



Organize to Serve

Discovering Our Team Ministry Gifts

Gifts for the Common Good
Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Rev. Austin J. Young, Pastor

Today's Big Idea

God never gives gifts randomly. God gives gifts with purpose, order, and intention.

Spiritual gifts are not for personal spotlight, they are for shared ministry and the common good.

What This Series Is Really About

This series is not about titles or positions. It is about responsibility and service.

We are not trying to impress people with gifts. We are learning how God organizes people for impact.

What We Often Get Wrong About Spiritual Gifts

We often treat gifts like achievements instead of assignments.

We admire visible gifts and overlook quiet ones.

We confuse gifting with maturity.

Gifts are not about being impressive. Gifts are about being useful.

Why Paul Had to Address Spiritual Gifts in Corinth

Corinth was a busy, wealthy, status-driven city. Public image and competition mattered deeply.

That mindset followed people into the church. Spiritual gifts became a way to compare instead of contribute.

What Was Happening in the Corinthian Church

The church was gifted but divided. Believers ranked one another by visible gifts.

Worship gatherings became disorderly. Some felt superior. Others felt unnecessary.

The problem was not the gifts. The problem was the goal.

Paul's Core Correction

Paul does not shut the Spirit down. He organizes spiritual expression.

Gifts are given by one Spirit for one purpose the common good.

A church can be gifted and still unhealthy.

