

# **Unity of the Sprit- leader edition**

## **Maine Team 2025 mission trip study**



### [Session 1:](#) **Doing Faith Together**

Doing faith together isn't always easy. **We're different people, we misunderstand each other, sometimes we don't like each other.**

There's been personality issues in the church since the church began because the church is full of people and people ain't perfect.

But church doesn't have to be dysfunctional. A real church is Spirit filled! It's Harmonious!

Paul wrote at least three letters to the believers in the church of Corinth. The Bible records two of those letters (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians). The first letter was meant to help the church take shape. It gives guidance on everyday life, tells about the Holy Spirit who gives believers gifts/abilities that will bring God glory. It emphasizes love, victory over death and an encouragement to think BIGGER than your own life, to think BIGGER than your own church, to THINK OF OTHERS as an opportunity to worship God and grow His Kingdom. Paul says, “*There is a wide-open door for a great work here, although many oppose me.*” 1 Cor 16:9.

Sadly, something happened between all the positive excitement of 1 Corinthians and what we read in 2 Corinthians. Evidently, it wasn't just people outside the church that opposed Paul, it was people inside the church too. This kind of division kills churches, and it breaks the heart of God. *The solution?* **Be Spirit filled!**

This week we will look deeper into what it means to be Spirit filled- **Spirit filled people and a Spirit filled church.**

We'll look at when the Holy Spirit comes into a person's life and how the Holy Spirit works.



1 Corinthians 1, 12:4-11, 13:8 and 2 Corinthians 1

Answer the questions below:

- What makes “holy people”?
- What spiritual gifts do you see in your church?
  - Prophecy-
  - Serving
  - Teaching
  - Encouraging
  - Giving
  - Leadership
  - Mercy
  - Words of Wisdom
  - Words of Knowledge
  - Faith
  - Healing
  - Miraculous powers
  - Distinguishing/discerning of spirits
  - Speaking in tongues & Interpretation of tongues
  - Helps
- What gifts don’t you see?
- Why might some gifts be missing?
- How could Spiritual gifts cause division?

- What is the message of the cross? 1 Cor 1:25.
- Why would God let His children go through troubles?  
2 Cor 1:9-11.

Spiritual gifts come from God through the filling of the Holy Spirit.

- How are they the “first installment”, a “guarantee” of everything God has promised us?

## [Session 2:](#) **Welcome to the team!**

“It is God who enables us, along with you, to stand firm for Christ. He has commissioned us, and He has identified us as His own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the first installment that guarantees everything He has promised us. Now I call upon God as my witness that I am telling the truth. The reason I didn’t return to Corinth was to spare you from a severe rebuke. But that does not mean we want to dominate you by telling you how to put your faith into practice. We want to work together with you so you will be full of joy, for it is by your own faith that you stand firm.” 2 Corinthians 1:21-24

EBC Youth mission trips got a nickname on our first mission trip back in 2003. Folks at Jackson Park in North Carolina called us the “**Maine Team**”. The reason was obvious, we’re from Maine. But there was a deeper meaning, a real compliment. Like the “main event”, we were quite the show to see! People commented on what we did and how we did it together! We got a reputation for excellence. *Want something done?* Folks in town said, “**ask the Maine Team!**” It wasn’t long till strangers were asking us to do things for them, BIG things way past our abilities. But we found a way and God got the glory!

It was easier in those days. The group was smaller, so we had the chance to be closer, to really know each other.

But small groups aren't always easy groups. Sometimes being in a small group means being with people you don't like very much.

So how did we do it? **We became the Maine Team by living Spirit filled.** We prayed to discover His will, we served alongside each other and didn't let stuff come between us.

Here's how it's done:

- God works on us as individuals- ***"It is God who enables us, along with you".***
- First installment- meaning there's MORE to come. The change in a person's life when they come to Christ is only the beginning. We are meant for continual change- growth. ***"He has identified us as His own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the first installment that guarantees everything He has promised us."***
- Working together- growing takes work. There's land to clear, weeds to pull and seeds to plant. But telling someone else to get to work doesn't go over the same as working alongside someone. Even if you're both working on your own issues, doing it together helps our attitude. ***"We want to work together with you so you will be full of joy."***

### **LET'S DO THIS:**

Today, ***instead of telling*** someone else what to do just tell each other what needs to be done. ***Ask*** each other about the work they are doing. Remember, not all work looks the same. The REAL work is what God is doing inside a person, so help them do it by growing WITH them!

### Session 3: **Conflict.**

“I’m not overstating it when I say that the man who caused all the trouble hurt all of you more than he hurt me. Most of you opposed him, and that was punishment enough. Now, however, it is time to forgive and comfort him. Otherwise, he may be overcome by discouragement. So, I urge you to reaffirm your love for him... so Satan will not outsmart us. For we are familiar with his evil schemes.” 2 Cor 2:5-8, 11.



### LET'S DO THIS:

### Brainstorm ideas for conflict resolution

Here's some things I've learned:

- Acknowledge the issue and have the courage to move past it.
- Be aware then show you care.

**THE RIGHT WAY TO DO IT:** “If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won’t accept the church’s decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector.” Matt 18:15-17.

