong in the Word. Not easily fooled. To grow up, with him, into all that God wants them to be.

To be *equipped* to do the things God has called them to do!

Given the tools to do the job.

The pastor isn't the end of the ministry, he's the beginning. The coach. The instructor. The sergeant. The people are the team, the soldiers, the students. Meant to carry out the things God has called each one of them to do.

God calls. The pastor equips. The saints do.

And they all do, by the Power of the Holy Spirit in them, with the Gifts (spiritual abilities) He has given them.

Gifts. They're not earned. They're not learned (if you don't have them). They're **given**.

Different “tests” - might be good to see if there’s evidence. But the gifts support the calling.

Being behind the sound booth “penalty box”

“Come out from behind here”

Sometimes it’s easier to serve in things than to serve people

But God calls us to serve people and steward things.

[Pray]

12:1-3

I do not want you to be ignorant

To not know, not understand, to be wrong

“Ignorance is bliss”

Well, not in this case

There is a life to be lived, in the Spirit, by the Spirit, that we should be aware of

We’re all alive, but are we living?

[John 10:10b NKJV] I have come that they may have life, and that they may have [it] more abundantly.

Three ways to live life:

1. **Without the Holy Spirit.** As we all did before the Lord. Walking in the darkness of our own understanding.
2. **With the Holy Spirit.** We’re saved. We want the things of God. Can be anytime, we’re just not paying attention to him, or prioritizing ourselves or just...**ignorant of it**
3. **By The Holy Spirit.** We’re “filled.” We’re aware of the joy, the peace that passes understanding, we have the energy, the drive to do the things of God. **We walk in obedience doing the things God would have us to.**

Like walking on water. We find ourselves doing things, going places, saying things, enduring things we know we’d never be able to without the Lord.

[John 14:12 NKJV] “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater [works] than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

What’s “greater” than the cross? Nothing. But from it, we are able to live our entire lives for Him. He ministered for 3 years publicly. We have the rest of our lives, until He comes, to do just that.

This fear of the Spirit or ignorance of Him swings many ways

Cessationists

Hyperpentecostalism

Today is Pentecost

Acts 2 - Disciples, "Wait until the Holy Spirit comes upon you"

Tongues of fire, ability to do the things of God

Without the Holy Spirit's influence, power and authority...we can do nothing for God.

[Psalm 127:1 NKJV] A Song of Ascents. Of Solomon. Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain.

The Holy Spirit is a person of the trinity.

Just as much God as Jesus.

Just as much God as the Father.

But his role, his personality, his role in our lives is distinct and all His own.

John 15:26

"But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

John 16:7-8

Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

But I believe, based on what I see in scripture. That the Holy Spirit doesn't like to draw attention to himself.

- He's humble.
- He's gentle.
- He's not domineering.
- He's strong.
- He's powerful.

But as Jesus shows us the Father.

And the Father commands the Son.

The Holy Spirit leads us to Jesus.

Evil spirits possess, and cause trauma, and disorder, and can even control unwillingly.

The Holy Spirit will not force us. He will not hurt us. He only comforts us. And gives us the power and gifts to do what we're called to do.

Paul starts off the comparison to the way the Holy Spirit works in our lives to the things we were all familiar with...

Being led by dumb idols, desires and sins.

Remembering back to the events leading up to my abortion. It was as if I was in chains, being led where I knew wasn't good, but I was shackled and led to slaughter.

People led by desires, influence, what they think they have to do to be right with a deity.

It's never good.

And I think we're scared of God because of our bad experiences with the little g gods.

And we shouldn't be.

[2 Timothy 1:6-7 NKJV] Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

That following God, being led by His Spirit...will not lead us to insanity. Will not make us to truly crazy things (although you see what some of the prophets were called to in the OT) it is not the norm.

It is not swinging from chandeliers. Barking like a dog. Going crazy in the streets.

