

## Pine Knoll Sabbath School Study Notes

### Third Quarter 2020: *Making Friends for God: The Joy of Sharing in His Mission* Lesson 6 “Unlimited Possibilities”

#### Read for this week’s study

1 Corinthians 12:12; Matthew 3:16–18; 1 Corinthians 12:7; 1 Corinthians 1:4–9;  
Matthew 25:14–30.

#### Memory Text

“But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills” (1 Corinthians 12:11, NKJV).

#### Lesson Outline from Adult Sabbath School Study Guide

- I. Introduction
- II. Differing Gifts: United in Service
- III. God: The Giver of All Good Gifts
- IV. The Purpose of Spiritual Gifts
- V. Discovering Your Gifts
- VI. Growing Our Gifts
- VII. Further Study

#### Questions and Notes for Consideration

##### Facilitator: Jon Paulien

1. Read 1 Corinthians 12:11. What implications does this text have for diversity in the church? Do you take on tasks for which you feel qualified or do you trust that the qualifications will appear whenever a spiritual task needs to be done? How does one decide which approach to take at any given time? (Sabbath afternoon)
2. Have you ever considered how different from each other the disciples were? What does John 3:8 have to do with that? Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 18-22. What are the implications of this passage for any community of Jesus followers? What do these passages tell us about followers of Jesus? What do these passages tell us about God? (Sunday’s Lesson)
3. According to 1 Corinthians 12:11, 18; Ephesians 4:7-8 and James 1:17, God is the originator of all gifts. On what basis does God distribute them? Read Mark 13:34 and 1 Corinthians 12:11. To whom does God give spiritual gifts? Read Acts 10:36-38; Matthew 3:16-17 and Acts 2:38-42. What do these texts teach us about the promise of the Holy Spirit at baptism? (Monday’s Lesson)

4. Read 1 Corinthians 12:7 and Ephesians 4:11-16. Why does God impart spiritual gifts to each believer? What is the purpose? What is the relationship between spiritual gifts and natural talents? (Tuesday's Lesson)
5. What do the following passages (1 Corinthians 1:4-9 and 2 Corinthians 1:20-22) have to do with spiritual gifts? How do you discover the spiritual gifts in your life? Do Luke 11:13, James 1:5 and Matthew 7:7 help us understand this process? (Wednesday's Lesson)
6. Read the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30. What does this parable tell us about the use of our talents and gifts? What does 2 Corinthians 8:12 contribute to our understanding of spiritual gifts? (Thursday's Lesson)
7. What are the implications of spiritual gifts for a local church or Bible study group? How can one get more people involved in the daily life of the community? (Friday's Lesson)
8. The lesson makes the point that spiritual gifts grow as we use them. Do you feel any regret over unused gifts in your life? How are things different because you exercised or didn't exercise some spiritual gift in the past? (Friday's Lesson)

### Further Study with Ellen White

Christ gives them the breath of His own Spirit, the life of His own life. The Holy Spirit puts forth its highest energies to work in heart and mind. The grace of God enlarges and multiplies their faculties, and every perfection of the divine nature comes to their assistance in the work of saving souls. Through cooperation with Christ they are complete in Him, and in their human weakness they are enabled to do the deeds of Omnipotence. {ML 49.4}

God has different ways of working, and He has different workmen to whom He entrusts varied gifts. One worker may be a ready speaker; another a ready writer; another may have the gift of sincere, earnest, fervent prayer; another the gift of singing; another may have special power to explain the word of God with clearness. And each gift is to become a power for God, because He works with the laborer. To one God gives the word of wisdom, to another knowledge, to another faith; but all are to work under the same Head. The diversity of gifts leads to a diversity of operations; but "it is the same God which worketh all in all." [1 Corinthians 12:6.] {GW 483.1}

The Lord has not qualified any one of us to bear the burden of the work alone. He has associated together men of different minds, that they may counsel with and assist one another. In this way the deficiency in the experience and the abilities of one is supplied by the experience and the abilities of another. We should all study carefully the instruction given in Corinthians and Ephesians regarding our relation to one another as members of the body of Christ. {TDG 154.2}

All men do not receive the same gifts, but to every servant of the Master some gift of the Spirit is promised. {FLB 292.3}

To us today, as verily as to the first disciples, the promise of the Spirit belongs. God will today endow men and women with power from above, as He endowed those who on the day of Pentecost heard the word of salvation. At this very hour His Spirit and His grace are for all who need them and will take Him at His word. —*Testimonies*, vol. 8, p. 20. {ChS 250.1}

