

## The Year of Sowing

### Prayer Guide

#### Week 47

### The Year of Sowing – The Gifts of the Spirit – One Body Many Members

*For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.*

#### 1 Corinthians 12: 12 (NKJV)



**Prayer Focus:** In order to help us understand the working of the gifts of the Spirit in the Body of Christ, the Church, Paul uses the illustration of the human body. Paul wants us to understand that the Church, which is the Body of Christ on the earth, is made up of many different members, each with a different function and purpose, but all are a part of the Body. Why is this important? Because it is our human tendency to prioritize and make judgments about the importance of one part over another. In fact, Paul teaches that those parts that seem to be the least important, the least attractive, are those that are most essential. The beauty of the human body is the way God has made all the different parts to work together for the benefit of each part and the benefit of the Body as a whole. There is no comparison of saying, because I am not like him, or her, I am not important in the body (verses 15-17). Every member of the Body of Christ is put in the body for a particular purpose by the express plan and design of God. That means that you and your gifts are absolutely essential to make the Body of Christ what God designed it to be. There are no “second class” members of the Body of Christ, every member is essential for the proper working of God’s purposes for His Church here on earth. God’s desire is that all the members of the Body of Christ care for one another so that there will not be any division in His Body (I Corinthians 12:25). Using our own spiritual gifts, each of us have a role to play in God’s purposes here on the earth until Jesus returns. Let us not lose sight of God’s purposes, God’s design and God’s instructions to us. As we all fulfill our part, we together will be made complete and mature, lacking nothing for the work God gave to us. Let us take seriously God’s purposes for giving us the gifts of the Spirit, and use them as He instructed us.

**Day 1:** Read again the passages in I Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4 about the Gifts of the Spirit.

**Day 2:** Praise the Lord for His wisdom in giving the gifts of the Spirit for the building up of the Body of Christ.

**Day 3:** Pray for the unity of the Body of Christ as described in Ephesians 4. It is God’s will.

**Day 4:** Pray for each member to understand their importance to the health of the Body of Christ.

**Day 5:** Pray for the Gifts of the Spirit to be used in unity and humility in your church.

**Day 6:** Intercede today for the maturity and the unity of the Body of Christ in your city. Pray for unity among the churches and pastors.

**Day 7:** Ask the Lord to work in special ways through the gifts of the Spirit on the mission fields, especially where there is persecution of Christians.