

## GIFTED, Week 1

### THE WAY WE EXPERIENCE AND EXHIBIT CHRIST TOGETHER

A Christ-community is not just a group that wants to **exalt** Jesus; it is being a group that **experiences** Christ by participating in The Holy Spirit's gifts together and **exhibits** Christ by partnering in our God-assigned gifts. The Gifts of The Spirit [1 Corinthians 12 and 14] and The Gifts God Assigns to us [Romans 12] are ways we experience and exhibit Jesus.

We are meant to **experience** Christ by participating in The Holy Spirit's gifts together. Jesus will always touch us, but He often does it through the members of His Body.

**1 Corinthians 12.12-13: 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. 13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.**

**1 Corinthians 14.1-4: Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. 2 For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit. 3 On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation. 4 The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church, 'The Assembled'.**

**1 Corinthians 14.26 What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.**

<b>Questions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How does the pursuit of love tie in with earnestly desiring the spiritual gifts?</li><li>• What happens when people function out of their gifts or desire gifts from a place of need to have value or purpose?</li></ul>
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We are meant to **exhibit** Christ by partnering with our God-assigned gifts. The focus of the gifts is not about personal revelation of self, rather it is about jointly revealing Christ that we and others would see and know Him ever increasingly! We are motivated to serve in our gifting due to our desire for the full expression of Christ to be made manifest in church, society, and culture.

**Romans 12.3-8 We, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. 4 For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, 5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; 7 if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; 8 the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.**

In Romans 12 Paul does not expand on how to identify or activate each other's giftings. This is not Paul's version of the Enneagram or Myers-Briggs. Paul assumed that these gifts were present even in the small church in Rome and it would not be difficult to identify them.

<b>Questions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the simple ways to identify one’s gifts? Why has it become more complex?</li> <li>• What are some of the reasons we withhold from using our gifts? What lies are at the root of those reasons? (Pray over these things!)</li> </ul>
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If Church is meant to exalt, exhibit, and be the experience of the fullness of Jesus, then there is a tipping point of diversity of gifts where we become a Christ-Community. By ourselves, we are not large enough to be Church. We are meant to prioritize our partnership. “Church” literally means “A Called-Out Assembly.” Church is not just a suggested way to organize; it is part of God’s design.

The Church’s ministry on earth is the kind of community that the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit have enjoyed for eternity. The great eternal reality is not mission, is not revival, is not any of these things; it is community that looks like God. The core purpose of the people of God was to be the demonstration of The Kingdom of God!

<b>Questions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Acts 1.8. The church has been focused on mission (what we should accomplish together) for a long time. But Jesus tells us we will be a witness. What is the difference of being a witness versus focusing on mission.</li> <li>• Read Acts 2.42-47. How did the love of the early church for Christ and one another become a witness?</li> <li>• Are people outside of the church more attracted to witness, or mission?</li> </ul>
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