



Study 11: The Holy Spirit gifts so we can serve others

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Scanning

Main Texts: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Other Texts: 1 Peter 4:10-11; Romans 12:3-8; Ephesians 4:1-16

Group exercise: Have you ever benefitted from someone using their spiritual gifts? Give a few examples and try to observe any patterns (similarities or contrasts) across the examples.

Going Deeper

1. Put in your own words what a spiritual gift is, and what spiritual gifts are for. Notice what 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 teaches.
2. Take some time to reflect on Sam Storm's comments below. What stands out to you and why?

"Spiritual gifts are nothing less than God Himself in us, energising our souls, infusing power in our wills, and working his sovereign and gracious purposes through us. Spiritual gifts are God present in, with, and through human thoughts, human deeds, human words, human love." (Sam Storms, A Beginner's Guide to Spiritual Gifts)

3. How can you identify your spiritual gifts?

What are the pros and cons of each of the methods that you mentioned?

4. In 1 Peter 4:10-11, what do you think Peter means when he describes spiritual gifts as "administering God's grace in its various forms" (NIV)?
5. In Romans 12:3-8, why does Paul describe us as "belonging to each other"? What are some of the implications from this for church life?
6. Unfortunately the topic of spiritual gifts, rather than being a point of unity, is often a point of division between Christians. How can we guard against this kind of division?

Applying

7. Is there anyone in the group who has been on your heart during this study who you might be able to encourage/affirm in the use of their spiritual gifts (i.e., a person who God has used in your life recently to strengthen your faith)?
8. Are there any areas of service at HCC that you would like to try? How might you take steps towards this?