



Beautiful Fences: Week 5 — “The Spirit Still Empowers”

CONNECT: What’s the best example of “team” you’ve been a part of or watched? It could be a team you played on, people you work with, a group of friends, or your favorite sports team of all time.

GROW:

1. **Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11.** God has designed His Church to function as a body—many different parts make up the whole. Though there are a variety of gifts, what does each of them share?
2. The Holy Spirit has wired and gifted each of His children with skills, abilities, and passions for the furthering of the Kingdom and the building up of His Church. Reread verse 7. Why are we given these gifts of the Spirit? How does it change your perspective to realize you have been given gifts for this reason?
3. **Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31.** Paul gives an analogy of the body to help us understand. Are you ever tempted to compare yourself and your gifts to others in the Church who play a different role than you? Do you ever wish you had different gifts?
4. What frees us from the temptation to compare ourselves with one another? If you had the same gifts as someone else, what would be lacking in the Body?
5. We are called to be and belong to the Body of Christ, expressed in the local church. A place of protection, unity, and joy, the Church is an immense gift from God. Are you serving inside and outside the Church? Why or why not? What might you be missing out on by not using the gifts the Holy Spirit has given you?
6. **Read John 14:16-17, 15:26, and 16:14.** What is the Holy Spirit’s primary role? How did Scott’s illustration with the telescope and microscope help explain that?
7. **Read Galatians 5:25.** Any gift the Holy Spirit gives is simply a tool for you to use in joining Him in the work of magnifying Jesus. How do we get out of step with the Spirit when we’re more interested in the gifts of the Spirit than the fruit of the Spirit?
8. **Read 1 Corinthians 13:1-13.** How can you apply these “love verses” to your week? What situations or people will you encounter where you could practice living this out?

PRAY: Spend time in your group praying that God would instill a deep desire to actively belong to a local church. Pray that the Holy Spirit would reveal each person’s unique gifting and role, and that He would present opportunities to begin serving. Pray for a love for the Bride of Christ.

NEXT: What gifts has the Holy Spirit given you? What evidence of them have you and others seen in your life? How are you using your gifts to serve, encourage, and build up the Church?