



Pray

What is your experience of these gifts either in your own life or in churches you have been a part of?

How have these gifts (as you've seen them in operation) contributed to 'the common good' of the church (1 Cor.12:7)?

Has anyone in the group seen any of these gifts' mis-used? What lessons can we learn from those less good experiences?

The gift of Faith:

Texts you might like to consider: Matthew 17:20; 1 Cor.13:2; James 5:15-16.

How does this gift of faith differ from 'saving faith' which is common to all Christians?

How do we know that those with 'the gift of faith' are not a rare breed of 'super Christians'?

How might this gift be used to build up the body of Christ?

The gifts of Healings and Miracles:

Texts to consider: John 14:11-14; James 5:15ff. 1 Cor.12:9-10

[John 14 is notoriously challenging to interpret! It seems very likely that the 'greater' things Jesus refers to are mainly referring to the idea that Jesus has performed miracles which point towards his divinity BEFORE he has died on the cross and risen to new life. The miracles which Christians will do in his name are greater in that they bear witness to the **full** gospel of forgiveness of sins and filling of the Holy Spirit; and they are greater in that millions of Christians around the world can do them in his name.]

1 Corinthians 12 suggests we should eagerly desire these (and other) spiritual gifts. Why?

What might be the blocks to us praying for these gifts/seeking to operate in them?

How might these gifts be used to build up our church today?

How can we minister to one another when healing doesn't take place?

Prayer:

Take time to pray sensitively about all you have shared. It may be appropriate to pray for healing/miracles/faith for some in your group.



Holy Trinity
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St Andrew's
Community Church