SEA CHANGE CHURCH

THE CURRENT

Rooted in the Spirit · S1E3

You're Gifted

A 7-Day Study

"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills."

1 Corinthians 12:7–11 ESV

Pastor Adam Stadtmiller · July 12, 2026

THIS WEEK'S MEMORY VERSE

"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

1 Corinthians 12:7

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

Each week, The Current walks through a piece of Sunday's passage: a short verse study, encouragement, journal questions, and a daily prayer.

Take one day at a time — there's no need to rush.

DAY 1

Given, for the Common Good

> **1 CORINTHIANS 12:7 ESV**
>
> *"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."*

VERSE STUDY

Paul doesn't say "to some" or "to the spiritually mature." He says "to each." No qualifier. No tier system. Every believer, full stop.

The verb does more work than it looks like it does. "Is given" — didotai in Greek — is present passive indicative. Present: God isn't handing out gifts once and moving on; He's continually giving. Passive: you receive it, you don't earn it. Indicative: this is a statement of fact, not a command you're failing to keep. And that present tense cuts both ways — gifts aren't static. They can grow. They can be asked for. They were never yours to begin with, which means you never had to be impressive enough to deserve one.

Then look at the purpose clause Paul attaches: "for the common good." Not decoration at the end of the sentence — the reason for the whole verse. It's worth being honest about the pull in the other direction. Scroll almost any church's social feed and the pattern repeats: the crowd, the singer, the preacher, the moment — impressive, stage-focused, rarely the quieter stuff nobody filmed. A gift can turn into an idol without anyone meaning it to, just by letting the applause matter more than the purpose.

TAKE HEART

You don't need a platform for this to count. The quietest gift, offered faithfully to one person this week, is already exactly what it was given for. God isn't grading on visibility — He's grading on faithfulness, and you're already capable of that today.

JOURNAL QUESTIONS

1. How does knowing you already carry a manifestation of the Spirit — freely, not earned — change how you think about it?
2. Where have you judged a church, a ministry, or your own walk with God by how impressive it looked rather than who it served?

DAILY PRAYER

Before you pray, spend a few quiet minutes with today's verse — read it slowly once more, or simply sit in silence and let it settle. Then, when you're ready, pray this over your day:

Lord, thank You for the gift You've placed in me — a gift I didn't earn and don't have to prove I deserve. Thank You for being generous with me before I ever did anything to earn it. Help me see clearly what You've given me, without comparing it to what You've given someone else. Guard my

heart from turning this gift into something that serves my own name instead of Yours. And as I go into this week, give me the courage to use it quietly, for someone who needs it, with no plan to be noticed. Amen.

ACTION CHALLENGE

Identify one person you could quietly serve this week using a gift you already know you have — with no plan to mention it to anyone.

NOTES

DAY 2

A Manifestation of the Spirit

> **1 CORINTHIANS 12:7 ESV**
>
> *"...the manifestation of the Spirit..."*

VERSE STUDY

Here's the definition worth sitting with: a manifestation of the Spirit is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit that makes God's presence evident through a believer to strengthen, encourage, and build up the body of Christ. Read that again, slowly. It's not a natural talent dressed up in spiritual language. It's God making Himself visible through an ordinary person.

This wasn't always available the way it is now. Before the cross, God's power would come upon people for a time and a task, then lift. After Jesus' death and resurrection, something changed: the Spirit doesn't just come upon believers anymore — He indwells them. That indwelling is what makes gifts possible, and it isn't reserved for a spiritually elite few. It's the ordinary inheritance of everyone who belongs to Him.

Talent can be trained. Talent can be practiced. Talent can be taken credit for. A manifestation of the Spirit does something talent can't — it points past the person entirely, straight to the One working through them. That's the line. Everything on one side is impressive. Everything on the other side is holy.

TAKE HEART

You don't have to wonder if you qualify for this. You already do. The same Spirit that filled the first believers lives in you today — not because you earned a spot, but because you belong to Jesus. That's settled before you do anything else this week.

JOURNAL QUESTIONS

1. Where have you seen God's presence made evident through someone else recently?
2. Does it change anything to know the Spirit's presence in you isn't a special upgrade for a few advanced Christians, but the ordinary inheritance of everyone who belongs to Jesus?

DAILY PRAYER

Before you pray, spend a few quiet minutes with today's verse — read it slowly once more, or simply sit in silence and let it settle. Then, when you're ready, pray this over your day:

Holy Spirit, thank You for making Your home in me. I don't have to perform to earn Your presence — You're already here, closer than my next breath. Help me stop measuring myself against people who seem more spiritually advanced, and instead trust that Your presence in me is real, whether or not it feels dramatic. Make Yourself evident through me today in some way that encourages

another person, even in something small. And when I'm tempted to shrink back because I don't feel qualified, remind me that You already settled that question. Amen.

ACTION CHALLENGE

Encourage or strengthen one person today in a way that points to God, not to your own ability.