The unity that exists between Christ and His disciples does not destroy the personality of either. In mind, in purpose, in character, they are one, but not in person. By partaking of the Spirit of God, conforming to the law of God, man becomes a partaker of the divine nature. Christ brings His disciples into a living union with Himself and with the Father. Through the working of the Holy Spirit upon the human mind, man is made complete in Christ Jesus. Unity with Christ establishes a bond of unity with one another. This unity is the most convincing proof to the world of the majesty and virtue of Christ, and of His power to take away sin. {SD 286.3}

There are no two leaves of a tree precisely alike; neither do all minds run in the same direction. But while this is so, there may be unity in diversity. Christ is our root, and all who are grafted into this root will bear the fruit which Christ bore. They will reveal the fragrance of His character in the talent of speech, in the cultivation of hospitality, of kindness, of Christian courtesy and heavenly politeness. {6BC 1083.3}

The Creator of all ideas may impress different minds with the same thought, but each may express it in a different way, yet without contradiction. The fact that this difference exists should not perplex or confuse us. It is seldom that two persons will view and express truth in the very same way. Each dwells on particular points which his constitution and education have fitted him to appreciate. The sunlight falling upon the different objects gives those objects a different hue. {1SM 22.1}

Through the inspiration of His Spirit the Lord gave His apostles truth, to be expressed according to the development of their minds by the Holy Spirit. But the mind is not cramped, as if forced into a certain mold.—Letter 53, 1900. {1SM 22.2}

The Gospels differ, yet in them the record blends in one harmonious whole. One writer brings in points that another does not bring in. If these points are essential, why did not all the writers mention them? It is because the minds of men differ and do not comprehend things in exactly the same way. Some truths appeal much more strongly to the minds of one class of persons than to others; some points appear to be much more important to some than to others. The same principle applies to speakers. Some speakers dwell at considerable lengths on points that others would pass by quickly or would not mention at all. Thus the truth is presented more clearly by several than by one. —MS 87, 1907. {2MCP 424.2}

Jesus declares that the Father is more willing to give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him than parents are to give good gifts to their children. The Holy Spirit understands man's every necessity. He will bestow upon the earnest seeker that for which he hungers and thirsts. The blessings that God has to bestow are unlimited. We cannot comprehend their height and depth and breadth. All heaven is at the command of those who, realizing their lack of wisdom, come directly to the source of wisdom. To such ones God gives liberally and upbraids not. But let them ask in faith, nothing wavering. . . . The one who receives wisdom from on high is the one who holds fast to the promise, the one who feels his need, and will not be turned aside. . . . {HP 294.4}

Ask, then; ask, and ye shall receive. Ask for humility, wisdom, courage, increase of faith. To every sincere prayer an answer will come. It may not come just as you desire, or at the time you look for it; but it will come in the way and at the time that will best meet your need. The prayers you offer in loneliness, in weariness, in trial, God answers, not always according to your expectations, but always for your good. {GW 258.3}

But when we give ourselves wholly to God and in our work follow His directions, He makes Himself responsible for its accomplishment. {COL 363.1}

In every human being He discerned infinite possibilities. He saw men as they might be, transfigured by His grace—in “the beauty of the Lord our God.” Psalm 90:17. Looking upon them with hope, He inspired hope. Meeting them with confidence, He inspired trust. {Ed 80.1}

As the will of man co-operates with the will of God, it becomes omnipotent. Whatever is to be done at His command may be accomplished in His strength. All His biddings are enablings. {COL 333.1}

The value of man is estimated in heaven according to the capacity of the heart to know God. This knowledge is the spring from which flows all power. God created man that every faculty might be the faculty of the divine mind; and He is ever seeking to bring the human mind into association with the divine. He offers us the privilege of co-operation with Christ in revealing His grace to the world, that we may receive increased knowledge of heavenly things. {COL 354.3}

Looking unto Jesus we obtain brighter and more distinct views of God, and by beholding we become changed. Goodness, love for our fellow men, becomes our natural instinct. We develop a character which is the counterpart of the divine character. Growing into His likeness, we enlarge our capacity for knowing God. More and more we enter into fellowship with the heavenly world, and we have continually increasing power to receive the riches of the knowledge and wisdom of eternity. {COL 355.1}

When we are faithful in making God known, our impulses will be under divine supervision, and we shall make steady growth, spiritually and intellectually. {UL 81.4}