

WEEK 7:

DAY 1: THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT ARE FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHURCH

1 Corinthians 12:1-7

1. Last week we learned about the Lord's table. This is a time to remember the death of Jesus. We eat bread and drink from a cup.

What should a Christian do before eating at the Lord's table?

If a Christian finds sin in his life before taking from the Lord's table, what should he do?

2. A Christian should examine himself before eating from the Lord's table. If he finds sin, he should straighten his life.

This week and next week we will study the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The verses we will read may be hard to understand. Different Christians explain them in different ways. In writing these lessons, we have tried to explain the verses carefully. The questions and answers are taken right from the Bible. As you do these lessons, you will have more questions. Be sure to talk about these verses carefully in the weekly meeting. Today we will learn two things.

- (1) A person speaking in the Holy Spirit says, "Jesus is Lord."
- (2) The gifts of the Spirit are for the good of the church.

Take your Bible now and read 1 Corinthians 12:1-7.

3. We have seen that the church at Corinth had all the gifts of the Spirit. Paul thanked God that they did not lack any gift. But they did not always use these gifts in the right way. Paul said that everything we do should bring glory to God. It should lift up Christ. The people at Corinth did not always do this. Some of them asked Paul about the gifts of the Spirit. So Paul answered them.

1 Corinthians 12:1:

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be uninformed.

From this verse, do you think all the Corinthians were using the gifts in the right way?

4. It seems that some misused the gifts. These people had all the gifts of the Spirit. But they were not using the gifts in the right way. Paul taught them that the Holy Spirit always lifts up Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:3:

I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

From this verse, what does the Holy Spirit help us to say about Jesus?

5. He helps us to say "Jesus is Lord." If we are filled with the Spirit, we will always say the right things about Jesus. This is what Jesus said about the Holy Spirit:

John 16:14:

He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Who helps us to say "Jesus is Lord"? _____

6. It is the Holy Spirit who does this. We cannot say it truly by ourselves. The Holy Spirit helps us to say these words. He also helps us to understand what they mean. He helps us make the words true in our lives, so that Jesus really is Lord to us.

When a person is speaking in the Holy Spirit, what does he say about Jesus?

7. The Holy Spirit causes us to say, "Jesus is Lord." From the verses we see that the Spirit gives different gifts to people. But he always says the same thing about Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:4:

Now there are varieties (or different kinds) of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord.

How can we tell when someone is not speaking in the Spirit? _____

8. He does not say that Jesus is Lord. He may use the name of Jesus. He may even say some good things about Jesus. But he does not say truly that Jesus is Lord. He does not make Jesus Lord of his life. He may even curse Jesus.

But what does a person, speaking in the Holy Spirit, say about Jesus?

9. He says "Jesus is Lord." He also makes Jesus Lord of his life by obeying him. When Jesus is Lord of our life, then we are led by the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit will give us gifts to help the church. Some people are afraid of the gifts of the Spirit. They are afraid the Holy Spirit will make them do something bad.

Odhambo went on a long journey. He was away from his family for many weeks. When he came home he brought a book for his son. He gave his son this book to help him learn well in school.

What kind of gifts do fathers give their children? Are they things which help or things which harm the children?

10. Fathers give gifts that help their children. This is because they love their children. Fathers do not give harmful gifts. And the heavenly Father does not give harmful gifts to his children in the church. We do not need to be afraid of the gifts of the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:7:

To each is given the manifestation (or gift) of the Spirit for the common good (or the good of the church).

From this verse, why are the gifts of the Holy Spirit given to each believer?

11. These gifts are given for the common good or the good of the church. They are given to help all the people in the church. These gifts are not given for just one person. They are not given to build up the person who has the gift. They are given to help all the people in the church.

Who gives gifts for the good of the church?

12. These are given by the Holy Spirit. We know that God the Father gives gifts to his children. We know that God the Father has given us the Holy Spirit.

Luke 11:13:

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!

Who gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask him? _____

What does the Holy Spirit give us for the good of the church? _____

13. It is God the Father who gives us the Holy Spirit when we ask. We must ask him for the Holy Spirit. But when we have the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit gives us gifts too. It is the gifts given by the Holy Spirit that we are talking about this week.

