

MANY GIFTS. ONE SPIRIT

1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 27-31

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to 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. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

- What would an orchestra or band sound like if everyone played the same instrument?
- In the Episcopal Church, we have lay people, deacons, priests, and bishops. What are a few things each group does?
- Paul named spiritual gifts important at his time: sharing wisdom, knowledge, having faith, healing, etc. What spiritual gifts does the world need today?
- What spiritual gift(s) do you have? Do you use them in church? at home? at school?
- Is there a spiritual gift you wished you had? Why?