

The Holy Spirit gives gifts for service

discussion guide

based on **Romans 12.4-8** (Linked to sermon of 21/5/17)
which can be accessed at www.stjamesbythepark.org/current-sermon-series

This is the third part of our 'What does the Holy Spirit do?' series, leading up to Pentecost.

Intro: The church is one body made up of many members. What part of the body do you see yourself as (eg hand, lung, eye), and why?

Read Romans 12.4-8

v4-5 we are one body with many members – each with different functions.

Why's it important in church life that we're all different?

What would make you feel more like you're part of one single body?

What are some of the implications of saying that we belong to one another?

v6a God distributes the gifts as he sees fit. Are you content with the gifts you have, or are you tempted to envy others' gifts?

1 Cor 14.1 talks about eagerly desiring gifts. Is there a gift you'd like? We can't demand them from God, but there's no harm asking (although if we're not using the gifts he has already given us, why would he give further gifts?)!

v6b-8 discuss the different gifts listed here – who do you know with these different gifts?

It's important not just that the gifts are used, but that they're used rightly. 1 Cor 13 talks about using the gifts with love. These verses also talk about how they're to be used.

What do you think Jesus would say to you about how you're to use your gifts at the moment?

How could we encourage people to step out in faith with using their gifts?

Up: Look at the list of gifts mentioned in the Bible overleaf. Which gifts do you think are under-represented in our church? Pray for them to be more manifest.

In: Give each person a sheet of paper. Get them to write their name at the bottom and pass the sheet to the left. Now everyone should write at the top of the sheet of paper what particular gifts or qualities they appreciate about the person named at the bottom. When they've written a few words, fold the top of the sheet over (so you can't see what you've written) and pass the sheet to the left again. Repeat round the whole group.

Out: The gifts aren't only for use within the church fellowship. How could you use your gifts in the home / workplace this week?

Words / pictures

In the 1030am service, two people shared words / pictures which would be good to pray into – and there was a third one afterwards:

1. Picture of a water butt. Some of us feel empty when it comes to God's Spirit. We need to take the lid off the water butt, and it will begin filling up automatically – and

will in due course begin overflowing. An encouragement to open yourself up to God's Spirit.

2. the word 'transforming' – the T represents the cross; RAN represents us being will to move with God; FORM is allowing God to form/mould us; IN is where it happens – inside us.

3. As a church, are we like the lame man in Acts 3 – our body isn't working properly because we're not all using our gifts? When we let the Holy Spirit work in us, we'll be healed – like the lame man who "jumped to his feet and began to walk ... walking and jumping and praising God" (Acts 3.7-8).

A list of spiritual gifts

(this is not necessarily exhaustive, just the ones clearly mentioned in the New Testament)

Administration

Apostle

Discerning of spirits

Evangelist

Exhortation

Fatih

Giving

Healing

Helps

Hospitality

Interpretation of tongues

Knowledge

Mercy

Leadership

Miracles

Prophecy

Service

Shepherd / pastor

Teaching

Tongues

Wisdom

If you want, you can look up more information about these gifts at <http://www.buildingchurch.net/g2s-d.htm>