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The Power of the Spirit
1 Corinthians 12:1-14
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Pentecost Sunday is the birth of the Church. Pentecost was an original Jewish feast or festival celebrated 50 days after the Passover. Most often called the Feast of Weeks because it occurred 7 weeks after Passover. It is at this point the Lord decided to start his church.

Acts 2 says, When the Day of Pentecost had fully come...the Spirit of God descended upon those in the upper room waiting on the promise from the Lord. They were able to speak in many languages because they were filled with the Holy Spirit. They were able to speak in different tongues (not foreign) and the Good News of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The disciples were filled with the spirit and were speaking in their native language, and they spoke about the joy in serving the Lord. On that day the church was born. On that day, 3000 souls gave their lives to Christ. The blessed assurance about Pentecost is that the same Holy Spirit that came on that first Pentecost day dwells in you as well.

As we continue on with the text, Paul addresses the people of Corinth because of immorality, division, and questions from members of the church. It was a young church that was in a city that was full of sin. In spite of their the location and the behavior of the Corinthian people, Paul saw the city as a strategic place for the Spirit of God to make a significant difference in the lives of the people.

1. WE cannot live a life pleasing to God without the assistance of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit gives, joy, power, comfort, refreshment, and renewal.

With the power of the Spirit, we speak by the Spirit. Paul says in verse 2 that the people were being carried away by idols. The people were following idols who they could speak to but the idol could not speak to or through any individual.

There were those who were spreading false teaching (doctrine) by charismatic persons who convinced the people to believe what they said, all because of their charisma. Because of the charisma of the false teachers, the people did not mind their incorrect information about the Lord.

If you want to know if a person is speaking under the authority of the Lord, it all comes down to what they say about Jesus. The word of Jesus was true, is true, and will be true in the future. He died, he was crucified, he was resurrected, and he's coming again. When you keep speaking by the Spirit, people will start listening. When you speak about other stuff, people will tune you out. Therefore, we must speak from the Spirit.

1. By the power of the spirit, we serve by the spirit
The gifts of the Spirit are decided on by the Spirit and therefore it is a gift and not our selection. If you want to cause a mess, just try to operate outside of your gift. Paul gives a list of gifts that allows us to serve.

A. We serve by the Spirit but not in isolation – it's not a one-person show. One person can not do it all and they do not have all the gifts. If one person is doing it, they will want all the credit and the glory, and it does not matter how we may feel about it, the Lord is not going to give His glory away.

The spirit is working in the body so that the work of the spirit is done together.

B. We serve by the spirit but not selfishly
The spirit gives gifts to each of us so that all of us can benefit. Gifts are given to unite us rather than dividing us. Our gifts are not for selfish gain or enjoyment but for the benefit of the whole body of Christ. We are all in this together. The body is not one member but many.

I need you, you need me, and we're all a part of God's body...