NOTES

DAY 3

Grown, Not Given

> **1 CORINTHIANS 12:4 ESV**
>
> *"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit."*

VERSE STUDY

Here's a distinction worth slowing down for. The word for "fruit" in Galatians 5 is singular. The word for "gifts" here in 1 Corinthians 12 is plural. That's not a grammar footnote — it changes how each one actually works.

Fruit is grown. It comes from abiding — staying connected to Jesus — and when it comes, it comes as a set, not a menu. Chase self-control on its own and patience quietly drops. Abide in Jesus and the whole fruit rises together, like a tide lifting every ship in the harbor at once. Gifts don't work that way. Gifts are given, individually, differently, to different people — not grown through effort, not identical from person to person.

That means a believer can be remarkably gifted and still be immature in character. Gifting was never a scoreboard for spiritual maturity. Fruit is. Don't confuse the two — in yourself, or in anyone you're tempted to put on a pedestal.

TAKE HEART

You don't have to get your character perfect before God trusts you with a gift — He already has. Abiding isn't a test you pass before He'll use you; it's simply where the fruit catches up to the gift you're already carrying.

JOURNAL QUESTIONS

1. Where have you confused someone's gifting — how talented or effective they seem — with their spiritual maturity?
2. Are you currently chasing one fruit of the Spirit in isolation, or actually abiding in Jesus and trusting the whole harvest to rise together?

DAILY PRAYER

Before you pray, spend a few quiet minutes with today's verse — read it slowly once more, or simply sit in silence and let it settle. Then, when you're ready, pray this over your day:

Jesus, I want to abide in You today, not strive for You. Thank You that my gifts don't depend on me getting everything else right first — You gave them before I had anything figured out. Grow Your fruit in me in Your timing, not mine, and help me stop measuring my progress against people who look further along. Teach me what it actually means to just be with You today, without an agenda, without trying to earn anything. I trust that the fruit will come as I stay close to You. Amen.

ACTION CHALLENGE

Spend unhurried time with Jesus today with no agenda beyond being with Him. Don't measure it by what it produces.

NOTES

DAY 4

The Spirit Is the Star

> **1 CORINTHIANS 12:8–9 ESV**
>
> *"For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit…"*

VERSE STUDY

Count the repetitions. In verses 7 through 11, the word "Spirit" — pneuma in the Greek — shows up six times. Six times in five verses. That's not an accident and it's not sloppy writing. Paul isn't building a resume of impressive abilities. He's saying one name over and over so nobody walks away impressed with the wrong thing.

Wisdom. Knowledge. Faith. Each one gets the same tag: "through the Spirit," "by the same Spirit," "by the one Spirit." The gifts change from clause to clause. The source never does.

Picture a house full of remarkable, expensive things that nobody ever uses — just sitting there collecting dust because no one was ever shown what they had or told it was worth using. That's a fair picture of a lot of congregations: gifts everywhere, mostly unemployed. Go back and read the list one more time. Notice where your eyes go first — to the ability, or to the Giver. Then ask whether your own gift is on a shelf or actually in use.

TAKE HEART

If your gift's been sitting on a shelf, that's not shame — it's an invitation. Noticing it is the first step toward using it again, and today is a perfectly good day to pick it back up. God hasn't given up on what He placed in you.

JOURNAL QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Paul repeats "Spirit" six times in five verses instead of just listing the gifts?
2. Is there a gift you already know you have that's still sitting unused? What's kept it there?

DAILY PRAYER

Before you pray, spend a few quiet minutes with today's verse — read it slowly once more, or simply sit in silence and let it settle. Then, when you're ready, pray this over your day:

Spirit of God, thank You for the gift You've placed in me, even the parts of it I've let go unused. Forgive me for the times I've let comparison or fear keep it on the shelf. Give me the courage to pick it up again today, even if it feels small or uncertain. Help me see every gift I notice — in myself and in others — as evidence of You at work, not just evidence of talent. Thank You that You're patient with me, and that it's never too late to start using what You've given. Amen.

ACTION CHALLENGE

Next time you notice a gift in someone, including yourself, name it out loud as the Spirit's work, not just "how they are."

NOTES

DAY 5

Healing, Miracles, and Discernment

> **1 CORINTHIANS 12:9–10 ESV**
>
> *"…to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues."*

VERSE STUDY

Healing. Miracles. Prophecy. Discernment. Tongues. Interpretation. Six gifts, six commas, no ranking. Paul doesn't pause to say which one matters most, because that isn't the point he's making. Every one of them gets the same two words attached: "given" and "Spirit."

The width of the list is the point, not an accident of it. One body needs more than one function. Some of these gifts are comfortable to talk about out loud in church. Some aren't. The Spirit didn't consult your comfort level before deciding how to distribute them.

Some traditions teach that gifts like these belonged only to the apostolic era and stopped afterward. That's not the conviction taught here — not out of nostalgia, but because nothing in the text puts an expiration date on it, and these gifts still show up in believers' lives today, including in this room.

TAKE HEART

There's room on this list for exactly what you carry, even if it doesn't look like anyone else's. The Spirit didn't consult a popularity contest when He gave out gifts — He gave you something specific, on purpose, for this body of believers.

