

Weekly Devotionals: Use Your Gifts | January 29, 2023

INTRODUCTION

For our devotionals this week, we're engaging God and the Scriptures with our head, our hearts, and our hands.

Each week you'll have an opportunity to use your mind to learn (head), to engage how the Scripture passage feels emotionally (heart), and be prompted with some action in response (hands).

Our hope is that this devotional will help you love God, love people, and make disciples.

HEAD

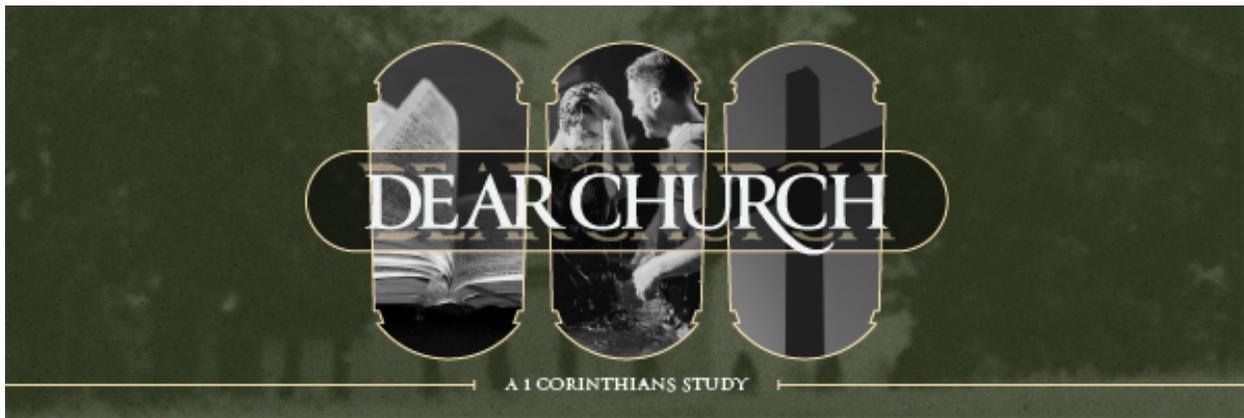
It's been several weeks since we engaged these passages, so let's be reminded of where we left off. As you prepare to engage **1 Corinthians 12** take some time to look through **1 Corinthians 11:17-34** and answer the following questions:

1. What troubling behaviors and conditions of the heart has Paul identified and called out in the Corinthians?
2. Before we read the passage, let's examine the effects of this behavior. When it comes to receiving gifts from the Spirit, how might the spiritual status discrimination, lack of unity, and disrespect of others Paul witnessed prevent the Corinthians from responsibly exercising the gifts God gave them?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 slowly.

No passage in scripture about spiritual gifts is meant to serve as an exhaustive list of the gifts made available to us through the Holy Spirit. Take a few minutes to visit some other passages that mention gifts and take note of anything that stands out to you.

- Ephesians 4
- Romans 12



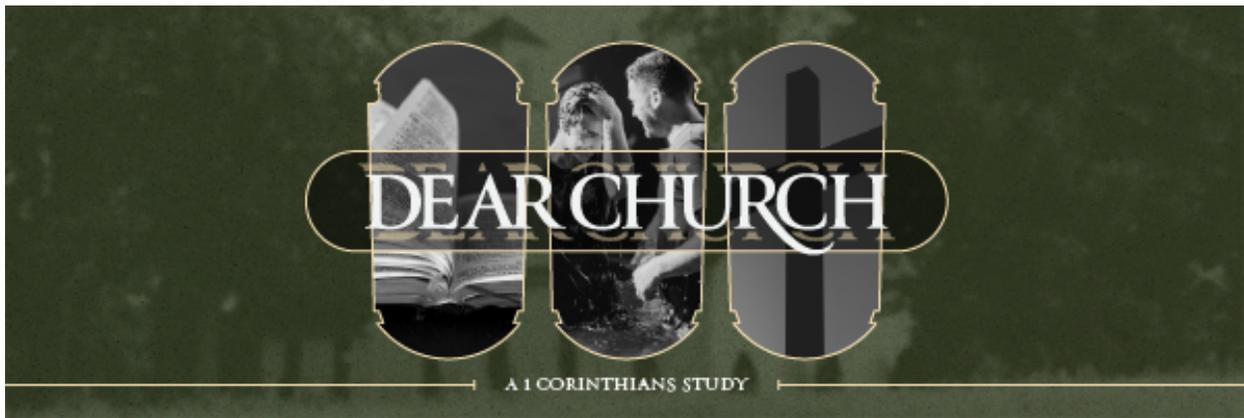
*If this is your introduction to spiritual gifts – WONDERFUL! We encourage you to engage with these scriptures and ask questions. When you're ready to discern the gifts God has given you, we encourage you to have a conversation with someone who can prayerfully discern with you. Ask a friend, colleague, or ministry leader to help you. We can also point you towards an assessment that serves as a tool to **begin** that conversation. You can visit the Porch following a service or reach out to our staff – contact@thecreek.org.*

1. Of the gifts listed in these passages, write down the ones you are familiar with. **Circle** any that you believe you have been given.
2. Write down any gifts listed in the passages that you are unfamiliar with. Write down any questions that come to mind.
3. Depending on your church experience thus far, it's possible you've encountered different beliefs when spiritual gifts are discussed. If so, what thoughts or questions do you have after reading these passages?

HEART

As you engage your heart with the passage this week, consider these three questions:

1. What emotions do you identify in yourself as you read through this passage?
2. Think about areas where you regularly exercise your spiritual gifts. Can you tell a difference when you are serving from your own strength instead of the Spirit's? What does that feel like?
3. Take a moment to re-read the 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, asking God to examine your heart. Invite him to speak to you. What are his invitations as you read the passage? Do you feel resistance? That's okay! Because God works in our resistance. Trust that he will meet you where you are at. Write any invitations or resistance you identify.



HANDS

This week, take a step in using the gifts God gave you.

1. If you don't know what your spiritual gifts are, reach out to contact@thecreek.org to access a spiritual gifts assessment or visit the Porch following a worship service. If you're participating in the current Rooted session, you will have an opportunity to explore your gifts with your group.
2. If you have identified your spiritual gifts, but aren't actively using them, make a list of three options of how you can exercise your gifts. Then reach out to a ministry leader to see where you can serve. The church is a great place to "try on" different ways of using your gifts. If you aren't sure where to start, visit thecreek.org/serve or reach out to the staff contact@thecreek.org.
3. If you are currently using your gifts to serve others, invite a ministry leader or someone on your ministry/volunteer team to pray with you and give you some feedback.
4. If you've been serving somewhere for a while, share your experience with others and invite them to serve with you.