

Monday Quotes



Grain

“We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”

The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.,
Why We Can't Wait

Field

4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8 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 discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Thoughts

Church members in Corinth were lost in divisions. How stuck they had become in arguing over which gifts were most beneficial. Paul burst in with the claim that everyone was working for the same body with enough of God's love to go around. All had gifts. All contributed to the community. Respect how God graces you and your neighbor instead of chipping away at one another. That is easier said than realized when we're entangled in disputes but is the truth we always return to.

In our society, sometimes the question about gifts has revolved around the “who”. Who is recognized as having gifts? I was quite young when witnessing our nation grieve the loss of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., but also recall the scuttlebutt. A family member said that Dr. King instantly became famous because he was murdered. Of course, martyrdom will draw attention, but the remark also clearly discounted Dr. King's gifts. Then I grew up and read books like, *Why We Can't Wait*. I was amazed by how every sentence exuded a needed cry for justice. The text seemed alive. I was challenged. The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. became known because his gifts uncovered those ancient truths about the Spirit manifested in each one of us. The time to stop denying the gifts of entire groups of people was overdue.

Even though our denominations have played extremely mixed roles in confronting racism, they have also directed us to inconvertible truth about the body of Christ. A 2017 article from *The Atlantic* pointed to a study showing that “among Catholics, mainline Protestants, and born-again Protestants the less you attended church, the more anti-immigration you were.” We're called to support one another to recognize the Spirit manifested in each one of us for the common good. It is a message of freedom we're graced to return to again and again. Happy Monday!

Prayer

Highly recommended.

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy