

Power Gifts

Power gifts are those that demonstrate the power, presence, and purposes of God.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

1. (vs. 8-10) How would you define the gifts Paul names in this chapter?
2. (vs. 4-7) What does Paul say is the purpose of these gifts?
3. Have you had any experiences with one of the power gifts? If so would you be willing to share how the experience helped you grow more as a follower of Jesus, or how they helped the church live more into it's calling? [Remember when we share our stories we build deeper connections with one another as a community. Your story may be exactly what someone else needs to hear. Your listening in the group to the stories of others is an act of love and kindness. The act of sharing and listening to these stories may be the very things we will need to help us grow into the fullness of Christ]
4. When discussion of the power gifts is engaged in there is often a mixture of responses – fear, apprehension, doubt, yearning etc. What response is bubbling up in you and why?
5. In the book of 1 Corinthians Paul is seeking to foster the right environment where these gifts can be exercised for the mutual benefit of all. He invites them amongst other things to test the spirits (make sure this is of God), to exercise the power gifts in an orderly way, in community, and under the authority of their chosen leaders. Why do you think this specific instruction is given around the power gifts?

Read Ephesians 4:1-16

6. It is the diversity of gifts (love, word, and power gifts) that enables us to live in step with the calling, grow to maturity in Christ, and be built up in love. How could we as a church in particular be more open to the expression of the entire diversity of gifts?