* **Mothers day**
* **Community VBS** sign your kids up.
* **One service- Memorial Day weekend**
* **Series Slide**
* Its been about a year since I used Shakespeare in a sermon, so we’re due.
* Let me give you a really quick summary his play, Hamlet.
* Hamlet is the Prince of Denmark. His dad, King Hamlet…has recently died from a poisonous snake bite.
* Shortly after the King’s funeral, Prince Hamlet’s Uncle Claudius steps in to marry Hamlet’s mother and take over as King of Denmark.
* So, Hamlet suspects that something fishy might be going on, but he has nothing to prove that with.

That’s when, in Act 1, Scene 5 Hamlet has an encounter with his father’s ghost.

And the ghost tells Hamlet he didn’t die from a snake bite, but that it *was* actually his Uncle Claudius that poisoned him. The ghost instructs Hamlet to take revenge on his behalf by murdering Claudius to get justice.

Now, right at the end of this encounter, a couple of Hamlet’s friends walk in on the conversation with the Ghost…in fact they actually hear the ghost talking.

Which, of course, they can’t really believe what they are seeing and hearing.

So Hamlet makes them swear they won’t tell anybody about it.

At this point, Hamlet’s friend Horatio says,

**Horatio:** O day and night, but this is wondrous strange!

* **Hamlet:** And therefore as a stranger give it welcome.
* There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio,
* Than are dreamt of in your philosophy
* In other words, Horatio is saying… “A ghost! Is this really happening?!?! This is Strange!”
* And Hamlet’s reply is “Don’t reject this ghost because its strange. In fact, how do you normally treat a stranger or a traveller? You welcome him. You invite him in and get to know him.

“Horatio, just because you don’t have a category for understanding this ghost, doesn’t mean he’s not real. There are more things in heaven and earth than you have ever dreamt of in your philosophy.”

* He goes to explain to Horatio that because he has encountered this ghost…because this ghost has given him a mission, that he will probably begin to act strangely. It may even seem to outsiders like he’s lost his mind.
* But, he tells Horatio, its all in service to this mission to get revenge on his Uncle.
* **Title Slide**
* Over the last few weeks, we’ve been learning from the Bible who the Holy Spirit is and what exactly he does.
* Some older translations of the Bible call the Holy Spirit, the Holy Ghost.
* And, over the history of the church, when people have encountered the Holy Ghost…and some of the strange out-workings that can accompany his presence… they’ve had much the same reaction as Horatio.
* **“O day and night, this is wondrous strange!”**

Speaking in tongues. Prophecy. Healing. Words of knowledge.

…these are just a few of the things that are referred to as “Spiritual Gifts”.

But, are these real…or just strange?

Should we welcome them? Or be skeptical?

Whatever answer we come to on that…I do know that, in humility, …regarding the Holy Ghost… we need to hear Hamlet speaking to us too…

**“There are more things in heaven and earth, City Church, than are dreamt of in your philosophy.”**

* **1 Corinthians 12:1-29**
* **Now concerning spiritual gifts:**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#fn1)**brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be unaware. 2 You know that when you were pagans, you used to be enticed and led astray by mute**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf1)**idols.**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf2)**3 Therefore I want you to know that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus is cursed,” and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.**
* **4 Now there are different gifts,**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf3)**but the same Spirit. 5 There are different ministries, but the same Lord. 6 And there are different activities, but the same God produces each gift in each person. 7 A manifestation of the Spirit is given to each person**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf4)**for the common good: 8 to one**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf5)**is given a message of wisdom**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf6)**through the Spirit, to another, a message of knowledge by the same Spirit, 9 to another, faith by the same Spirit, to another, gifts of healing**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf7)**by the one Spirit, 10 to another, the performing of miracles,**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf8)**to another, prophecy,**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf9)**to another, distinguishing between spirits,**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf10)**to another, different kinds of tongues,**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#fn2)**to another, interpretation of tongues. 11 One and the same Spirit is active in all these, distributing to each person as he wills.**
* **12 For just as the body is one**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf11)**and has many parts, and all the parts of that body, though many, are one body ​— ​so also is Christ.**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf12)**13 For we were all baptized by**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#fn3)**one Spirit into one body ​— ​whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free ​— ​and we were all given one Spirit to drink.**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf13)**14 Indeed, the body is not one part but many. 15 If the foot should say, “Because I’m not a hand, I don’t belong to the body,” it is not for that reason any less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear should say, “Because I’m not an eye, I don’t belong to the body,” it is not for that reason any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But as it is, God has arranged each one of the parts in the body just as he wanted.**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf14)**19 And if they were all the same part, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many parts, but one body. 21 The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you! ” Or again, the head can’t say to the feet, “I don’t need you! ” 22 On the contrary, those parts of the body that are weaker are indispensable. 23 And those parts of the body that we consider less honorable,**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf15)**we clothe these with greater honor, and our unrespectable parts are treated with greater respect, 24 which our respectable parts do not need.**
* **Instead, God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the less honorable, 25 so that there would be no division**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf16)**in the body, but that the members would have the same concern for each other. 26 So if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.**
* **27 Now you are the body of Christ,**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf17)**and individual members of it. 28  And God has appointed these in the church:**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf18)**first apostles, second prophets, third teachers,**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf19)**next miracles,**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf20)**then gifts of healing,**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf21)**helping, administrating, various kinds of tongues.**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#fn4)**29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all do miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in other tongues? Do all interpret?**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf22)**31 But desire**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf23)**the greater gifts. And I will show you an even better way.**
* **Transition:** I know some of you are thinking “Finally! We are getting to the good stuff!”
* Let me tell you why I put off covering spiritual gifts to the last part of this series.
* Its because, often, I think the tail wags the dog when we talk about the Holy Spirit. Many times, folks are just looking for the magic of the Holy Spirit…and so they overlook his mission.