1. **Go alone.** If you want the issue to grow, tell others. If you want it resolved, give the person you’re at odds with a chance to hear it in private and face to face.
2. **Every word established- bring people that can challenge BOTH of you.** If the issue can’t be resolved alone (got to try that first), go back to them with people that can challenge both of you to clarify what you’re saying and keep your emotions in check.
3. **Share with family.** After all, this sin will only get worse if it isn’t exposed. Here’s where things get ugly. It’s time to share the private struggle in a public way, but **ONLY** after it’s proven impossible to resolve. Why share it with others? So that others can be protected and not hurt by that same sin.
4. **Walk away. Far away.** This isn’t just giving up, it’s getting away from the person and leaving the issue alone. At this point, you’ve done all you can do. Now drop it and move on with your life.





#### Session 4: **passing love notes.**

“Our lives are a Christ-like fragrance rising to God. But this fragrance is perceived differently by those who are being saved and by those who are perishing. To those who are perishing, we are a dreadful smell of death and doom. But to those who are being saved, we are life-giving perfume. And who is adequate for such a task as this?... The only letter of recommendation we need is yourselves. Your lives are a letter written in our hearts; everyone can read it and recognize our good work among you. Clearly, you are a letter from Christ showing the result of our ministry among you. This “letter” is written not with pen and ink, but with the Spirit of the living God, it is carved not on tablets of stone, but on human hearts.” 2 Cor 2:15-16, 3:2-3.

Middle school love is a funny thing. It **feels deep** but it’s usually immature so it **doesn’t act deep**.

In those days, if you liked someone, you’d ask a friend to pass a note along. It would say, **“my friend said they like you. Do you like them? Circle yes or no”**. IT WAS WHO WE WERE BACK THEN- CUTE BUT SO IMMATURE!

**Real love is a living letter**, so obvious it can’t be missed. It takes courage, unafraid of rejection. Real love costs. The first price to pay in love is sometimes rejection.

LET’S DO THIS:

What has your faith cost you?

## A fear-less love? “Who is adequate for such a task as this?” 2 Cor 2:16

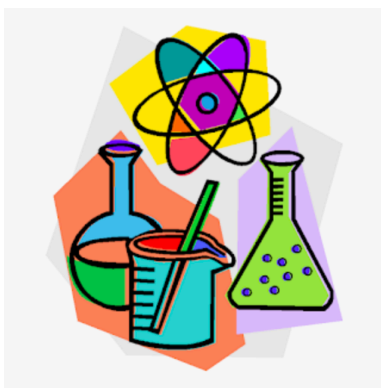
People that love like Jesus; people that are filled with the Holy Spirit of God.

BEFORE JESUS CAME TO EARTH AS A MAN:

- 10 commandments. **What God wanted for us.**

BUT WHEN JESUS CAME THINGS CHANGED. GOD WAS WITH US AND COULD BE IN US. HOW?

- The 10 Commandments still stand. God is still perfect, and He demands perfection for unity. But the perfect sacrifice of Jesus changed things BIG TIME. His sacrifice is **what God did for us**. This action gave us **equilibrium**= “A condition in which all acting influences are canceled by others, resulting in a stable, balanced, or unchanging system.” -Websters Dictionary.



Time for a chemistry lesson- In any chemical reactions we have two reactions happening at the exact same time. There's a Forward RXN and a Reverse RXN. **In the forward rxn the reactant is being converted into the product**, and in the **reverse rxn the products get converted into reactants**.

Confusing when you say it but let's see it in action...

Start with water in the **forward rxn** bin and nothing but air in the **reverse rxn** bin. Using same sized scoops, start transferring water one bin to another. At first, the levels are unequal. But keep transferring water using the scoops and given time there's equilibrium between the bins!

**So, how's all this illustrate God at work in us? Imagine...**

**God's law as the forward rxn.** (it holds His Spirit).

The Holy Spirit as the water. (What God is offering us).

Jesus as the scoops. (The way to get the water).

**Our lives as the reverse rxn.** (People changing as they receive).

**Once we were without God's Spirit. We had NO equilibrium with God. But with Jesus we are in balance!!** This is incredible, a true filling! Thanks to Jesus, believers get God's Spirit!

**But this process takes time. More of God, less of us.**

When we have the Holy Spirit growing inside us it shows. Some people are drawn to that. Others are repelled. That's just the way it is. Keep on loving. Try not to take it personal. After all, If you're doing it right, it's not you they are rejecting, its God within you.



**John 15:18-27**

Session 5: **When the veil is taken away.**

“But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. So all of us who have had that veil removed can see, and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord- who is the Spirit- makes us more and more like Him as we are changed into His glorious image.” 2 Corinthians 3:16-18.

**The Spirit of Detroit** is a symbol of hope for the city.

*How do people overcome differences, heal hurts and work together?*



**Hold God's glory higher than everything else,  
do all you can to keep the family of faith together.**

Do these two things and you'll be jacked, even when you're sitting down. ***How's that?*** When you want to run from trouble, sit. Stay. Face it. When you feel yourself or others drifting away, get close again! **It's the ultimate body work out!**

Live like this and YOU'LL be the seated Atlas, an impressive sight to see!

LET'S DO THIS: [Read 2 Corinthians 4](#)