



new life fellowship

Sermon Title: The Holy Spirit: Spiritual Gifts
Speaker: Sherin Swift, Connection & Equipping Pastor
Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:4-13

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

¹²For 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. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. (NRSV)

Sermon Outline:

The Corinthian church was marked by diversity and division, and highly influenced and shaped by the culture around it. So much so that they were a mirror of what was happening outside of the church. Paul is taking time in today's scripture to address what was taking place in the church: their unity was shallow, and they were immature in their walk with Christ.

Spiritual gifts are unique abilities given to each of us by the Holy Spirit to build up the church.

Spiritual gifts are not just skills. They are distinct because when we use our spiritual gifts, we are partnering with the Holy Spirit who gives us special insight that goes beyond human skill. This is a way that the Holy Spirit makes us especially effective in the Kingdom of God.

Using our spiritual gifts is a significant way that the Holy Spirit mature us. The spiritual gifts that the spirit has given you will never be expressed in the same way by any other person. Your gifts are something unique in the world that the Holy Spirit wants to work in and through your life. They are the place where God shapes us.

You are unrepeatable.

There is a lot of diversity in spiritual gifts.

There is a unity and oneness that the spirit is building in us when we enter into using our gifts. The world cannot duplicate this type of unity and the church is different from the rest of the world because of these gifts.

Paul is using the language of the body to help us understand the oneness that God is trying to build in Christ. The church cannot do the things it is meant to do without the everyone taking part. We all play an important part of the body of and serving is part of our formation in Christ. Your spiritual gifts matter not just for yourself but also for the church.

Spiritual gifts move us away from division toward unity by growing us in love.

What makes this community different is the abundance of love through the spirit as we engage our spiritual gifts. Love is holding the body of Christ together. We are all uniquely made in the image of God

with unique skills and experiences, but by one spirit we are empowered to use our gifts and God grows us in love.

YOU have a gifts that New Life Fellowship needs!

You are going to have to risk stepping out and trying something to discern what your spiritual gift is. The spirit will lead you as you gain momentum so that the spirit can guide you in the direction of where you need to be going.

Using your gifts is a place where the Holy Spirit is at work in your life.

What do you see in someone else? What gifts can you call out?

We are all called to point out the gifts of those around us, telling others how we see the spirit working in them. Find time this week to let someone you know about the gifts that you see in them.

We have immediate and significant needs at New Life. Maybe you can start moving towards your gifting by volunteering in one of the areas listed below?

- NextGen Ministry: Next Gen is currently looking for those to join them in their Pick 2 initiative, where you would pick two Sundays out of the summer to volunteer in Prek and Elementary only. [Click here](#) to fill out their form to let them know you would like to join them. They are also in need of small group leaders, greeters, and storytellers for the fall and moving forward. You can reach out to Brendaliz Ayende at brendaliz.ayende@newlife.nyc if interested.
- Sunday Services: We are in need of Audio-Visual volunteers as well as Greeters & Ushers for our worship service at 11am. Feel free to stop by the Sound Booth after either service (9am or 11am) on Sunday to speak with Jessica Rechner, Tom Henry or Andrew Swift for more information and how to get involved. You can also reach out to Jessica at jessica.rechner@newlife.nyc if interested.

Sermon Summary:

This Sunday, Pastor Sherin Swift, Connections & Equipping Pastor, continues our sermon series on the Holy Spirit. Today Pastor Sherin explores spiritual gifts and how using our spiritual gifts helps mature us in Christ.

Sermon Questions:

1. Do you feel an invitation from Christ in today's scripture passage? Are there words that resonate with you if so, why?
2. When it comes to your family of origin and growing up, did anyone acknowledge or encourage you regarding your spiritual gifts? Did they point out gifts that they saw in you? What was that experience like for you?
3. Using our spiritual gifts is a significant way that the Holy Spirit mature us and the place where God shapes us. Do you know what your spiritual gifts are? If so, how are you presently using those gifts to bless those around you? Or are you hesitant to use your gifts for fear of failure or disappointment? Ask God for wisdom and guidance on using your spiritual gifts so that you can bless others.
4. Are you presently in a period of transition, have you been hurt in the past either by others or by your previous church, where you felt manipulated? Maybe you are afraid to take the first step of using your spiritual gifts at New Life? We want you to be sure you take time to heal and feel rested but ask that you don't stay there too long. God might be using your gifts as a place where the Holy Spirit is at work in your life, so that God can finish the healing you need in your life. Ask a trusted brother or sister in Christ or someone from your small group to pray for you if you are in a time of transition.