

The Same Spirit

by G.W. North

The sermon emphasizes the necessity of being filled with the same Spirit to ensure unity and effective functioning within the body of Christ.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:12

Topics: "Unity in the Spirit", "Function of the Body of Christ"

Description

G.W. North emphasizes the necessity of being filled with the same Spirit as members of Christ's body, ensuring unity and purpose among believers. He explains that the Spirit must not only dwell in each member but also actively work through them, allowing for diverse functions within the body of Christ. North warns against incomplete experiences due to a lack of understanding of the Spirit's role, urging believers to recognize their eternal life and functional capacity in Christ. He highlights that all gifts and operations come from the same Spirit, reinforcing the idea that they are not for personal ownership but for the collective purpose of the body. Ultimately, the sermon calls for a deeper awareness of the Spirit's work in each believer to manifest God's glory.

Transcript

Because Christ's spiritual body is compounded of many members, it is absolutely necessary that each of them should be filled with one Spirit only. Working back or upwards from this verse, we may state our conclusions as follows: by this means God ensured that each would not exist separately from, nor operate adversely to His purposes and each other. For this it was not sufficient just to immerse them in Spirit; for God's purposes the Spirit must be in each as much as each is in Him.

Further, because all the members together with the Head are one body, and that one body is Christ, the selfsame Spirit must work in every one of them together; each individual must know that it is happening in them. The will as well as the working of the Spirit must be known by all, for He is the Spirit of the mind (thinking, planning and purposing) of Christ in every member. In this capacity He gives to one member to do one thing and to another to do something else; He does not merely give, He gives to do. He has operation as well as possession in mind for us. Too readily and shortly we rest in an incomplete experience because of incomplete conception of what the Lord is wanting to do; too often we come short of the glory of God through ignorance.

We must realise that we only have eternal life in Christ as being a member of Him; this being so, we must also recognise that consequently we have a functional capacity in and for Him. We must also understand

that whatever is bestowed upon us cannot be allowed to be our own, for it is in Him and is therefore His. Therefore no functional action may be taken as from ourselves, but only by Him through us. By this we see that the Spirit distributes His gifts with the sole object in view that He should be the one who exclusively operates and administers them. This is clearly shown by the repeated use of the phrase 'the same Spirit', 'to one is given by the same Spirit the word of wisdom, to another by the same Spirit ... the same Spirit'. This is so because God wants the Spirit of the Body as well as the function of the Body manifest to all.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/gw-north/the-same-spirit/>

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