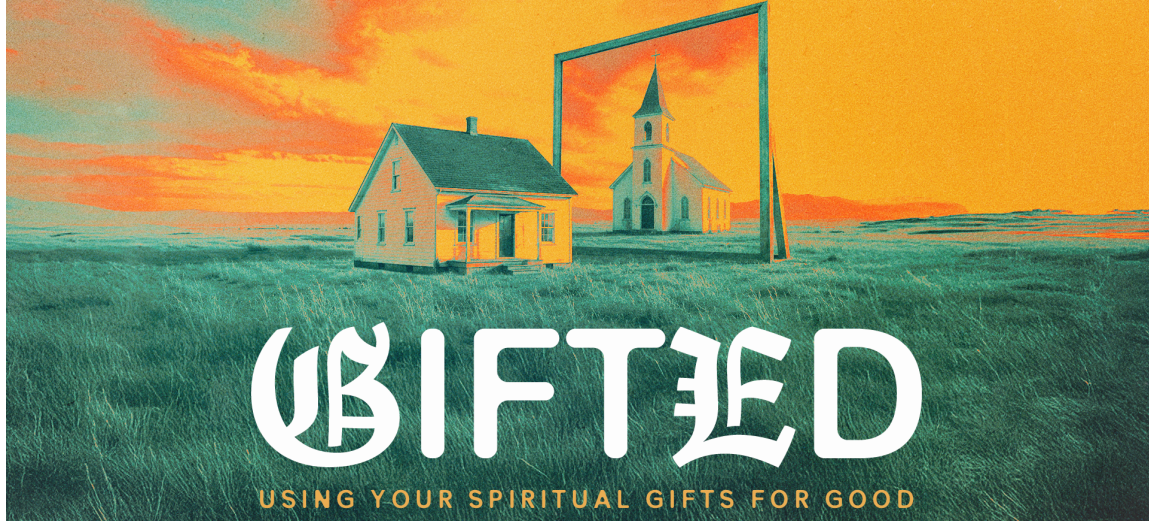




"Every Person, Every Gift" - August 16, 2026

Sermon by: Pastor Tom VanAntwerp

Group Leader Notes

Every person is gifted, and every gift has a purpose. In "Every Person, Every Gift," Pastor Tom VanAntwerp explores 1 Corinthians 12 and Paul's teaching that the Holy Spirit gives each believer unique gifts for the common good. Spiritual gifts are not reserved for a select few. They are expressions of God's grace, entrusted to each of us so that we can serve others, strengthen the church, and make God's love visible in the world. Whether your gifts are expressed through leadership, compassion, creativity, hospitality, prayer, generosity, technology, or quiet acts of service, you have an important role in the body of Christ. When we offer our gifts with humility and love, the church becomes a living picture of God's new creation.

Main Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:4–7

Group Discussion: Begin in prayer before reading and discussing the text.

1. **Pastor Tom says, "It's not that we are gifted; it's that we have been gifted."** How does viewing your abilities as gifts from God change the way you think about yourself and your accomplishments?
2. **Paul says that every person has a gift and "no person comes to the table empty-handed."** Are there times when you have felt like you didn't have much to contribute? What helps you recognize the gifts God has given you?
3. **Our gifts are meant "for the common good."** What are some ways our gifts can be used selfishly, and what does it look like to intentionally use them for the benefit of others?
4. **Pastor Tom emphasizes that our gifts make the unseen God visible—for example, compassion can reveal God's compassion and wisdom can reveal God's wisdom.** What aspect of God's character might your gifts help others see?

5. **“There are no throwaway gifts. There are no benchwarmers.”** What gift or ability might God be inviting you to stop hiding and begin using more intentionally to serve others and participate in God's work of new creation?

Let's Pray

<https://youtu.be/hFZ1VMORXEs?si=2aoZBgZW4GS3ICT->

