

Life Group Discussion Guide

OUR SERVICE
1 Corinthians 12
Stuart Jones - October 28, 2018



INTRODUCTION

Have you ever had someone come up to you and compliment you on something that you do particularly well?

Often when this occurs, the immediate response is to shrug the shoulders, politely acknowledge the observation, and wonder why he would have ever mentioned something so mundane.

The reason why it is so easy to ignore the significance of his observations is that what he mentioned is so easy for you that you can't begin to fathom why anyone would mention it as being praiseworthy. For you, this is natural and requires little effort.

Paul addresses what is obvious among those in the church at Rome when he writes, "Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each of us exercise them accordingly...." (Romans 12:6) And in writing to another church, the apostle reminds them that "you are not lacking in any gift." (1 Corinthians 1:7) When God raises up a ministry, he provides for it in every way, including the provision of people with spiritual gifts sufficient to meet the challenges that ministry will encounter.

Perhaps the next time someone speaks to you about something that you do very well, you should look at it as a spiritual gift. While what they recognized especially is easy to you, it's only easy because that's the way you've been gifted by a gracious God.

And if you recognize this as God's gift, the next question should be, "How can I use this to impact the kingdom of God?" The Scripture is clear in reminding us, "Moreover it is required of stewards that a man be found faithful." (1 Corinthians 4:2)

DISCUSSION STARTER

1. Stuart told about learning how his two trumpet notes actually mattered to the greater symphony. What's something you initially deemed insignificant, but later learned was significant? What changed your mind?
2. Are you content with how God has gifted you? Why or why not? Are there gifts you wish God had given you?

EVALUATE IT

1. Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-6. Some Christians felt certain spiritual gifts were better than others. Have you ever felt this way or encountered someone who does? What is God's attitudes toward the value of spiritual gifts?
2. Why is it fruitless to wish for a gift we do not have? What harm can come from that?
3. There is an old rule in the church called the 80/20 Rule. Typically 20% of the people do 80% of the work. Why do you think this is the case? What would you do to change it?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-19. What is Paul's message to the man or woman who don't think they possess a "good" spiritual gift or there's nothing they can do to help the church?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. What inspires you to use or inhibits you from using your gifts and service for the common good of the church body?
2. What have people told you all of your life that you do well, which you have categorically dismissed as being insignificant because it is so easy for you? How can you use that gift to impact the Kingdom of God?