

This week...

**Scripture: Ephesians 4:11-16
1 Corinthians 12:4-11**

Monday 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 *“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.”*

Notice how Paul breaks down these three verses. What are the three “different” subjects he mentions? “Gifts” are given, and it is the Holy Spirit who gives these. “Service” or ministry is done on behalf of the Master or Lord. “Working” is the operation or implementation of what has been assigned. In each instance it is someone besides man who is emphasized. We should never lay claim to what God is doing. It all flows from and depends upon Him.

Tuesday 1 Corinthians 12:7 *“Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”*

How would you describe a “Lone Ranger mentality”? Do you recall the troubles of the church at Corinth? Read 1 Corinthians 1:11-17 and 11:17-18. What problems are seen there? What are the results when each one selfishly chases after his own desires? What happens when we live out the truth of today’s highlighted verse?

Wednesday 1 Corinthians 12:11 *“All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.”*

How common and easy is it for church members to try to determine their own destiny and set plans to get there? Are we smarter and better equipped than the Holy Spirit to determine where and how we will serve the cause of Christ? Pray about your service in 2016 and how you will accomplish it within God’s design.

Thursday Revelation 2:4 *“I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen!”*

We learned last week something of the impact and importance of the Ephesian church. However, by the time John writes Revelation the church was struggling. What does the Lord say is their greatest error? What is your “first love”? Do you know of a situation where a church abandoned its first love? What was the result? What are some common ways a group of believers might forsake their first love?

Friday Revelation 2:5 *“Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.”*

How would you advise a church to recover from a great spiritual fall? Define “repentance”. What were some of the things the church at Ephesus “did at first”? Read Acts 18-20 for a refresher on the early Ephesian church. Spend this weekend reading the book of Ephesians, and make a note of all the things they did right. Is there need of repentance in your life or church when it comes to Christ as your “first love”?