What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit for? _____

14. The gifts are for the good of the church. Tomorrow we will learn about these gifts. We will see the gifts of wisdom and knowledge. We will see the gifts of faith and healing and miracles. We will see the gifts of prophecy, discerning spirits, tongues, and interpreting tongues.

Who gives us gifts for the good of the church? _____

15. This is what the Holy Spirit does. Otieno says that he has received the gifts of the Spirit. He goes around telling this to many people. He wants people to listen to him. He thinks people should respect him.

Do you think Otieno understands why the Holy Spirit gives us gifts? _____

What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit for? _____

What does a person speaking in the Holy Spirit, say about Jesus?

16. A person speaking in the Spirit says "Jesus is Lord." I do not think Otieno understands well. The gifts of the Spirit are for the good of the church. They are not given to raise up one person. They should be used to build up all the believers in the church.

The Holy Spirit wants us to have these gifts. He wants to give them to us so we can help others in the church. He wants us to be a blessing to others.

1 Corinthians 12:31:

But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

1 Corinthians 14:1:

Make love your aim, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.

Perhaps you feel that you do not have any gifts. Do you think you should ask for the gifts of the Spirit?

17. We will talk about this in class.

What does a person speaking in the Holy Spirit say about Jesus? _____

What are the gifts of the Spirit for? _____

WEEK 7:

DAY 2: THE HOLY SPIRIT CHOOSES OUR GIFTS

1 Corinthians 12:8-11

1. Yesterday we learned about the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Today we want to learn more about these gifts. We will learn:

- (1) Nine gifts of the Spirit are named in 1 Corinthians 12.
- (2) It is the Holy Spirit who decides which gifts a person receives .

What does a person speaking in the Spirit say about Jesus? _____

What are the gifts of the Spirit for? _____

2. A person speaking in the Spirit says "Jesus is Lord." The gifts of the Spirit are for the good of the church. He wants us to use these gifts in working for God. Different Christians do different kinds of work for God. They receive different gifts.

Take your Bible now and read 1 Corinthians 12:8-11. From these verses, must you and I do the same work for God?

3. Each Christian will do different kinds of work. Each will receive different gifts. In the verses we read there are many gifts of the Holy Spirit. These are the gifts which the Spirit wants to give to believers. Let us see them again.

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| (1) Word of wisdom | (6) Prophecy |
| (2) Word of knowledge | (7) Ability to judge spirits |
| (3) Faith | (8) Different kinds of tongues |
| (4) Gifts of healing | (9) Interpreting tongues |
| (5) Working of miracles | |

How many gifts of the Spirit did Paul name in this chapter? _____

4. There are nine gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12. Let us look quickly at each of these gifts. We will explain a little about each one.

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| (1) Word of wisdom | (2) Word of knowledge |
|--------------------|-----------------------|

Many times when we work for God, we do not have wisdom to know what to do. We do not have enough knowledge about things. When this happens, the Holy Spirit will help us. He will give us a word of wisdom or knowledge for his work. This is not the wisdom and knowledge that we get in school. It is special wisdom which the Holy Spirit gives when our own is not enough.

As we have learned, what are the gifts of the Spirit for? _____

5. They are for the good of the church. Wisdom and knowledge can help the church to grow strong. Other gifts will also help the church.

(3) Faith

(4) Healing

(5) Working of miracles

Sometimes people in the church need a special gift of faith. This is more than the faith to believe Jesus saves us. This is faith to believe God for hard things. We can have faith to believe God to heal people. We can have faith that he will work other miracles as we pray.

Who has nine gifts which he wants to give to believers? _____

6. These are gifts which the Holy Spirit wants to give. Look at the next gift.

(6) Prophecy

The gift of prophecy is the power to speak for God. Sometimes this means telling about the future. But usually it means telling people in the church to go on living for God.

In this chapter, how many gifts does the Holy Spirit want to give the church?

7. There are nine gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12. Now let us look at the seventh gift. It is another important one.

