

Today is a perfect example of how my week has been going. It just keeps building and building upon itself. And we all have those moments. We all have those weeks, right, where it just seems like everything we are doing isn't working right no matter how hard we try. This week I had a bunch of meetings, and one of my meetings I got promoted so I am co-facilitator of this group now. And I am co-facilitator with a person that I do not get along with at all. And it is challenging. We all have those moments right, but this gentleman, we do not agree on anything. It is incredibly frustrating and hard to believe because we are both a part of this great faith, this great denomination. That we are all welcome. That we can all do these things that we all share and can embrace either other.

I do not want to embrace this man; I don't. And we have a hard time working together, clearly, because I am still worked up about it. And this happened on Tuesday. But he brings something to the group that I don't. He has gifts that are much different than my own, and that is why we butt heads all the time. He is very charismatic, and he is very vocal, and he is very over the top. I am not like that. But we find a way to make things work. We find a way to work together. We find a way to come together. And we do that through the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit touches us, each in very different ways. The reading today talks about all the great gifts that the Holy Spirit has brought upon all of us. And some of them are very clear. Some of them are right there, in your face you can not miss it. And then other gifts are more subtle. They are more in the back. But it doesn't make any of them less important. It doesn't make any of it less significant. It doesn't make us any less significant, because we are not.

We are all sharing God's love. We are all sharing his teachings. We are all sharing his gifts. And it is hard sometimes to figure out where we all fit in this. In Acts 1 when Jesus comes to everybody, he tells them to wait. He tells them to sit and be patient. Because once he ascends, something else big will happen. He is showing that it doesn't just end with him. He is showing that it doesn't end with the ascension. With him going up to Heaven and sitting beside God. He is showing them that these gifts will continue to come.

Remember later in Acts 1, they are talking about Peter fighting with everyone, much like myself and George. I probably shouldn't have said his name, but there it is. But they were fighting. They were fighting all the time and all of a sudden, this flame comes down and blesses all of them. And they start to hear and see what everybody's gifts are. They start to see that everybody has these talents. That everyone has come together. And that is very hard for us to do. To see what everyone else has or can be.

Sometimes we forget, I forget, we all forget that without each one of us, I should say with each one of us, we become stronger. We come together and we make a better body. We fit together like a jigsaw puzzle. And I know everybody here knows jigsaw puzzles, some more than others. But it is a great point. We are all pieces of this jigsaw puzzle coming together. because we all have the gifts that feed and fill. We have the gifts that we share with the world and not just the individual. We do not keep them to ourselves. We spread them out. It is a wonderful thing that God has blessed us with, that we can share with others.