

REVIVE US

HUB GROUP NOTES | MARCH 14, 2021 SPIRITUAL GIFTS: THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT David Anderson

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

1) In Joseph Hellerman's book, *When The Church Was A Family*, he has some very tough words for us:

"We are a radically individualistic society, oriented toward personal fulfillment in ways profoundly more 'me-centered' than any other culture or people-group in world history. And it is our individualism--our insistence that our personal rights and satisfaction must take priority over the group that we belong to--that has such devastating consequences."

He goes on to say that people cannot seem to stay put. They move along from church to church, ever searching for a congregation that will better satisfy their and their families felt needs. Like trees repeatedly transplanted from soil to soil, these spiritual nomads fail to put down roots and they seldom experience lasting, fruitful growth in their Christian lives. He says it is a simple but profound biblical reality. We grow and thrive together or we do not grow much at all.

What's your reaction to this quote? What stands out to you?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 in a couple of translations.

2) What was the problem in Corinth and why did they need to hear what Paul shared with them in verses 12-13?

The Apostle Paul's heart grieved the same treacherous individualism he saw in the church in Corinth. It was their disregard of one another and arrogance and independence from one another which was their demise. They were divided and had such a broken assessment of their own self-importance. Some may have even believed that you weren't indwelt with the Holy Spirit if you didn't have the more dramatic gifts.

There is one plan and only one plan for our growth. We grow and thrive one way. We grow and thrive together! Verses 12-13 lay out the theological groundwork of who we are in relationship to the Body of Christ.

3) Why is the human body such a great illustration of the Body of Christ?

4) What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit and why is it so important?

Seven times we read of someone being baptized in the Spirit. Matt. 3:11, Mark 1:8, Luke 3:16, John 1:33, and Acts 1:5 predict and look forward to the Day of Pentecost. Acts 11:16 looks back to the Day of Pentecost, but here in 1 Cor. 12:13, Paul describes the baptism of the Holy Spirit that occurs for every believer at the moment of regeneration.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is the act of the Holy Spirit where He adds believers to the Body of Christ.

Nowhere in Scripture does it command us to be baptized by the Holy Spirit; this takes place by grace through faith in the righteousness of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is the “means” (ev) or instrument that Christ uses to baptize believers into His Body. We are joined to the Body of Christ and as we will see must function in that Body, exercising our gifts and maintaining the unity of the Body.

5) Why is it so easy to forget that our identity is with Christ and His church?

I think we in the American church with our rugged individualism don't realize that core to our identity is our baptism into the Body of Christ. As a child of God, you can't separate from the Body of Christ and feel whole. When we think of our identity, we usually think of our identity in relationship to Christ—His death, burial and resurrection—our union with Christ. What is breathtaking about Jesus' death and resurrection is our identity is forever tied to Christ and forever tied to the Body of Christ. My identity is completely connected to you all. We were baptized into each others lives. We were made to drink of the same Spirit. To identify with Christ by faith is also to identify with His body, the church.

6) Why do we continue to think we can continue to go through life as isolated individuals, convinced somehow that God will remain with us and lead and bless us wherever we go?

Close in prayer for one another.

2021 BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER REQUESTS:

Father, pour out your Spirit on us and move us forward together.

Father, please retire the Worship Center mortgage by 2025.

Father, please use us to build a reproducing church among an unreached people by 2030.