(7) Ability to judge spirits.

Many times Satan works through evil spirits. Sometimes he tries to deceive believers with spirits that are not from God. These spirits are demons. Satan tries to get people to fall. Sometimes it is hard to know whether the spirit is an evil spirit or the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will give us power to judge between good and bad spirits. This gift will help us know whether a spirit is from God or from Satan or from man.

What does a person, speaking in the Holy Spirit, say about Jesus? _____

8. The person speaking in the Holy Spirit says, "Jesus is Lord." The Holy Spirit wants to give us gifts for the good of the church. The gifts will bring glory to God. They are to help us do the work of God. Here are the last two.

(8) Different kinds of tongues

(9) Interpreting tongues

These are gifts that were in the church at Corinth. Sometimes a person spoke in church in a language which he had not learned. Then another person who had not studied this language told the meaning. These two gifts go together. We will talk more about them next week when we study chapter 14.

How many gifts of the Spirit are named in 1 Corinthians 12? _____

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9. There are nine gifts named in 1 Corinthians 12. All of these are important. The Holy Spirit gives gifts so we have power to work for God. A person who has gifts must use them for the good of the church.

1 Corinthians 12:11:

All these are inspired by one and the same Spirit, who apportions (or gives) to each one individually (or one by one) as he wills.

From this verse, who decides which gifts a person receives? _____

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10. It is the Holy Spirit who decides this. The Holy Spirit chooses the gifts for each person. This verse says that the Holy Spirit gives as he wants to. We should be thankful for this. The Holy Spirit knows our work. He knows what gifts we need to do this work.

Perhaps God has already given you some of these gifts. You can ask him to show you how to use them. Or perhaps God wants you to ask for the gifts of the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:31:

But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

Are the gifts of the Spirit something which we should want? _____

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11. The Bible says we should want them very much. These gifts can help us work for God. God knows that we need them. All the gifts are important. Each gift has its place in the church. Sometimes we need one gift. Sometimes we need another. The gifts do not make us better than others. We have done nothing to earn them. They are gifts.

Who decides which gift a person receives? _____

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12. The Holy Spirit decides this. We cannot tell the Holy Spirit which gift we should have. The Holy Spirit chooses. We should ask the Holy Spirit to give us the gifts which we need. But we should remember that the Holy Spirit decides which gift we receive.

How many gifts are named in 1 Corinthians 12? _____

13. There are nine gifts named in this chapter. They are gifts which are given to the children of God. They are to be used in the work of God. These gifts are not for ourselves. They are not to lift us up. They are for the good of the church. They are to build up the church and make it strong.

Who decides which gifts a person receives? _____

14. The Holy Spirit decides this. Isaac is the pastor of a church in a new place. He is working faithfully. There are many problems in the church. Isaac has many big decisions to make. He must give advice to many people.

Which gifts do you think the Holy Spirit will give to Isaac? _____

15. We will talk about your answer in class.

How many gifts of the Holy Spirit are named in 1 Corinthians 12? _____

Who decides which gifts a person receives? _____

WEEK 7:

DAY 3: THE CHURCH IS THE BODY OF CHRIST

1 Corinthians 12:12-26

1. How many gifts of the Spirit are named in 1 Corinthians 12? _____

Who decides which gifts a person receives? _____

2. There are nine gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12. The Holy Spirit decides which gifts we receive. The church is made of many different people. But they are all part of one body. We will learn about this body today.

- (1) The church is called the body of Christ.
- (2) The Holy Spirit baptises us into the body of Christ.
- (3) The members of the body should care for one another.

Take your Bible now and read 1 Corinthians 12:12 to 18. In these verses, what does Paul call the church?



3. Paul calls the church a body. We ourselves have bodies. You have one body, but there are many parts to your body. You have feet and eyes and a stomach. In the same way, the church is one body. But the church has many parts. It also has a head.

Whose body is the church? _____

4. It is the body of Christ. All true believers belong to the body of Christ. If you have repented and received Jesus, then you are part of his body.

