

We're In This Together 7.12.26

Key Outcomes

The service opened with a devotional on relying on God's strength rather than personal effort, grounded in 1 John 5:2-3. The main teaching launched a new series called "**We're In This Together**," introducing spiritual gifts from 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12, and Ephesians 4. The congregation was challenged to identify and operate in their gifts selflessly, repent of self-reliance, and prepare for an anticipated season of increased ministry activity. [1](#) [2](#) [3](#)

Decisions Made

- **New sermon series launched:** "We're In This Together" — focused on spiritual gifts, community, and the body of Christ [4](#)
 - **Demonstration of gifts promised:** The Spirit of the Lord indicated gifts will be visibly demonstrated during this series [3](#)
 - **Spiritual gift test assigned:** Members directed to take a gift assessment on the church app — instructed to answer truthfully, not aspirationally [5](#)
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Core Teaching Points

- **God's commands are not a burden** (1 John 5:2-3; Deuteronomy 30:11; Matthew 11:28-30) — weariness signals reliance on self, not God [6](#) [7](#)
- **Strength comes from Christ alone** — key scriptures cited: Philippians 4:13, Isaiah 40:29-31, 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, Nehemiah 8:10 [8](#) [9](#) [10](#)
- **Gifts are given by God without repentance** — He decides who receives which gifts and how many; stewardship determines capacity increase [11](#) [12](#)
- **Pattern around spiritual gifts in Scripture:** Examine self (1 Cor. 11) → Gifts for community (1 Cor. 12) → Love as motive (1 Cor. 13) → Operate in excellence (1 Cor. 14); same pattern in Romans 12 and 2 Timothy 1:7 [13](#) [14](#) [15](#)

- **Gifts should point to God, not the gifted person** — pride and self-promotion erode trust in the gifts [16](#)
 - **Fasting strips flesh** to allow God to make an exchange — the recent 7-week fast was intentional preparation for coming increase [17](#) [18](#)
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Spiritual Gifts Overview

- **Fivefold ministry** (Ephesians 4:11): Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers — each with a distinct function in maturing the body [19](#)
 - **Apostles**: Strategy, deployment, structural direction [20](#)
 - **Prophets**: Watchers/seers; operate from a future perspective; their entire life is marked by supernatural experience; often few friends, emotionally intense [21](#)
 - **Evangelists**: Bring zeal, spark, and excitement; focused on growth and outreach [22](#)
 - **Pastors**: Focused on team care, encouragement, and cohesion [23](#)
 - **Discernment of spirits**: Operates involuntarily; key practice is asking the Holy Spirit to reveal the *door* through which a spirit entered — produces compassion over judgment [24](#) [25](#)
 - **All can prophesy** (1 Cor. 14), but not all are prophets [21](#)
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Calls to Action

- **Repent of self-reliance** in parenting, ministry, work, and daily life [26](#)
 - **Do not withhold gifts** — operating selfishly harms the whole body [27](#) [28](#)
 - **Renew the mind** (Romans 12:1-2) — unrenewed minds lead to discouragement cycles driven by the enemy [29](#) [30](#)
 - **Be disciplined in sleep, time stewardship, and spiritual rhythm** — fatigue often reflects poor stewardship, not just heavy load [31](#)
 - **Pray for the global body of Christ** — intercede for fivefold ministers worldwide, not just personal needs [32](#) [33](#)
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Announcements

- Church is **preparing to receive a physical building** for in-person Sunday services 34
 - **Men's shooting range outing** scheduled for next week 35
 - **Wednesday night Bible study hub** added; now running Monday and Wednesday hubs 35
 - Pastor Jake and Iris returning the following day 35
 - Discipleship available — members without a discipler encouraged to contact the church immediately 36
 - **Tithing guidance:** Tithe = 10%; Offering = 5% minimum; give first fruits upon receiving income 36
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Action Items

- **All members:** Complete the spiritual gift test on the church app honestly 5
- **Disciplers:** Pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal entry points of spiritual struggles in those they disciple 25
- **Members without a discipler:** Contact the church via email, text, or chat to be connected 36
- **Givers:** Continue or begin tithing and offering through the church website or app 35