

# Power partners

## Part 1, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Here we look at the second in the series on the Holy Spirit. Last week we looked at John 14:15-27. Jesus is going away but will not leave His followers alone – He will send the Holy Spirit.

1. Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11.

**What are some key things that stand out to you from the passage?**

2. The gifts are different and unique but together they add up to Jesus continually being with us. They cause us as a people, when gathered together to be Jesus to each other and to the world. We are essential to each other. *"The ultimate criterion of the Spirit's activity is the exaltation of Jesus as Lord. Whatever takes away from that, even if they be legitimate expressions of the Spirit, begins to move away from Christ to a more pagan fascination with spiritual activity as an end in itself."* Fee

**What do you think?**

3. Gifts "(Gr. charismata, from charis, meaning "grace") are abilities that enable a person to glorify and serve God. God gives them freely and graciously. Likewise there are different services (Gr. diakonia; opportunities for service) that the one Lord over the church gives. Furthermore there are different workings (Gr. energemata; manifestations of the Spirit's power at work) that the one God who is responsible for all of them bestows.

**Why do you think three different words are used here?**

4. Faith is trust in God. Every Christian has some faith just as every Christian has some wisdom and knowledge. However some believers have more God-given ability to trust God than others just as some have more God-given wisdom or knowledge than others.

All believers should seek to cultivate wisdom, knowledge, and faith, but some have a larger God-given capacity for one or another of them than other Christians do.

**What do you think?**

5. Read Romans 12:6-8 and Ephesians 4:11-14.

**Why do you think the lists of gifts are different?**

6. "First, there is no gift the church needs that God has not given to one of the members. Second, the work of the church is to encourage the members in the discovery and use of these gifts." Gordon Cosby, Church of the Saviour Washington.

**In what way might this be a good guide/call for us as a church?**