

Sermon Notes

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Experiencing God: "Gifts from God"

- I. Christian Faith:** Not just to *know about* God . . .
but to *know* God (which includes experiencing God)
- Jesus: "This is eternal life that they **know** you, the one true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent" John 17:3
 - The "Holy Spirit" is the expression of God's eternal passion to be known and experienced

II. Where do we find God most intimately?

God is everywhere, but God is also "close by" when Christ's followers

- Gather (Matthew 18: 20),
- Care and Serve (Matthew 25:35-40),
- Build the church and Teach Christ (Matthew 28:20)

III. What are the "Ordinary" Signs Of a Valid Experience of God (*the Holy Spirit*)?

What does Jesus say? –

1. A Conviction of our need of help/God (John 16:8-11)
2. An Inability to Forget Jesus (John 16:13-15)

What does Paul (and Jesus!) say? –

3. A Change of Allegiance/Authority
 - "Jesus is Lord" (1 Corinthians 12:3)
 - Jesus: Who are my family? (Matthew 6:24)
4. A Sense of Attachment/Family
 - God is Father (Romans 8:15)
 - Fellow Christians are family (Romans 8: 14,16)
 - Jesus: Matthew 12:46-50)
5. A Sense of Abilities/Giftedness for the Common Good
 - Four Lists
 - 1 Corinthians 12:8-9
 - 1 Corinthians 12:28
 - Romans 12:4-8
 - Ephesians 4:11-12
 - Jesus: Salt, Light, Talents (Matt. 5:13-16; 25:14-30)

SCRIPTURES: ORDINARY SIGNS OF GOD'S PRESENCE

A New Allegiance -- 1 Corinthians 12:3

*No one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!"
And no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.*

A New Attachment (Family) – Romans 8:15-16

*You have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!"
it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of
God.*

New (and Old!) Abilities

*The lists of "gifts" below comprise both talents and types of people.
They are "a start," suggestive of many possible gifts, not complete!*

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

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

- wisdom, knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, working of miracles, prophecy, discernment of spirits, various kinds of tongues, the interpretation of tongues.

*All these are activated by one and the same Spirit,
who allots **to each one individually** just as the Spirit chooses.*

1 Corinthians 12:27-28

*Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.
And God has appointed in the church*

- apostles, prophets, teachers; deeds of power, gifts of healing, forms of assistance (helping!), leadership, tongues.

Romans 12:4-8

*For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members
have the same function, so **we who are many are one body in Christ,**
and individually we are members one of another.*

*We have **gifts that differ** according to the grace given to us:*

- the prophet (the proclaimer of God's word), the deacon (servant), the teacher, the exhorter; the giver; the leader; the compassionate person

Ephesians 4:11-12

The gifts God gave were that some would be

- apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers,
**to equip the saints for the work of ministry,
for building up the body of Christ**