1 Corinthians 12:27;

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

What is another name for the body of Christ? _____

5. Another name is the church. We use the word "church" to mean many things. You go to a church on Sunday to pray and hear preaching. But there is another meaning for the word "church." It also means all the believers in the world. It means all those who have repented of their sins and received Jesus as their Saviour. I have never been in your church building. But you and I are both part of the body of Christ.

What does Paul call the church in 1 Corinthians 12? _____

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6. He calls the church the body of Christ. The church is like a body in many ways. Your body has one head. The church also has one head. The head of the body of Christ is Christ himself. He is the head of the church.

Matthew 16:18:

And I (Jesus) tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it.

How many churches is Jesus building? _____

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7. Jesus is building only one church. The church is one. It is a spiritual fellowship of all believers. A head has only one body. Jesus has only one church. And the church has only one head.

Who is the head of the church? _____

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8. Christ is the head of the church. The body belongs to its head. So the church belongs to Christ.

Colossians 1:18:

He (Jesus) is the head of the body, the church.

Ephesians 1:22-23:

He (God) has put all things under his (Jesus') feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body.

In 1 Corinthians 12, what is called the body of Christ? _____

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9. The church is called the body of Christ. It has one head and many parts. But how does a person become part of the body of Christ? A person becomes part of this body through a work of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:13:

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews and Greeks, slaves and free--and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

From this verse, who baptises us into the body of Christ? _____

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10. We see that it is the Holy Spirit who does this. It is the Holy Spirit who shows us that we are sinful. It is the Holy Spirit who gives us new life. The Holy Spirit has much work to do when a person is saved.

John 3:5:

Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

When we are born of water and of the Spirit into the kingdom of God, what do we become part of?

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11. We become part of the body of Christ. Paul says we are baptised into one body. This is the body of Christ. This is the church. 1 Corinthians 12 is talking about being made part of the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:13:

For by one Spirit we were all baptised into one body.

Think about water baptism. When a person is baptised in water, who baptises him?

When a person is baptised into the body of Christ, who baptises him?

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12. When a person is baptised in water, another man baptises him. But when a person is baptised into the body of Christ, the Holy Spirit does it. When a man is baptised in water, he is showing people that he has also been baptised in another way. It shows that he has been baptised into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit. There are many Christians who have been baptised into the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:20:

As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

Look at your body. Look at your hands and feet. Does your body have one part or many parts?

13. Your body has many parts. This is also true of the body of Christ. All believers are parts of the body of Christ. You are one part. I am another part. We need one another. We must help one another. Four people helped to write this book. We come from four different countries. We look different from each other. We are different parts of Christ's body. But we were all needed to write this book.

Let us say you are ploughing in a field. You use many parts of your body. You use your hands and feet. You use your eyes. You use your back.

When you plough, what do the parts of your body do? _____

14. The parts of our bodies work together. They help one another. It should be the same in the church. In the church, all parts of the body are needed. Each part has work to do. Each part is important.

Some parts of our bodies are on the outside. We can see them. Some parts are inside and we cannot see them. But they are still important. It is the same in the church. Those whose work is seen are important. And those whose work is not seen are also important.

1 Corinthians 12:25:

... that there may be no discord in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.

From this verse, what should the parts of the body of Christ do for one another?

15. They should care for one another. There should not be division between them. There should not be jealousy. All parts should work together. All parts should obey the head. When all parts obey the same head, there is peace. All the parts work together for the glory of God.

In the church, who should care for one another? _____

16. The parts of the body of Christ should care for one another. The believers should watch for the needs of one another. They should help one another. The parts of the body which are strong should help those which are weak.

Galatians 6:2:

Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

What is called the body of Christ in 1 Corinthians 12? _____

17. The church is the body of Christ. The body shows how close the believers are to each other. It shows how much they need one another. There should not be any fighting in the church. When there is fighting, there is no peace. Members of the church should not work against one another.

What should the parts of the body of Christ do for one another? _____

18. They should care for one another. This is important. When you go to church you may see that a brother or sister is not there. You may hear that he is ill. Then you should care for that weaker brother. You should go to his house and help him.

Who baptises us into the body of Christ? _____

19. The Holy Spirit baptises us into the body of Christ. Then we should care for one another. Members of the church should help one another. We should share what we have. We should make weaker brothers strong.

My father has one arm which was injured when he was born. He cannot use that arm well. It is a weak part of his body. But his other arm is very strong. It is as strong as two arms. My father's good arm helps his weak arm to do many things. The strong arm cares for the weak arm.

Stop now and ask God to show you someone in your church who needs help. Ask him what he wants you to do to care for this part of Christ's body.

20. What is called the body of Christ in 1 Corinthians 12? _____

Who baptises us into the body of Christ? _____

What should the parts of the body of Christ do for one another? _____

WEEK 7:

DAY 4: GOD CHOOSES LEADERS TO BUILD UP THE BODY

1. Yesterday we learned about the body of Christ.

What is called the body of Christ in 1 Corinthians 12? _____

Who baptises us into the body of Christ? _____

What should the parts of the body of Christ do for one another? _____

2. The body of Christ is called the church. The Holy Spirit baptises us into this body. The parts of the body should care for one another.

God also cares for the body. He knows the needs of the body. He knows the problems. God has put special people to work in the church. Let us learn it this way.

(1) God has chosen leaders to work in the church.

(2) He has put them there to build up the body of Christ.

Take your Bible now and read 1 Corinthians 12:27 to 31. Read verse 28 again. Where has God put apostles, prophets, and other leaders to work?

3. God has put them to work in the church. The church is the body of Christ. The body has work to do. The church must grow. People in the church need help.

Whom has God chosen and put to work in the church? _____

4. God has chosen leaders. Sometimes we think that other men choose leaders. This is partly true. Sometimes the people in a church choose a shepherd. Sometimes shepherds from all churches in an area choose a leader for the area.

But we must remember that it is really God who chooses leaders. When men choose a leader, they must find the man whom God has already chosen. They should not choose men because they are their friends. They should not choose them because they are from the same tribe. We should ask God to help us find the men he has already chosen. God will help us to do this.

Where does God want the leaders to work? _____

5. God chooses leaders to work in the church. He does not choose them to receive praise from other men. He puts them there to do a job.

Paul has been writing about the body of Christ. He has told us the gifts which members of the body receive. Now he is telling us about the leaders who use these gifts.

Ephesians 4:11:

And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, for the equipment (or preparation) of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ.

God chooses leaders. What does God want leaders to build up? _____

6. These leaders are chosen to build up the body of Christ. Leaders are chosen to make the body strong. Leaders are chosen to work hard. They are not chosen to receive praise from other men. They should build up the church. They should help make the church grow. They should help make the body strong.

Who chooses leaders in the church? _____

7. God chooses the leaders in the church. He can always choose the right men. He knows the hearts of men. He can tell which men are good. He knows which men are honest and faithful.

In the Old Testament, David was chosen to be king. Some people thought that David's brothers should have been chosen. This is what God said about David's brother.

1 Samuel 16:7:

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord sees not as man sees; man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

What does God want leaders to do to the body of Christ? _____

8. God wants them to build up the body of Christ. The church must grow. It must become strong. Leaders in the church must build up the body. Different kinds of leaders are needed to do this. We will look at each kind that is named in 1 Corinthians 12.

The first kind of leader is an apostle. We can think of this in two ways. First, there were 12 apostles in the Bible. These were men who had seen Christ and had been taught by him. But the word "apostle" has another meaning. It also means "a person who is sent." A missionary is an apostle. He is sent from one place to preach at another place. Some churches in Africa today are sending missionaries. They send African people to new places to do evangelism.

Has your church ever sent someone to another place to do evangelism? _____

9. Some churches are doing this. Perhaps your church can do this too.

The second kind of leader is a prophet. A prophet sometimes tells what will happen in the future. Prophets in the Old Testament did this. They told how Jesus would come and many other things.

But there is another kind of work which a prophet does. This is also very important. A prophet tells people the word of God. He tells them what God wants them to know. Sometimes he encourages people. Sometimes he warns them of their sin.

Where does God put apostles and prophets to work? _____

10. God chooses these men in the church. The third kind of leader in 1 Corinthians 12 is a teacher. This does not mean a person who teaches children in school. This leader is one who clearly explains the word of God to the church. He helps people remember it. He helps them learn how to use the word of God in their lives. We need people today who know how to teach others the word of God.

Why does God put leaders in the church? _____

11. They are chosen to build up the body of Christ. They should make the church strong. They should make the church grow.

The fourth and fifth kinds of leaders are workers of miracles, and healers. When Jesus was on earth, he did many miracles. He healed many people. He raised some from the dead. After Jesus went back to heaven, the disciples healed people and did miracles. God appointed the leaders to do these things.

Where does God put apostles, prophets, teachers, workers of miracles and healers? _____

12. God puts these men in the church. Two other kinds of leaders he chooses are helpers and administrators. These are men who plan and care for the needs of the church. They see what work must be done. They make plans so many people can help with the work.

In our churches we need men to care for money and buildings. We need men who can talk to government people. These helpers and planners sometimes work in church offices. Sometimes they go around to visit and help the churches.

For what work has God chosen leaders in the church? _____

13. They are chosen to build up the body of Christ. This is the work God has given them. They should work together. They should make the body strong. They should make it grow.

The last kind of leader in this chapter is "speakers in various kinds of tongues." In the church at Corinth there were people with this gift. They prayed and spoke out in a language they had not studied. In church, another person interpreted what was said. God used this to help the church. We will learn more about this next week.

There are many kinds of leaders named in 1 Corinthians 12. Where are these leaders chosen to work? _____

14. These leaders are chosen to work in the church. It is God who chooses them. He chooses them for his work. He gives these men gifts so they can work well.

Not everyone can be an apostle. Not everyone can be a prophet or teacher. Not everyone has the special place to do miracles or speak in tongues. But everyone has a special place in the body of Christ. You have a place which is just right for you. You must find that place and help the church. You must bring glory to God by filling your place well.

For what work has God chosen leaders in the church? _____

15. They should build up the body of Christ. Every church needs these kinds of leaders. God will choose men in every church to fill these places.

Think about your church. How many of these kinds of leaders do you have in your church? _____

16. From 1 Corinthians 12, we know that God has chosen leaders. Where has God put them to work?

For what work has God chosen these leaders? _____



WEEK 7:

DAY 5: LOVE IS THE BEST WAY

1 Corinthians 13:1-5

1. This week we have learned about the body of Christ. We began to learn about the gifts of the Spirit. We also saw that God has chosen leaders.

From 1 Corinthians 12 where has God put these leaders? _____

For what work has God chosen these leaders? _____

2. God has put leaders in the church. The work of these men is to build up the body of Christ. In 1 Corinthians 13 we learn something very important about how this work should be done. This chapter says it should be done with love. We will study 1 Corinthians 13 for the next three days. It is a short chapter, but it is very important. It is called the love chapter.

(1) We will learn that we should use the gifts of the Spirit with love.

(2) We will memorise 1 Corinthians 13:4-5 to show what love is like.

1 Corinthians 12:31:

But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent (or better) way.

We should very much want the gifts of the Spirit. But what else does Paul want to show us?

3. Paul says he will show us a better way. The people in Corinth had all the spiritual gifts. They thought this was all they needed. They used the spiritual gifts, but they used them in the wrong way. Paul wants to show us a better way than being proud of our spiritual gifts.

1 Corinthians 12 is about the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Chapter 14 also teaches about spiritual gifts. Chapter 13 comes between these two chapters. It tells us how to use the gifts of the Spirit.

Take your Bible now and read 1 Corinthians 13:1 to 5. What is the better way in this chapter?

4. It is the way of love. Look again at the way in which Paul prepared to talk about love.

1 Corinthians 12:31:

But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

Does Paul say he will show us a better gift or a better way? _____

5. It is a better way. This is not a gift which God suddenly gives. It is a way to live. It is like a road which we must follow. It is the way which Jesus followed. It is the way which he taught his disciples. It is the way to use the gifts of the Spirit to build up the body of Christ.

