

Can I pray for you right now?

Series on Vineyard values
All minister within the body.
Jan – Feb 2010

A quick recap

- Vineyard values
- Distinctive as a church in Kenya and as part of a global church movement?
- At KVC, we have seven values to better respond to context

Five values and seven little words

- The Theology and Practice of the Kingdom of God
 - Experiencing God
 - Reconciling Community
 - Compassionate Ministry
 - Culturally Relevant Mission
- 7 words: can I pray for you right now?

- There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but they all come from the same Spirit. There are different ways to serve the same Lord, and we can each do different things. Yet the same God works in all of us and helps us in everything we do. The Spirit has given each of us a special way of serving others. Some of us can speak with wisdom, while others can speak with knowledge, but these gifts come from the same Spirit. To others the Spirit has given great faith or the power to heal the sick or the power to work mighty miracles. Some of us are prophets, and some of us recognize when God's Spirit is present. Others can speak different kinds of languages and still others can tell what these languages mean. But it is the Spirit who does all this and decides which gifts to give to each of us.

So what is this passage all about in a wider context?

- 1) A basic test concerning spiritual realities (12:1–3);
- 2) **the unity and diversity of the body** with respect to the operation of various spiritual gifts (12:4–31);
 - the emphasis on love as the vehicle through which gifts can operate beneficially (13:1–13)

1 Corinthians 12

- **different gifts, different service, different out workings**
- **same Lord, same Spirit, same God!**
- **given for the common good**
- **Gifts include messages of wisdom and of knowledge, faith, gift of healing, miraculous powers, prophecy, discernment of what comes from above and what doesn't(!), speaking in tongues and the interpretation of tongues.**
- **11 HS gives to each one just as he determines.**

Verse 7 is key!

NIV

- **7**Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

The Message

- Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits.

Still on verse 7

CEV

- 7The Spirit has given each of us a special way of serving others.

Looking at our values 5 and 7!

- **5) We value ministry empowered by the Holy Spirit; therefore our priority is a Kingdom lifestyle marked by the evidence of the Spirit's presence.**
- **7) We value compassion as evidenced in social justice.**

Do we need to break some preconceptions?

- Message: everyone gets in on it, and everyone benefits!
- A leader is called pastor!
- There is one leader who knows all and does all.
- A full timer is there to release the congregation to get on with life?
- There is a difference between “professional” Christians.

Can I pray for you right now?

Can = asking permission!

I = me ministering because I know God wants me to.

Pray = it's all about God breaking in

For you = where God is and where His will operates we see breakthrough in individual lives

Right now = you matter and this is a God moment!

So let's get down to practicalities!

- We'll look at the why, the how and the where!

The why?

- we believe the kingdom of God has come, and we trust that at any moment the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit may break in and bring healing to our broken world

The how?

- everyone to be attentive and ready to speak
- an approach to God's presence that is respectful both of God and others

The Where

- wherever the opportunity arises--
whether in:
- the church building,
- on the street,
- or in our homes
- or workplaces.

The challenge!

- we are careful to use language that is familiar and meaningful to the person receiving prayer.
- We meet people in places and situations in which they are comfortable, not waiting for them to come to prayer meetings or Bible studies or church services.

The challenge continues!

- Most often, we take part in culturally relevant mission as we go about our everyday lives, living among our neighbors and engaging in the same culture our they engage in,
- instead of giving into the urge to hide away in the Christian subculture!

Application

- Breaking our preconceptions
- Released from memory of past burn out
- Renewing minds
- Isaiah 43 : 19

“I am creating something new. There it is! Do you see it? I have put roads in deserts, and streams in thirsty lands!”