

GUIDED PRAYER STEP 6

1 Cor 12, 4-11

Today, we are going to pray with the text of 1 Corinthians 12, verses 4 to 11.

I will read the beginning of chapter 12, but we will meditate more particularly on verses 4 to 11.

Let us prepare ourselves to enter into prayer with our whole body, our whole heart, and all our mind, making ourselves available and open for this encounter.

Let us take a stable position to become inwardly still and descend into the depths of our hearts where the King of kings dwells.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Come, Holy Spirit, we invoke You. Teach us how to pray. Risen Lord Jesus, grant us through Your Spirit the grace to receive Your word for each one of us and for the community we form together, allowing ourselves to be shaped by it and transformed in love.

Brothers and sisters, concerning spiritual gifts, I do not want you to remain uninformed. I remind you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

There are different kinds of charisms, but the same Spirit. There are different forms of service, but the same Lord. There are different activities, but it is the same God who works in everyone and through everything.

To each person is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom; to another, a message of knowledge according to the same Spirit. Another receives the gift of faith by the same Spirit; another, gifts of healing through the one Spirit. To another is given the working of miracles; to another, prophecy; to another, discernment of spirits; to another, various kinds of tongues; and to another, the interpretation of tongues. But all these are the work of one and the same Spirit, who distributes His gifts to each person as He wills.

Concerning spiritual gifts, I do not want you to remain uninformed. Teach us, Lord, through Your word about these spiritual gifts that You desire to give for the building up of Your Church, for the building up of the body of humanity, so that Your gifts may flow upon all Your children and gather them together in love.

The gifts of grace, called charismata in Greek, are varied, but it is the same Spirit.

It is the Spirit of the Risen One who reveals that Christ is truly risen and alive in the midst of His community, among His children. The charisms, the gifts of grace, are diverse, but it is the same Spirit. The ministries are diverse, but it is the same Lord. It is the same risen Lord who makes His presence known among us, His life-giving and sanctifying presence.

Si seulement nous étions de ces pierres vivantes qui permettent au ressuscité de faire couler ces dons de la grâce.

Lord, I want to be available. The activities are varied, but it is the same Lord who works in everyone and through all.

The same Lord works through our actions if we allow ourselves to be drawn to Him and filled with the life-giving flow of the Holy Spirit, so that His work may reach those who benefit from it. To each person is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

Thank You, Lord, for these charisms in Your Church. Thank You for these charisms given for the good of all as a manifestation of the Spirit among humanity. To each one, to every Christian, to every baptized and confirmed believer, is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the good of all. The Spirit uses me for this or that purpose. He uses you for this or that purpose, and together we are the Body of the Risen Jesus through whom the Spirit is manifested for the common good.

How wonderful it is to contemplate this and to let ourselves be drawn into the way the life of the Spirit flows through each member of the body, from the heart to the smallest toe.

For the good of all people, for the good of those whom we may never know, yet who will be touched by the grace of Jesus if I become a humble instrument in His hands.

To each person is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the good, indeed for happiness, for the happiness of all.

To one is given through the Spirit a word of wisdom.

Through a spoken word, a text, a message, or an image, this person enables others to taste the light of God. How good God is, and how wonderful His plan is for His children. Because someone spoke a certain word, a word of wisdom, often without realizing it, I discovered how deeply God loved me.

To another is given a word of knowledge according to the same Spirit.

Through another brother or sister, I came to understand more clearly what God desires for me and how I can place myself at His service.

In this way, that person helped me become more fully a living stone for the Church and for the world.

Another receives through the same Spirit the gift of faith. A friend, during a serious illness, firmly rooted in faith and offering his hospital stay to God, exercised this spiritual gift of faith with immense invisible fruitfulness.

Another receives gifts of healing through the same and only Spirit. Healing of the body, of which we are witnesses, and healing of the soul, because the Lord enables us to comfort one another and strengthen each other through trials. To another is given the working of miracles, to another prophecy, and to another discernment of inspirations.

To one is given the ability to speak various mysterious tongues. This simple charism of singing in tongues opens highways for the movements of the Holy Spirit because we surrender ourselves to His action beyond what we perceive and beyond words.

To another is given the interpretation of tongues, receiving in the heart an understanding of what God is saying and doing.

But the one who works through all these things is the one and same Spirit. He distributes His gifts to each person individually as He wills.

Thank You, Lord, for Your generosity, for this overflowing abundance of gifts flowing from Your desire to reach every one of us. He distributes his gifts.

According to his wishes. Why to him ? Why to her? As he wishes.

Thank You, Lord, for what You give. Grant that we may become vessels of these gifts, allowing them to flow to others without ever becoming attached to them. As You will, Lord. One gift, then another. One gift and not another. I do not wish to choose, but I am certain that You desire to give me gifts that will touch hearts. He distributes His gifts to each person as He wills because He knows us, because He knows where we are on our journey, and because it pleases Him to work through me just as I am.

During the time of silence we are about to enter, I invite you to hold on to the verse that has spoken most deeply to you. And perhaps tonight, allow it to become a prayer of openness and availability to the Lord who distributes His gifts as He wills. Lord, this gift or that gift, one or another, it matters little to me. But Lord, fill me with Your gifts so that Your Kingdom may be known and so that love may gain ground in our world.

Lord, open my heart. Give me the desire to aspire to the charisms, as Saint Paul says. For Your joy and for the joy of being Your instrument.

And now, I leave you to do so.

Time of silence...

To each person is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. He distributes gifts to each individual.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

I invite you to take a few moments to write down a verse, a word, a prayer, or perhaps a petition.