JOURNAL QUESTIONS

1. Which of these gifts do you find easiest to believe is still active today? Which is hardest?
2. Has God ever used you in a way that surprised you — something you couldn't have produced on your own?

DAILY PRAYER

Before you pray, spend a few quiet minutes with today's verse — read it slowly once more, or simply sit in silence and let it settle. Then, when you're ready, pray this over your day:

Father, thank You for the specific way You've gifted me, even where it looks different from what I expected or hoped for. Help me steward it well instead of wishing for someone else's. I pray for our church body as a whole, that the full range of Your gifts would be present here and welcomed — not just the comfortable ones. Give me eyes to celebrate what You're doing through the people around me instead of comparing myself to them. Thank You that You're still active and still generous today. Amen.

ACTION CHALLENGE

Ask someone in your small group or community what gift they think God has given them. Listen without correcting or comparing.

NOTES

DAY 6

As He Wills

> **1 CORINTHIANS 12:11 ESV**
>
> *"All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills."*

VERSE STUDY

Notice who has the final word in this passage — not you, not the church, not even the list of gifts. The Spirit. "Apportions to each one individually as he wills." Gifts aren't ordered from a catalog. They aren't earned through enough prayer or enough spiritual effort. They're given, individually, as He wills.

That single phrase should end every comparison you've ever made about your gifting. You weren't shorted. You weren't overlooked. You were given exactly what the Spirit, in His will, chose to give — to you, specifically, on purpose.

It's worth saying plainly: some gifts show up early, some take decades, and some you'll keep asking for and simply won't receive yet — not because you did something wrong, but because He wills otherwise. That's not a loophole in the doctrine. That's the doctrine. His will, not your performance, sets the timeline.

TAKE HEART

His will toward you has always been good. Whatever you're still waiting for, you haven't been forgotten — you've been given exactly what He chose to give you, on purpose, and He's not finished with you yet.

JOURNAL QUESTIONS

1. Where have you compared your gifting to someone else's and come away discouraged?
2. Is there a gift you've been asking God for that hasn't come yet? How do you hold that tension without giving up on asking?

DAILY PRAYER

Before you pray, spend a few quiet minutes with today's verse — read it slowly once more, or simply sit in silence and let it settle. Then, when you're ready, pray this over your day:

Lord, I trust Your timing even when I don't understand it. Thank You for what You've already given me — help me stop overlooking it while I wait for something else. Forgive me for the comparisons I've made, the resentment I've carried about my gifting versus someone else's. Teach me to wait well for what I'm still asking for, without giving up hope. I believe You are good, and that Your will toward me has always been good, even in the waiting. Amen.

ACTION CHALLENGE

Write a short note of encouragement to someone whose gift is different from yours, naming what you see God doing through them.

NOTES

DAY 7

Pursue and Ask

> **1 CORINTHIANS 14:1 ESV**
> *"Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy."*

VERSE STUDY

The practical takeaway from Sunday was two words: ask for more. That might sound like a contradiction — the gifts are given, not earned, so why does Paul command pursuit? Because given doesn't mean passive. Pursue love. Then earnestly desire the gifts. Both verbs, both commanded.

Asking for more isn't a one-off idea in Scripture. James tells believers who lack wisdom to simply ask for it. Jesus tells a man who admits his faith is thin to keep asking anyway. And gifts aren't only discerned alone in a prayer closet — they're often confirmed by the people around you. If more than one person has told you what they see God doing through you, that's not flattery. That's the body doing exactly what it's supposed to do.

Calvin's line has followed you all week for a reason: the gifts "are not intended to remain unemployed." Not stored. Not admired from a distance. Employed. A gift left in a drawer isn't neutral — it's wasted. Seven days in, the passage still ends the same way it started: not with a summary, but with an invitation to ask.

TAKE HEART

You didn't start this study with a gift to earn. You started it already holding one. Whatever's ahead, you get to walk into it as someone who's already been given what they need to begin.

JOURNAL QUESTIONS

1. Looking back over this week, what's one gift you've identified that you've been leaving unemployed?
2. Who in your life has told you what they see God doing through you — and have you actually believed them?

DAILY PRAYER

Before you pray, spend a few quiet minutes with today's verse — read it slowly once more, or simply sit in silence and let it settle. Then, when you're ready, pray this over your day:

God, thank You for walking with me through this week and for what You've shown me about the gift You've placed in my life. Give me courage to ask for more — not for status or attention, but so the people around me are genuinely strengthened. Thank You that You delight in equipping ordinary people like me to do real good in the world. Help me not let this stay a private reflection

— bring someone across my path this week I can talk to about what I've found. And thank You that this is just the beginning, not the end, of learning to use what You've given me. Amen.

ACTION CHALLENGE

Take a spiritual gifts assessment this week and compare it against what people closest to you have already told you. Then talk to a pastor, small group leader, or trusted friend about how to start using what you find. Don't let this stay a private reflection.

NOTES

MEMORY VERSE

“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

1 Corinthians 12:7

Sea Change Church · The Current

seachangechurch.org