



## OPEN

This is the third week of The Core series where we are reexamining the four core values of Wellspring. Core values are the underlying principles that influence who we are and what we do as a church. Today we look at Relationship.

We value relationships because we were created by a God of relationship. One of the ways we grow in relationship is through participation in the life of the Church, the body of Christ. It is here as we share our lives and the spiritual gifts that God has blessed us with, that we grow in relationship with each other and Jesus.

## READ

- Read 1 John 4:7-12
  - What phrases stand out in this paragraph?
  - What is its central theme?
  - How important is the theme made out to be?
- Read Romans 12:4-8 and 1 Corinthians 12:7-11, 27-31
  - Compare and contrast the list of spiritual gifts.

## REFLECT

- Explain why Relationship ought to be a Wellspring Core value along side Transformation, Spirit-led, and Mission.
- When the Holy Spirit came upon the believers in Acts 2 what was the result (see Acts 2:42-47)? *Peter and the disciples were empowered to boldly preach the gospel. 3000 people were saved through faith.*

- Can you think about a time when the Holy Spirit gifted you to share Jesus with others? What was the result?
- Think of a time when an individual or a group of people responded to a major event in your life.
  - How did it feel to be the recipient of their concern and care?
  - When have you reached out to someone in need springing from a church connection? What was the outcome?
- What do the differences between the gift lists indicate to you?
  - Why do you think the Holy Spirit gifts people differently (see 1 Corinthians 12:12-26)? *The Church was created to be dependent on Christ the head, and interdependent on each other.*
  - Why is it so hard for us to be interdependent of one another
  - When have you had to learn to be dependent on someone else
  - Thinking of the list of spiritual gifts, which gifts do you see evident at Wellspring? Are any missing?

## APPLY/PRAY

- Do a word search for “one another” in the New Testament. Think of people you know who demonstrate some of these qualities and pray for God to bless them for being obedient and a good example.
- Review the lists of spiritual gifts in Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12
  - Are any of these gifts evident in your group? Affirm each other and how Jesus uses those gifts to make himself known to others.
  - Pray for people who display these gifts, that they would be faithful and that the church body would benefit from their ministry.
  - Pray that God would empower your group to share Jesus with others this year.

## SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- To learn more about Spiritual Gifts see the next page.

# Identifying gift(s) God's Spirit has given you to share Jesus with others and honour the Lord.

## ASPIRATION

What do you desire to do to serve the Lord? What do you find yourself drawn to? Where can you picture yourself involved? In what areas are you particularly interested? God places desires in your heart that can act as a starting point for discerning the gift(s) he has imparted to you. If you don't aspire to it, it's likely not God's gift.

**Psalm 37:4** - Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

**1 Corinthians 14:1** - ...eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit.

## AFFIRMATION

What ministries have you been involved in where others have acknowledged your contribution or encouraged you to keep doing what you're doing? Where have you seen evidence that involvement in a particular ministry has helped others and brought glory to God? Where have you been invited to participate by others in the church? If the body fails to affirm, it's likely not God's gift.

**1 Corinthians 14:26** - ...Everything must be done so that the church may be built up.

**1 Peter 4:10** - Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

## ASSOCIATION

Do the ministries you are involved in produce the fruit of the Spirit in your life? Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal. 5:22,23). Exercising any gift(s) of the Spirit will be accompanied by the Spirit's fruit, the first being love. If the Spirit's fruit isn't associated, it's likely not God's gift.

**Romans 12:9,10** (Following the list in 12:4-8) - Love must be sincere. ... Be devoted to one another in love.

**1 Corinthians 13:1** (Following the list in 12:7-11) - If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.