SO, I don’t want you to be distracted from everything else we’ve learned about the Spirit up to this point. He is still, focused on bringing repentance and faith. He still, primarily is concerned with confession of sin, and reinforcing the work of Jesus in his life, death, resurrection, and return.

…and, like the apostle Paul says in this passage…he is passionately concerned with the building up of the church. Because….

**1) He’s called the Holy Spirit, …not the Homogeneity Spirit.**

* + If you asked me, “Trevor, do you think the Holy Spirit still does miraculous signs?”
  + I would answer, unequivocally, “Yes”.
  + And I think one of the most wondrously strange things the Spirit does is unify a diverse people.
  + Here’s what I mean.
  + We tend to gravitate toward people that are like us in some category.
  + Political party. Sports teams. Exercise enthusiasts. Sense of humor. Age or Stage of life. Hobbies. Neighborhoods. Ethnicity.
  + Typically, we think, the more things in common we have, the more likely we are to get along.
  + And so, we think, to be a uni-FIED people …we need to be uni-FORM people.
  + In fact, quite sadly, the “church growth” movement birthed in the 1980s and 90s was built on the “Homogeneity Principle”.
  + Homogeneity just means “sameness”.
  + So the idea was that if you could just tailor your church, the preaching, the music, the programs to basically meet one demographic’s preferences…then your church would grow fast.
  + …and indeed…those churches grew fast.
  + The problem was nobody looked at those churches and ever said, “O day and night. This is WONDROUS STRANGE!”
  + Because what’s strange about catering to one group’s desires and having a big crowd show up?
  + You know, when the apostle Paul wrote this section of his letter to the Corinthian church, his intent wasn’t to list all the things the Spirit does in the church…or to make sure they understood what a “word of knowledge” was…
  + …he actually already assumes they know that…because apparently they are practicing it already.
  + What he does do is spend the ENTIRE chapter reinforcing the fact that in a Spirit-filled church…there should not be Homogeneity…rather, there should be unified diversity.
  + **V 1**
  + First of all, at the beginning of the chapter, where Paul writes “concerning Spiritual gifts”…its actually a very strange word that’s happening there.
  + The greek word is “pneumatikon”…which literally means “spirituals”.
  + The word “gifts” or “charisma” is not there.
  + The reason why its so strange is because is like an adjective, but there is no noun.
  + So we add a noun there, that DOES come later in the passage, but does not appear here.
  + Because “concerning Spirituals” sounds weird in English.
  + But, it becomes abundantly clear as you read through the passage, that Paul is NOT trying to give an exhaustive list of all the spiritual gifts and how they are used.
  + Rather, he is saying, more generally, “When you are a Spirit-filled people, you will be unified in your diversity.”
  + So let me give you a few short points from this passage about that unified diversity.
  + The first one is a recap.
  + **V 2-3**
  + In Corinth at the time, there were pagan temples everywhere. And no doubt, there was some strange stuff that happened surrounding the worship of these gods.
  + The people of Corinth were fascinated with spiritually demonic stuff.
  + So Paul is trying to distinguish for them between the crazy magical stuff these demons were doing people and what the Holy Spirit was doing in the church. See…
  + **The Holy Spirit is about mission, not magic.**
  + The Holy Spirit is going to work in people to say, “Jesus is Lord.”
  + And those people that declare that “Jesus is Lord” will, in unison, be on a mission to make him Lord in every aspect of their lives.
  + And to declare his Lordship…and the beauty of his Kingdom.
  + This Holy Spirit is not some super power that allows you to do magic, he is on a mission to bring more and more people to declare “Jesus is Lord”.
  + **V 4-6**
  + Notice the attention given to unified diversity.
  + In the church, we all have different gifts, but they all come from the same Spirit.
  + We have different ministries, but the same Lord.
  + Different activities to accomplish, but the same God is equipping us to fulfill those callings.
  + In v 13 he says we are all one body, no matter if what race or socio-economic class…if you are in Christ…you are a part of the Same body!
  + **The Spirit is on a mission to make us unified and diverse!**
  + Next.
  + **The Spirit gives every believer a gift or gifts v7 & 11**
  + Paul says that each person in the church has a manifestation of the Spirit.
  + That word manifestation is a word that means “to shine”.
  + In other words, every believer has a way or ways the Spirit “Shines” through them.
  + Now, I don’t think that this passage teaches everybody only has ONE way the Spirit gifts you.
  + I actually think that the Spirit can gift you in many different ways, to different degrees…and at different times.
  + After all, it says the Holy Spirit gifts us according to how he wills.
  + Which means I think its entirely possible that if the Holy Spirit sees a way to magnify Christ through a healing, I may have that gift for one moment to give to one person…and never have it again.
  + Its not necessarily like if you have the gift of administration, that that is the only gift you will ever have…until you die. The Spirit can give you multiple different gifts to differing degrees at different times.
  + The point is that he WILL absolutely give you a spiritual gift.
  + Every believer has at least one.
  + BUT…
  + **No believer has all the gifts.**
  + See, that would defeat the point.
  + In the second half of the passage from 1 Cor 12, Paul makes the analogy of the church as a body. He talks about eyes, and ears, and feet.
  + In other words, a body needs each of its individual parts to be different in order to be a whole-functioning body.
  + **V 17-19**
  + That’s why Paul writes, “If we all are an ear…then we aren’t a body.”
  + See, Its God’s design that we are to rely on one another. That each of us needs the others.
  + There is no such thing as a healthy independent Christian.
  + Anymore than there is such thing as a healthy independent ear, or foot, or eye.
  + Once the eye is removed from the body…it is no longer accomplishing its mission to provide sight to the body. And its no longer receiving blood from the heart…and it can no longer receive nourishment through the mouth, and stomach.