John 15:12:

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

What is the better way? _____

6. It is the way of love. It is the most important thing in our lives.

Colossians 3:14:

And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony (or oneness).

With what great thing should we use the gifts of the Spirit? _____

7. The Bible says we must have love. Love is not a gift. It is a way which we follow. It is a way in which we do everything. We use it to obey the teachings of Jesus. We must have it to follow his example.

In Galatians, we read that love is like a fruit. It is something which grows. It becomes bigger and stronger in our lives.

Galatians 5:22:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love. . . .

Whose gifts did Paul want the Corinthians to use with love? _____

8. He wanted them to use the gifts of the Holy Spirit with love. A person can have all the gifts of the Spirit. But if he does not have love, the gifts will not build up the church.

1 Corinthians 13:1:

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal (or bell).

Wamukoya is a Christian. He works hard in the church. The Holy Spirit sometimes gives Wamukoya the gift of "a word of wisdom." Then Wamukoya is able to help the church make right decisions. But sometimes Wamukoya speaks against the shepherd. He speaks evil of the shepherd behind his back.

Wamukoya has one of the gifts of the Spirit. But what does he not have?

9. Wamukoya does not have love. Because he does not have love, he does much harm. Wamukoya should be helping his church. But instead, he spoils the church. In 1 Corinthians 13, we see that the gifts of the Spirit alone do not help. We may give all we have to God, and still gain nothing.

1 Corinthians 13:2-3:

And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

With what great thing must we use the gifts of the Spirit? _____

10. The most important thing in the life of every Christian is love. But what does this mean? How will we act if we use the gifts of the Spirit with love? Paul tells us in this chapter.

1 Corinthians 13:4-5:

Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful.

Write the first thing Paul says about love in this verse. _____

11. Love is patient. Love is also kind. This means that if I have love, I will not be angry when others in the church work slowly. I will not be upset when I must wait for God to work. I will be willing to listen when others have many words to say. I will give kind words when someone in the church has trouble.

With what great things must we use the gifts of the Spirit? _____

12. We must use them with love.

1 Corinthians 13:4:

Love is not jealous or boastful.

Some people in the church have great gifts. But they are proud of them. They talk about their gifts and want everyone to see them. They are jealous when someone else has the same gifts. They are angry when other people have gifts which they do not have.

What chapter tells what love is like? _____

13. The love chapter is 1 Corinthians 13. It tells how we should use the spiritual gifts.

1 Corinthians 13:5:

it is not arrogant (or proud) or rude (or unkind to people). Love does not insist on its own way.

If I have God's love I will not try to lift myself up for people to see. I will not think that I have spiritual gifts by my own power. I will not laugh at other people's thoughts. I will not stop other people from using their gifts.

Do you know some Christians who think they are always right and want everything done their way? _____

14. It is hard to agree that we know such people. But they are there in the church. Perhaps we are tempted to be this way ourselves. We must remember the way of love in the body of Christ. The way of love is to work together with all members.

1 Corinthians 13:5:

it is not irritable (or angry) or resentful (or remembering old hurts).

All of us are sometimes tempted to become angry. But love does not become angry over things which happen. We are tempted to remember bad things people do to us. But love does not remember these things.

The way of love is very, very high. Who can help us walk in this way? _____

15. We cannot walk in love by ourselves. But God, by the Holy Spirit, will help us. The Holy Spirit gives us gifts. He also makes it possible to live the way of love. Read these verses again.

1 Corinthians 13:4-5:

Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful.

These things must be in our hearts. To help us remember, we will memorise these verses. Read them and say them many times. When you can say 1 Corinthians 13:4-5, write it here to show what love is like:

16. Today's lesson has been a big one. It is hard to answer the questions. And it is harder still to live the life. But if we learn this lesson well it can change our churches.

Think now about your own life. Perhaps you see some parts where you do not have love. I am stopping now to ask God for more love. I am asking you also to pray now for more love in your life.

17. With what great thing must we use the gifts of the Spirit? _____

Write 1 Corinthians 13:4-5 to show what love is like.
