

SERIES: URGENT WORDS FOR URGENT TIMES

DATE: Saturday - Sunday, September 30 – October 1, 2023

SERMON: The Urgency of Serving God

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 12:1-13, 27-31 NIV

[12:1] Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed.

[2] You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols.

[3] Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

[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.

[12:27] Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

[28] And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues.

[29] Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?

[30] Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?

[31] Now eagerly desire the greater gifts. And yet I will show you the most excellent way.

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Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name. – Psalm 103:1

1. Focus on _____ and _____.

- Even in the discussion of gifts, _____ is the key.
- Notice the _____ in vv.4-6. We should be _____ as the Godhead is One.
- Notice the common _____. (v.7)
- Notice “_____ in the body”. (v.25)
- Notice if _____ part of your body hurts, the _____ body hurts (vv.14-26). So it is with the body of Christ. (v.26)

2. Serve God with _____.

- All gifts are _____ by God to be _____ for God.
- God gives us _____ “to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.” Ephesians 4:12.
- We are to _____ “until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ”. Ephesians 4:13
- Work with _____ using your particular gifts.
List of gifts: 1 Cor 12:28-30; Romans 12:6-8; Eph 4:11-12 is not exhaustive.

3. Take the _____.

- _____ your gift.
- “I have noticed that the Holy Spirit has a great affinity for a trained mind.”

Lagniappe

THREE QUESTIONS

As we deal with life, I think three questions are pertinent to deal with just about any situation. This particularly has to do with self-improvement. Whether it's health, finances, or our relationship with God, these three questions seem to make sense to help us deal with the issues in our lives.

Question One: *"Where am I?"* This first question is basic. It asks, *"How am I doing?"*

This is a very important question to ask. We all need to know where we are and how we are doing. When we honestly evaluate our situation, we can begin to take measures to make things better.

Question Two: *"Where do I want to be?"*

This question is about change. It is about how I can progress and live differently.

Frankly, most people handle this question well. Question One and Question Three are difficult questions, but Question Two simply asks what our hopes and dreams are. Sometimes, these hopes and dreams are unrealistic, but it is imperative to understand where you want to end up.

Question Three: *"How can I get from where I am to where I want to be?"*

You readily know that this is the most difficult question of all. It calls for honest evaluation and deep commitment. It makes us decide if we will do the things necessary to get to where we want to be.

Our church staff has determined that over the next year or so we are going to emphasize taking the next steps necessary to grow in every way, but particularly in our relationship with God. I hope you will let us help you by getting connected in a Bible study group that we call Connect Groups. I hope that you will open your heart and life to Scripture and to the teaching of God's word, so that you can grow in your relationship to Him.

We want to help you to take your next steps in your spiritual journey.

Waylon