**Back to 1)**

* + Listen, Paul is going to lengths here NOT to explain to you what exactly each gift is…but to give you something more important.
  + That the Spirit is going to on one hand diversify the church…every person is going to be a different part, playing a different role.
  + On the other hand, he is giving those gifts *in order* to make us dependent on one another. To unify us.
  + Because if we are unified Not around our politics, or hobbies, or ethnicities, or weekend plans…but unified around the common mission and beauty of that phrase “JESUS is LORD”…
  + The church will be holy…set apart…sticking out…in a world that thinks if someone disagrees with you, they are your enemy…
  + The church will be a wondrously strange body, that is brought together, in all her diversity, under the declaration that “Jesus is LORD”.
* TRANSITION: and that means that…
* **2) If you are a part of this church, you have a gift to give…and the rest of us need it.**
  + Act 3, Scene 1 of *Hamlet* contains the most famous soliloquy in all of Shakespeare’s works.
  + “To be, or not to be – that is the question”
  + Its Hamlet talking to himself, trying to decide whether or not he should commit suicide because he is so torn over the idea that getting justice for his father, means that he must commit murder.
  + So he thinks, “Maybe I should just end it all, then I won’t have to face this decision.”
  + Later in that speech, Hamlet says,
  + “**Conscience doth make cowards of us all**”
  + What he means, is that his conscience, his sense of morality is keeping him murdering his uncle…its making him afraid of doing wrong.
  + A lot of people think about the Holy Spirit as a conscience.
  + But that’s not what the Holy Spirit is.
  + In fact, the Holy Spirit isn’t a “what” at all. He’s a “who.”
  + And he doesn’t KEEP us from doing bad stuff…he gives us courage to do the right thing. He fills us to accomplish our mission.
  + While our conscience makes us cowards to do the wrong thing….
  + The Holy Spirit gives us courage to do the right thing.
  + See, if all of this that Paul writes is true about what the Holy Spirit wants for the church, then it is going to take the work of the Spirit to produce the courage in us to give ourselves to each other like this.
  + **V 26**
  + Paul says that when we function as a Spirit-filled body, that if one member suffers, we all suffer.
  + And if one member is honored, we all rejoice with him or her.
  + You see what that is?
  + It is an emotional attachment to a people.
  + In fact, another metaphor for the church is a family.
  + Think about your family.
  + When a member of your family is hurting, you hurt.
  + And, when a member of your family is rejoicing, you rejoice.
  + That means…you have to open up your heart to more people…and that’s dangerous.
  + That’s what it means to be vulnerable.
  + **V 31**
  + At the end of this chapter Paul says, “Let me show you a better way. Let me show you something better than being jealous about someone else’s Spiritual Gift.” …and that better way, he says, is love.
  + Look, the way the Spirit is unifying us in diversity…is by giving gifts to that, as we give them away to another…it will cause us to be more deeply attached to each other.
* **Back to 2)**
  + Let me ask you something.
  + If you gave half of all the money you had away to a person so they could say, go to college. Don’t you think you would shed tears of joy on the day they graduated?
  + If you spent years mentoring a young couple in their early marriage, don’t you think your heart would break on a very deep level if they decided to divorce.
  + Of course it would. Because you had given to them.
  + Likewise, the Spirit gives you a gift or gifts to GIVE to the church…and the reason for it is NOT just because someone needs something and God wants you to provide it…no…its deeper, more profound than that.
  + God wants you to give your gift to the people of the church because he wants your heart so knitted to theirs, so vulnerably intimately exposed with theirs…that when they rejoice…you rejoice…and then they suffer, you shed tears with them.
  + Because the church is a family. The church is body of broken people who are being renewed day by day by Jesus our Lord.
  + **1 Cor 14:26**
  + **What then, brothers and sisters? Whenever you come together, each one**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#fn9)**has a hymn, a teaching, a revelation, another tongue, or an interpretation.**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf16)**Everything is to be done for building up**.
