

Sermon Series: 2020 Vision Recap
Sermon Title: Belonging by Building Up
Scripture Reading: 1 Timothy 4:13-16
Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church
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So, we are taking a look at our church vision at the first of the year again. We want to be people who **Behold God** regularly, both as individuals and together. We do this by being a *Beaver for the Bible*; devouring the Scriptures, letting the word of Christ dwell in us richly on our own and with others.

We want to **Belong** to the church, the body of Christ, belong to one another in a deep way. We want to do all of those one anothers in the Bible, like *love one another, pray for one another, encourage one another, teach and admonish one another and stir up one another* to love and good works.

And we want to **Be Sent** both locally and globally to proclaim the excellencies of Jesus Christ. We will talk about Being Sent next week.

This week we will focus on the horizontal and how we can **Belong** to the body of Christ, the church.

How do we belong to the body of Christ besides Beholding him together?

We Belong by building one another up with the gifts God has given us.

So, today is going to be very simple and hopefully clear as we talk about the spiritual giftedness that God gives each believer.

We are not going to go through all of the gifts one by one, because there are many of them in the Bible and likely more not even mentioned.

If you want to hear more about spiritual gifts see our website and a series of messages I preached called *"From Willingness to Giftedness"*. I preached 5 messages on 1 Corinthians 12-14 on spiritual gifts.

What I primarily want to encourage us to do today is this:

Use your spiritual gift to build up this church.

Don't neglect the gift you have.

So, here we go. First we must see that.....

I. Everyone has a gift.

Turn in your Bible to 1 Corinthians 12. I'll read verses 4 through 11.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;
5 and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord;
6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in *everyone*. **7** To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. **8** For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, **9** to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, **10** to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. **11** All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

Verse 6 says 'everyone' and verses 7 & 11 say that they Spirit gives to 'each one'.

By the way, [verse 7](#) tells us a good definition of what a Spiritual gift is.

The gift is actually the Holy Spirit himself, given to each and every believer. And then there is a manifestation or a way that the Spirit builds up the church for the common good through each person.

That's your spiritual gift.

Make no mistake about it. You have a gift.

God, the only God, the maker of the universe and everything that is.....gave you a gift!

Well, what's the purpose of the gifts?

II. The purpose of the gifts is to build up.

We just saw in 1 Corinthians 12:7 that it's for the "*common good*".

The scriptures are very clear what the gifts are for.

Turn to Ephesians 4.

Ephesians 4:4-8

4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— **5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism, **6** one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. **7** But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. **8** Therefore it says,
"When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men."

Again we see here that grace is given to each one!

Verses 11-16

11 And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, **12** to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, **13** until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, **14** so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. **15** Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, **16** from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Brothers and sisters, firstly...we all have a gift and secondly...that gift is to be used to build up the church.

Thirdly, I want us to see that in Scripture, it is clear that Christians don't automatically use their gifts.

There is exhortation to USE them.

We must do it!

III. Gifts are to be used, not neglected.

Romans 12:4-8

4 For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, **5** so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. **6** Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us USE THEM: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; **7** if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; **8** the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

1 Peter 4:10-11

10 As each has received a gift, USE IT to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:

11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

It's not an automatic thing that we will just do. We need to labor and work at using our gifts. They CAN be neglected.

Let's turn in our Bibles to the focal passage that we read earlier.

Turn to **1 Timothy 4** and let's read **verses 14-16**.

13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. **14** Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you.

15 Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress.

16 Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

Timothy has a gift. It was recognized when someone in the church spoke a word over Timothy and said something like, "*Set apart Timothy for pastoring and shepherding.*" And the council of Elders laid their hands on him and set him aside for this work...that the Holy Spirit had given him the gift to do.

Paul's exhortation to him is this:

Do not neglect your gift. Instead practice 'these things'.

What are 'these things'?

It's the public reading of Scripture, exhortation and teaching. That's how Timothy is to practice his gift.

He goes on and says, 'Immerse yourself in them.'

Make no mistake about it.

We all have a gift.

It is to be used to build up the church.

We can neglect our gifts. We shouldn't do that.

Instead we are to USE them.

Application:

1. What is your gift that the Holy Spirit has given you?

Do you know?

If you don't know, you should know?

What should you do?

Pray. Seek. Knock and the door will be opened.

God will show you.

Ask the church body, "How is it that I build up the church?" They will know, IF, you are involved enough and have served enough for people to tell!

2. Are you using your gift to build up this church?

Your gifts are to be used for this body and not another body. If you feel led to build up another body

somewhere with your gifts....that's the body you should be a member of.

And your gifts should primarily be used for this body over and above a para-church ministry.

3. Are you neglecting your gift?

IF YOU ARE NOT USING YOUR GIFT TO BUILD UP THE BODY, THEN YOU ARE NEGLECTING YOUR GIFT.

Brothers and sisters. Don't neglect the gift that you have. Instead use it. Practice it. Immerse yourself in it. The body needs you to do that.

Because our maturity depends on each of us building one another up.

What does it mean to Belong to the Body?

It means building up one another with the gifts that God has given us.