Scripture Focus

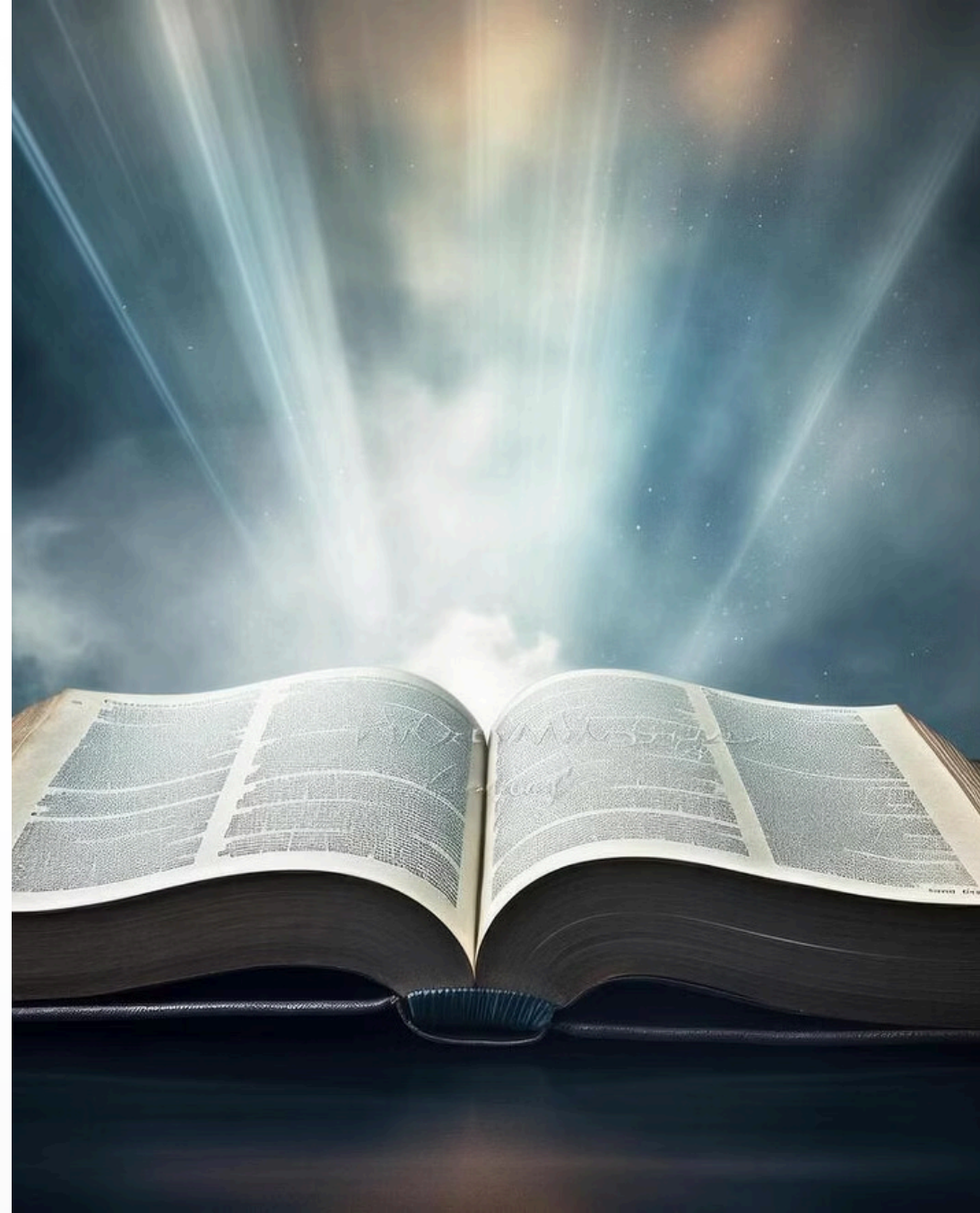
1 Corinthians 12:4–7

Different gifts Same Spirit

Different service Same Lord

Different effects Same God

One source One purpose



Gifts Are Given for the Common Good

Spiritual gifts are communal property. What God places in you belongs to the body.

When gifts are withheld, the whole body suffers. When gifts are shared, the body grows.

The question is not, "What do I enjoy?" but "Who is helped when I serve?"

The Church Is a Body, Not an Audience

1 Corinthians 12:12–27

Every part matters.

No part can replace another.

No part thrives in isolation.

Bodies function through coordination, not applause.



Why Organization Is Spiritual Work



Disconnected gifts create exhaustion.

Chaos drains people. Order creates space for growth.



Aligned gifts create sustainability.

God is not glorified by confusion disguised as passion.

Organize: Order

Order creates clarity. People know where they fit. People know what they are responsible for.

Order does not suppress the Spirit. Order gives the Spirit room to move.

Organize: Ownership

Ownership moves us from spectators to stewards.

Ownership means "I take responsibility for what God entrusted to me."

Ownership is not control. Ownership is accountability.

Organize: Overflow

Overflow happens when ministry is not dependent on a few exhausted people.

Overflow looks like sustainability, generosity, and reach. Overflow is evidence of health.

God desires overflow, not burnout.

Connecting Experience to Gifting

God often shapes gifts through experience.

What we survive, notice, and respond to matters.

Patterns reveal calling.



Reflection: Life Experiences

- What experience has shaped you the most?
 - What situation do you feel prepared to walk with others through?
 - What problem do you notice immediately when you enter a room?
-

Reflection: Emotional Responses

- What injustice stirs righteous anger in you?
 - What kind of suffering affects you deeply?
 - What need do you feel compelled to respond to?
-

Reflection: Behavioral Patterns

- When something needs to get done, do you organize, encourage, teach, serve, or give?
- What do people consistently thank you for?
- What do you do naturally without being asked?

Key Insight

Your experience is not your identity.

But God uses experience as preparation.

Many people discover their gifts were already operating before they had language for them.

Where We Are Going From Here

01

We are moving from discovery to activation.

02

From information to participation.

03

From gifted to organized.

This journey connects directly to Grow Labs and the future structure of ministry in our church.

What's Next: The Gifts We Will Explore





Next Steps This Week

Complete the spiritual gifts inventory.

Circle your top three gifts.

Reflect on:

Which gifts feel life-giving? Where have I already been serving without realizing it?

A pair of hands is shown in a prayer position, with fingers spread and palms facing each other. The hands are positioned in the lower-left to center area of the frame. The background is a bright, warm, yellowish-white light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset, with a soft, out-of-focus texture. The overall mood is peaceful and spiritual.

Closing Thought

God is not asking you to become someone else.

God is asking you to make available what He has already placed in you.