  + You know that verse implies?
  + It means that whenever the church gathers…if you are one of the “each ones” who aren’t here with us, giving your gift to the church…you are depriving another member of the family of something they need.
  + And, if you aren’t giving your gift, it means that your heart is not being bound in love to the rest of this family.
  + You aren’t building up others…and you aren’t being built up in love.
  + That should change the way you look at community group.
  + It should change the way you look at this worship gathering.
  + You aren’t just showing up to receive something…you are showing up to give something to build someone else up.
* **Mini-transition**: So what are those gifts?
  + What are the things the Spirit gifts us with to give to others that result in making this body, this family a group of people that people look at and say, “That is wondrous strange!”
  + Well first let me say that this is not an exhaustive list.
  + T This is 1 of 6 different lists of spiritual gifts found in the New Testament (there are 2 more in 1 Corinthians; 1 in Ephesians; one in Romans; and one in 1 Peter).
  + Here’s the thing, though: none of them are the same. There are some overlaps, but there are at least 22 different gifts noted, and no list includes all of them.
  + Because remember, a spiritual gift is just what the Holy Spirit wants to do through the church in a moment of courage, vulnerability, and perspective to accomplish his mission of more people proclaiming “Jesus is Lord”.
  + You might say, “How do I know what gift I have?”
  + Well, I would say, generally, you need to let the church tell you.
  + Sometimes people take Spiritual Gift tests, but while I think those can be a tool to a degree, there is nothing like being known by the people of the church and letting them see into the way God is using you to love them to figure out what your gift is.
  + **Gifting is often where Affinity, Ability, and Need meet.**
  + Explain: American Idol.
* OK quickly, let me try to define some of the one’s listed here.
  + **Gifts of Wisdom**
  + Sometimes the Spirit of God will give you insight into His will in an area that is not spelled out really clear...
  + A lot of times the Scriptures are plenty clear. “Do not murder.”
  + But most times we need wisdom about decisions.
  + Gift of application.
  + **Gifts of Knowledge:** a special knowledge from the Holy Spirit
  + A special knowledge about someone you have know way to know about.
  + Jesus in John 4 (woman at well)
  + **Gifts of Faith**
  + Not normal “believe in Jesus” and trust God faith, but the ability to perceive what God wants to do. Think of the people in the Gospels who come up to Jesus with an awareness that He will heal.
  + There’s another phrase there **“gifts of prophecy”**
  + Wayne Grudem says it is “***reporting in one’s own words something God has spontaneously brought to mind*”**
  + This could be a word or a picture or a phrase.
  + Notice Paul says that prophecy is one gift, another is the ability to distinguish the spirits, or to distinguish the prophecies.
  + **1 Thess 5:20-21**
  + We are to weigh everything that someone tells you against Scripture and test to see if it is for the building up of the church in love and the mission of God.
* **Back to 2)**
  + Then there are gifts of healing, and miracles.
  + Special abilities to pray for God’s supernatural work.
  + That’s still possible today.
  + Now, I will say,
  + even in the Bible that there seems to be a lot of signs and healings and miracles around the coming of Jesus, and that seem to taper off after while; Acts is full of stories of these signs happening as the gospel goes into a new area. But when you read the epistles, you see that a lot of this has died down.
  + 1 Tim 4:18 Paul talks about leaving a guy at a place “sick.”
  + Even today, when the gospel is going into new places around the world,
  + Often, Dreams and visions and healings accompany that.
  + That doesn’t mean its not possible or to be expected here.
  + But I tell you what it does mean.
  + It means I think we will see more of it as we seek to take the gospel into new corners and cultures in our society where there is hardly any gospel presence.
  + In other words, find a place where there aren’t many Christians at all, and it seems, the Spirit is more likely to do a miracle.
  + An overwhelming majority of the miracles in the book of Acts take place OUTSIDE a the gathered church!