It is calm. Collected. Powerful. Stern-faced towards the world. Unafraid of what may come or what people think, because we've seen God face-to-face.

Youth conference in upstate NY. Was very good, and then it wasn't. The flesh took over.
IGNORANCE

I always liked where Calvary's position was. Not so legalistic that you dry up. Not so overcharismatic that you wash up.

Think of it as a balance between baptists and pentecostals. A strong emphasis on the Word, knowing the Word, reading the Word, obeying the Word but also doing so by the Spirit, in the Spirit, open to His leading, His giftings.

But as we'll read, soon, **"All done decently and in order."**

Again, Scripture is the Authority. The rulebook. The guide for how these things work. To "test the spirits"

When people go off the rails it's because they are ignorant to the scripture.

When they claim things are of the Spirit but the Word clearly says they're not.

You can tell.

Discernment is of the Lord.

*Word from God for me during TRUCE outreach
Word from God for my pastor at times*

There's no gift of criticism

The Holy Spirit is the one who gives the authority for us to carry out the things of the scripture.

Things that only God can do we can now do. Not because we're special in and of ourselves. But because God is the one doing it through us.

The body of Christ...we're the flesh walking around as he walked around in a body, but the same spirit that was in him is in us doing the works he did.

BUT GREATER BECAUSE THERE'S MILLIONS OF US.

"Christian" pejorative...little Christ.

:4-6

Various gifts - same Spirit

(we're going to look at these in the next study)

Differences in the way they are carried out

A man called to teach will execute it in a way different than a woman

The Bible is clear about a man being the one who pastors a church

But women are to teach other women and children

Same gift, difference in how they're applied

Even within that. Some senior pastors, some children's ministers, some prison ministry

But all given the gift of teaching

All of it, the same Lord

[Ephesians 4:1-7 KJV] I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. [There is] one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who [is] above all, and through all, and in you all. But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

The Same God who operates them in all

Just because someone else has a gift you don't
Doesn't mean you don't have any gifts!

You are just as special as they are to God!

Billy Graham? Yep.

Paul? Yep

Corrie Ten Boom. Yep

Whoever you're thinking about. Yep.

God loves all of us the same! HE DOESN'T PLAY FAVORITES

So why then the difference?

Same God. Same spirit. Different calling.

Or maybe the same calling and we haven't pursued it!

We can't expect to reap a reward for work we haven't been willing to do.

The Same God who speaks through you to your coworker

Is the same God who speaks through Greg Laurie

The same God who inspires a great Christian artist to write a song

Is the same God who gives you the right words to comfort your child

We look at things backwards far too often

We look at the outside. We look at earthly reward.

We should live for heavenly reward.

And the earthly reward will not have the same pull on us.

No need to be jealous for each other...

God is jealous for US.

In ALL people.

There's not one people group. Not one family. Not one age. Not one type of personality.

God wants to work in all of us. Equally by His Spirit but manifested in different ways.

But for the same outcome.

Pointing people to Jesus. Bringing people to heaven. Making people Holy.

:7

Given to everyone for the common good.

The gifts are not to exalt us. They are to exalt God.

They are given to us not only to benefit us. But to benefit everyone.

(Paul focuses on this in ch. 14)

Back to the pastor/teacher example

The pastor may receive praise and be exalted by the people. A good pastor is worthy of a double blessing. But so is anyone who is faithful.

But that's not the point of the gift.

The point is to build up the body.

A good test of the gift is: who does it edify? Who does it encourage? Does it benefit everyone? Or does the wielder get all the glory?

Do you feel built up? Or do you feel lesser?

Are you equipped? Or are you left with an empty wallet?

It's the same spirit. The spirit that lives in you is the one who lives in any other believer.

And if it's the spirit. The spirit in them will agree with the spirit in you. No matter the difference of administration.

So by the same spirit, let's use our gifts. Let's know our Bibles. And let's together say JESUS IS LORD.