

The Importance of Serving – Week 6 of HHBC 3D

September 21

I. Review:

- **WEEK 1** we discussed the church's Mission, Vision, and Values
 - *consistently participating in weekend services,*
 - *doing life together through Community Groups, and*
 - *servicing in and/or through one of the ministries of the church.*
- **Importance of Corporate Worship in Our Spiritual Renewal** in •Joel 2:12-19.
- **Importance of Community Groups** based on the **Calling to Live Life Together in Christ-Centered Community** found in •Romans 15:1-7.

II. Discussion and Application:

Our discussion today is going to revolve around the importance of spiritual gifts in the life of believers and the role they play in how we serve God, the church, and one another. We are also going to take an extended period of time to all go through a spiritual gift assessment designed as a tool to help us identify our spiritual gifts as well as the passions and desires we have for serving.

Three Truths about the Importance of Serving through Spiritual Gifts

I Corinthians 12:4-26

4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. 7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 8 To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. 12 Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. 13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 14 Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. 15 Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body. 21 The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" 22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, 24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, 25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. 26 If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

Within this passage, Paul tells us a great deal about spiritual gifts. However, because we want to focus on the importance of serving, we will explore Paul's major themes about spiritual gifts and serving through them.

1. The Holy Spirit Distributes the Various Spiritual Gifts to Believers to Serve in Various Ways (v. 4-11)

Paul states three truths about how God works in the lives of believers:

- Verse 4, "*there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.*"
- Verse 5, "*there are varieties of service, but the same Lord.*"
- Verse 6, "*there are varieties of activities, but the same God who empowers them all in everyone.*"

"Gifts" refer to spiritual gifts we receive from the Holy Spirit and "Service" refers to the offices of the Church, which was established by Jesus the Son. "Activities" refers to the miracles in peoples' lives performed by God the Father.

These verses are a clear and edifying picture of how our trinity of God gives His children opportunities to serve Him. Verses 8 through 11, emphasize how the Holy Spirit distributes all spiritual gifts. Praise God that the Holy Spirit distributes the perfect gift for each of His perfect children as He saves us from sin.

2. Regardless of your Spiritual Gifts, You are Important to God and the Church (v. 12-20)

Paul speaks directly to our fleshly fears and insecurities about our spiritual gifts. He uses two analogies about body parts to reveal how we may feel about the gifts the Spirit has bestowed upon us.

We must truly believe that the Holy Spirit distribute spiritual gifts and Christ, in His power, established the Church so that we ALL can have a role in serving Him – EVERY believer is an equally important member of the body.

“As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.”

3. God gives Spiritual Gifts so that Believers can CARE for One Another (v. 21-26)

In the previous verses Paul warned about jealousy and insecurities based on the gifts the Holy Spirit has granted us. In the following verses, however, Paul addresses the pride we are tempted to feel based on the gifts we have. Paul says in verses 21 and 22, *“The eye cannot say to the hand, ‘I have no need of you,’ nor again the head to the feet, ‘I have no need of you.’ On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable.”*

But God calls us to humility regarding our spiritual gifts – they are not to cause division. Paul says in verses 25 and 26, we are given our spiritual gifts so that we *“may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.”*

Spiritual Gift Assessment:

First, remember that spiritual gifts are *“gifts that are given to the believer by God. They are marked by an ability to serve the Lord with relative ease or effectiveness. Exercising spiritual gifts is as an act of worship to God as it builds up others.”*

Second, this assessment is **simply a tool to help us identify our spiritual gifts** – In no way should it take the place of seeking the Spirit to lead us into ministry or keep us from trying service opportunities within the church.

1. <http://www.hhbc.com/serve-3d/spiritual-gift-assessment/step-one>

2. The assessment has **THREE MAJOR PARTS**:

- **Part One:** 80 questions concerning spiritual gifts – Don't overthink your answers.
- **Part Two:** A place to enter the email addresses of two close friends of your choice for feedback and evaluation – Use someone who knows you really well and worships with you regularly.
- **Part Three:** 70 questions concerning passions and abilities – be selective and choose what you really want to do, not what you think you “should” or “could” do.

3. You have the ability to pause the assessment at any time and complete it later.

4. When you finish the assessment, you will get an email with the results and other resources related to serving.

III. Small Group Discussion Questions:

1. How can the truth of the Holy Spirit distributing all spiritual gifts grow our desire to serve and encourage us as we serve?
2. Why might a foot say that he does not belong to the body compared to a hand? Or an ear compared to an eye?
3. In what ways do we do the same thing by comparing our spiritual gifts and complain or diminish what the Holy Spirit has given us?
4. Why is comparing spiritual gifts so dangerous for us as well as for the body in which we serve?
5. Why might we be tempted at times to become prideful and arrogant about our spiritual gifts?
6. Why is it important to remember that our spiritual gifts are for the edification of the body and not our own benefit?