

GIFTED

CATCH UP

Everyone gets to play

Read: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 | Speaker: Tim O'Leary

Watch the sermon: 45:39-1:15:54 | GIFTED, Week 1

Tim opened the GIFTED series with a childhood nativity story: his role was to make donkey hoofbeats with coconuts, hidden at the back. It left him wondering whether his contribution mattered. Church can sometimes feel similar, with a few visible people taking part while others wonder what they have to give.

Paul addresses a church where spiritual gifts had become status symbols. His correction is that the Spirit is at work throughout the community, giving different gifts for the common good.

01 Everyone gets to play.

Confessing Jesus as Lord is itself evidence of the Holy Spirit's work. Spiritual belonging is not reserved for people with the most impressive gifts. Everyone who follows Jesus has a part to play.

02 Different gifts come from the same God.

Paul describes different gifts, services and activities, all given and empowered by the same God. His list illustrates the Spirit's variety; it is not an exhaustive catalogue. We can value different contributions without turning them into a hierarchy.

03 Gifts are bridges, not badges.

Gifts are given to make God known and serve others, rather than advertise our spiritual status. Their use reaches beyond Sunday into workplaces, families and everyday encounters. Church is a place to practise and grow for that wider calling.

Tim invited us to discover, develop and deploy our gifts. The assessment is a compass to guide reflection, not a consultant that diagnoses us. Discern gifts prayerfully with others, then take a step towards using them.

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DISCUSS + RESPOND

Explore it together

Read the passage aloud. Use the questions that best serve your group.

- 01 When have you felt that your contribution mattered? What helped you recognise it?
- 02 Read verses 1-3. How does the confession 'Jesus is Lord' challenge the idea that only some Christians are truly spiritual?
- 03 Read verses 4-6. Which less visible gifts or forms of service could our group celebrate more?
- 04 What changes when we see spiritual gifts as bridges to others rather than badges of achievement?
- 05 Where might God use your gifts beyond Sunday - at home, at work or among friends?
- 06 Which next step would help you discover, develop or deploy a gift? How could someone in this group support you?

Prayer and response

Holy Spirit, show us what you have placed within us, fan it into flame and teach us to give it away for the good of others. Thank God for one another's contributions and choose one practical step to take this week.

My response this week
