

Church is a Team Sport

1 Corinthians 12

January 18, 2026 | Pastor Michael Foster

A spiritual gift is a supernatural ability given graciously by God to every believer in Christ for the purpose of serving God and others in the church. Spiritual gifts are diverse and designed to be used in loving, orderly ways that bring glory to Jesus and build up others.

◇ **A primer on spiritual gifts (vv. 1-6)**

◇ **A sampling of spiritual gifts (vv. 7-11)**

◇ **The unity of the body (vv. 12-13)**

◇ **The diversity of the body (vv. 14-30)**

⇒ You belong and are essential (vv. 15-20)

⇒ Others are essential to you – especially those who seem lesser (vv. 21-26)

⇒ Embrace the diversity of the body and your role in it (vv. 27-30)

For Further Reflection

- Memorize Ephesians 2:10
- Read 1 Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4:11-16, Romans 12:3-8, 1 Peter 4:10-11
- Visit www.forcey.org/serve to take the “SHAPE Assessment” and engage in ministry opportunities
- Read “Every Member Ministry” – bit.ly/EveryMemberMinistry1
- Read “Why Every Member Matters” – bit.ly/EveryMemberMatters
- Listen to “This is Your Church” – bit.ly/ThisIsYourChurch1
- Listen to “Worthy of it All” – bit.ly/WorthyOfItAll1
- Listen to “We Need Each Other” by Proskuneo Ministries
- Read *Shape* by Rees
- Read *Improving Your Serve* by Swindoll

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stood out to you the most from the message?
2. Share about your experience from our Ministry Fair. What did you see/learn/experience/enjoy? How did you sense God was working through that time?
3. Read 1 Corinthians 12:1. In what ways were the Corinthians uninformed or ignorant about spiritual gifts? In what ways have you been ignorant in the past, and what is something specific you learned today?
4. If you have taken the SHAPE test, share something you learned about yourself?
5. What do you believe to be your spiritual gifts? How do you know? And how are you currently using them?
6. Read 1 Corinthians 12:15-20. Have you ever been tempted to feel like you don’t belong in the body of Christ, or that you are not as important as others? Why is it so dangerous to think that way?
7. Read 1 Corinthians 12:21-26. Have you ever been tempted to look down on others in the body, or to feel like they aren’t that important? Why is it so dangerous to think that way?
8. What would it look like in a church to give “greater honor to the parts that lacked it”? Share some practical ways we can be more intentional about this.
9. Read 1 Corinthians 12:26. Share about a time when others in the body joined in your joy or in your suffering. What difference did that make?
10. Spend some time praying for the Lord to make us one body and for each one to fulfill their ministry. We are praying for 150 new ministry workers to be engaged and empowered in our body! Ask the Lord to send laborers into the harvest.