I don’t have time to cover all these gifts, but it ought to be something you study and ask about.

I will say that next week, I will spend the entire time on what prophecy and tongues are…because Paul, in 1 Cor 14 does just that.

But now, I want to show you one more thing. One very important thing.

**3) Spiritual gifts do not equal spiritual fruit.**

In Hamlet, though King Hamlet’s ghost comes back to bring justice through his son Hamlet…

… that justice is compromised.

Its not clean. Its dirty. Polluted. Because it comes through murder.

That’s why Hamlet wrestles with himself so much.

Because he can’t figure out how to get justice on a murderer, without becoming a murderer himself

Conscience doth make cowards of us all.

In the end of Hamlet, nearly everyone dies.

And yes, Hamlet saw a ghost. But it wasn’t a Holy Ghost.

It was a ghost that prompted him not to love, but to hate.

Not to forgiveness, but to revenge.

So, he carried out the power of the ghost, but it ultimately the ghost betrayed Hamlet, because he just caused MORE injustice, more murder.

The Holy Ghost is different. Where he acts, there is love. There is forgiveness. There is patience, kindness, gentleness, self-control.

See, Paul goes on in the next chapter to say, “Its completely possible for you to display these gifts, but at the same time, forsake what the Holy Spirit really wants for you…and that is to give love.”

* **1 Cor 13:1-3**
* **If I speak human or angelic tongues**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#fn1)**but do not have love,**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf1)**I am a noisy gong**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf2)**or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf3)**and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith so that I can move mountains**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf4)**but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 And if I give away all my possessions, and if I give over my body in order to boast**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#fn2)**but do not have love, I gain nothing.**
* In fact, Jesus affirmed this in the book of Matthew as he teaches the sermon on the mount.
* **Matt 7:15-23**
* **“Be on your guard against false prophets**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf12)**who come to you in sheep’s**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf13)**clothing**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf14)**but inwardly are ravaging wolves.**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf15)**16 You’ll recognize them by their fruit.**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf16)**Are grapes gathered from thornbushes or figs from thistles?**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf17)**17 In the same way, every good tree produces good fruit, but a bad tree produces bad fruit. 18 A good tree can’t produce bad fruit; neither can a bad tree produce good fruit. 19 Every tree that doesn’t produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf18)**20 So you’ll recognize them by their fruit.**
* **21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven,**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf20)**but only the one who does the will**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf21)**of my Father in heaven.**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf22)**22 On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, didn’t we prophesy in your name, drive out demons**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf23)**in your name, and do many miracles in your name? ’**[**†**](https://api.mywsb.com/api/epublican/repo/csb-temp/epub-resource/5357D7AF-42BF-4678-B492-D18D647A5863/OEBPS/#xrf24)**23 Then I will announce to them, ‘I never knew you. Depart from me, you lawbreakers!**
* Jesus equates spiritual fruit with being KNOWN by Jesus.
* That means making yourself vulnerable to him.
* You know, to declare “Jesus as Lord” is a VERY vulnerable act.
* Because you are giving him control. You are allowing him to call the shots.
* For example, you give away our perceived “right” to revenge…and you take on a life of love and forgiveness.
* Which means HAMLET in Christ, doesn’t listen to the voice of his Father’s ghost, but the voice of the Holy Ghost.
* And instead of seeking to murder his Uncle, he courageously confronts his Uncle with the truth and extends to him forgiveness.
* Forgiving someone is the most vulnerable act you can possibly do.
* You know how you have the power to do it?
* You see more deeply how much God has forgiven you….and the lengths he went to do it.
* That’s what the Lord’s Supper proclaims to us over and over, every time we take it.

**Lords supper**