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# Sermon Notes

June 12, 2016

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

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## A Gifted Church (Part 1)

1 Corinthians 12:1-12

<sup>1</sup> Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed.

<sup>2</sup> You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit.

<sup>4</sup> Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;

<sup>5</sup> and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord;

<sup>6</sup> and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.

<sup>7</sup> To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

<sup>8</sup> For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit,

<sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,

<sup>10</sup> to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

<sup>11</sup> All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

<sup>12</sup> For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

## Don't Waste Your Life!

- ❖ To help us avoid wasting our lives, Jesus gives us the privilege and opportunity to invest in each other's lives
  - each of us is designed and equipped to make a difference in the lives of others
  - ***Do not neglect the gift you have*** (1 Tim 4:14)
- ❖ Every person Jesus incorporates in the church He is building is given a spiritual gift
  - we are expected to use the Spirit's serving gifts to invest in the lives of others
  - ***As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace...*** (1 Pet. 4:10)

## Spiritual Gifts Are...

- ❖ Spiritual gifts are divine enablements that allow each of us to make unique contributions to the body of Christ
- ❖ Given by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 12:11)
- ❖ Given to every believer in the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:7)
  - specifically and personally given (1 Cor 12:18)
  - given for meaningful service
  - given so God can accomplish His perfect will through us

## Spiritual Gifts Are Not...

- ❖ Natural talents
  - talents are given at birth—gifts at spiritual birth
  - talents edify individuals—gifts edify others
  - talents are given to all—gifts are given to believers
- ❖ The Fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22)
  - fruit leads to maturity—gifts lead us to places of service
  - fruit leads to eternal qualities—gifts lead to temporal tasks
  - fruit is character oriented—gifts are others oriented

## Serving in the Right Place

### SELF SAYS:

I have to do... Obligation  
**ME** first... If I get around to it;  
if it fits into my schedule  
It's not my job!  
Through ministry, my fullness  
will become emptiness

### RESULTS IN:

Self-seeking  
Pride

### SERVANTHOOD SAYS:

I want to do... Obedience  
**FATHER** first...  
what are His priorities?  
Whatever it takes!  
Through ministry my emptiness  
will become fullness

### RESULTS IN:

God-glorifying  
Humility

- ❖ If you refuse to use your gift, the work and ministry God has given our congregation to do will not be complete
  - we need 100% employment in the body of Christ
  - don't "envy" someone else's gift (1 Cor 12:18)
  - when doing God's kingdom work, there are no spare parts, no leftovers, no "also rans"
- ❖ Things to avoid
  - don't "project" your gift upon others and expect them to serve in the same way you are serving
  - don't glorify your gift and think is more special than another gifts
  - don't isolate your gift and use it for personal satisfaction or gain
  - don't suppress your gift, doubting its validity, need, or impact

## Personal Application

1. What do you believe God has gifted you to do in order to make a difference in the lives of others? Are you developing or neglecting that gift?
2. Do you currently sense that you are serving God in the right place of ministry? How do you know this to be the case?
3. In preparation for next Sunday, please read and think about the four primary New Testament passages that provide lists of Spiritual gifts: 1 Corinthians 12-14; Romans 12:1-8; Ephesians 4:1-16; and 1 Peter 4:8-11.