

Exercising the Gifts

Main Passage: 1 Corinthians 12:8–26

Theme: The Holy Spirit builds the church through unity in diversity.

1. The Distribution of the Gifts (vv. 8–11)

Key Truth: The Spirit gives gifts personally, precisely, and powerfully.

- What does it mean that each gift is *given* (“didotai”) — not earned?
- How does this change your view of your own abilities or ministry role?
- How do the three systems of gifts (Revelation, Power, Communication) mirror the “body” analogy?

Reflection:

Which “system” might God have most equipped you in — thinking (mind), doing (strength), or speaking (voice)? How can you use it to strengthen others this week?

2. The Diversity of the Body (vv. 12–20)

Key Truth: Uniformity is deformity; diversity is health.

- Why is spiritual diversity essential to unity in the body?
- How can the church unintentionally pressure everyone to “look or serve the same”?
- What would your local church look like if every gift was fully alive?

Reflection:

When have you felt like your role didn’t matter — and how did God correct that view?

3. The Dependence of the Members (vv. 21–26)

Key Truth: The Spirit’s alignment is affectionate — He calls us to depend, defend, and deepen.

- Paul says “the weaker are indispensable.” What unseen parts of the church do we often overlook?
- How does “covering” the unpresentable parts with honor model God’s design for dignity?

- What does it mean to *feel together* as one body in both pain and joy?

Reflection:

Who in your church quietly serves behind the scenes? Write them a note of encouragement this week.

4. Closing Challenge

- Am I competing for recognition, or contributing to restoration?
- Am I guarding my position, or growing in submission?
- Am I using my gift to build my name, or bless His body?

Truth to Remember:

The Spirit's work thrives where pride dies and grace unites.