



St. Mary & St. Joseph Coptic Orthodox Church

11308 Yonge St, Richmond Hill, ON L4S 1K9

*Unity in Diversity (1 Corinthians 12:4-6)*

# THE ROCK

THE LORD IS MY ROCK.

- **PSALM 18:2**

Unity in Diversity

- 1Cor. 12:4-6





## 1 Reflection on (1 Corinthians 12:4-6):

***“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.”***

*By N.M.*

In the beginning of this verse, it is revealed that God has blessed His people with unique spiritual gifts; He has created diversity, rather than uniformity, in the spiritual gifts of His children. God has created each person with careful thought and love, providing us each with our own talents and gifts. Individuals vary in their strengths, but each can work to practice and spread God’s word in different ways. Some may thrive in public speaking, while others shine in their writing skills; regardless of our talents, Christians are all still connected through the Spirit, and our role to spread the Word of God. Although Christians and non-Christians alike all possess different talents, Christians possess *spiritual* gifts and all of these gifts come from the Holy Spirit. Therefore, the doctrine of the Lord is rooted in diversity in unity, rather than uniformity.

Just as God has blessed us with different gifts, there are also various ministry opportunities as well. We can use our spiritual gifts in different ways. People who share a common gift can each use this gift in different ways. For example, individuals who share the gift of evangelism may serve in different ways. One individual may use their gift to teach young children in Sunday School classes, while others may use this gift to lead youth and adult spiritual sessions. Regardless of the way in which one serves in the Church, all ministries still revolve around the same purpose: to preach about our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Therefore, there is unity in the diversity of the ministries in the Church.

Finally, there is diversity in “activities,” or the effects of our gifts and ministries. As humans, whenever we use our gifts in service, it is the power of the Holy Spirit that guides us and God who controls the effects. With differences in spiritual gifts and ministries, there are also different results and effects of our services. However, God works in all of our ministries to touch people’s hearts in different ways, depending on the type of service. For example, consider the following two groups of servants: a choir performing worship songs, and a group of individuals serving food at a homeless shelter. Each service will affect different people in different ways, but God is at the center of all the works of Christians.

Evidently, God loves diversity because He has made each of His children unique in a multitude of ways. As Christians, we must use our special spiritual gifts in different types of services to preach about our God. The Holy spirit allows us to use the talents that we have been granted, so we must put them to good use. Despite the diversity in the members of the Coptic Church, we are all united by the same goal, which is to serve our Heavenly Father.





## 2 Reflection on (1 Corinthians 12:4-6):



*By B.K.*

Here St. Paul speaks concerning the divine gifts which God grants us, which we can use, to preach and to glorify His name.

Some have been given the gift to preach, others to teach God's word, some to praise Him through music, others to lead a congregation, and so on. We know that not everyone is going to receive the same gift (Romans 12:3-8).

However, "These gifts have one source -- the Holy Spirit, who testifies to the Lord Christ, proclaims His Person and Work, for the realization of a divine goal. Therefore, no one has the right to boast what he has freely got, nor despise him who does not have this same gift. The Holy Spirit distributes His gifts according to His divine will; by His authority; according to the need of every one; and for the benefit of all."

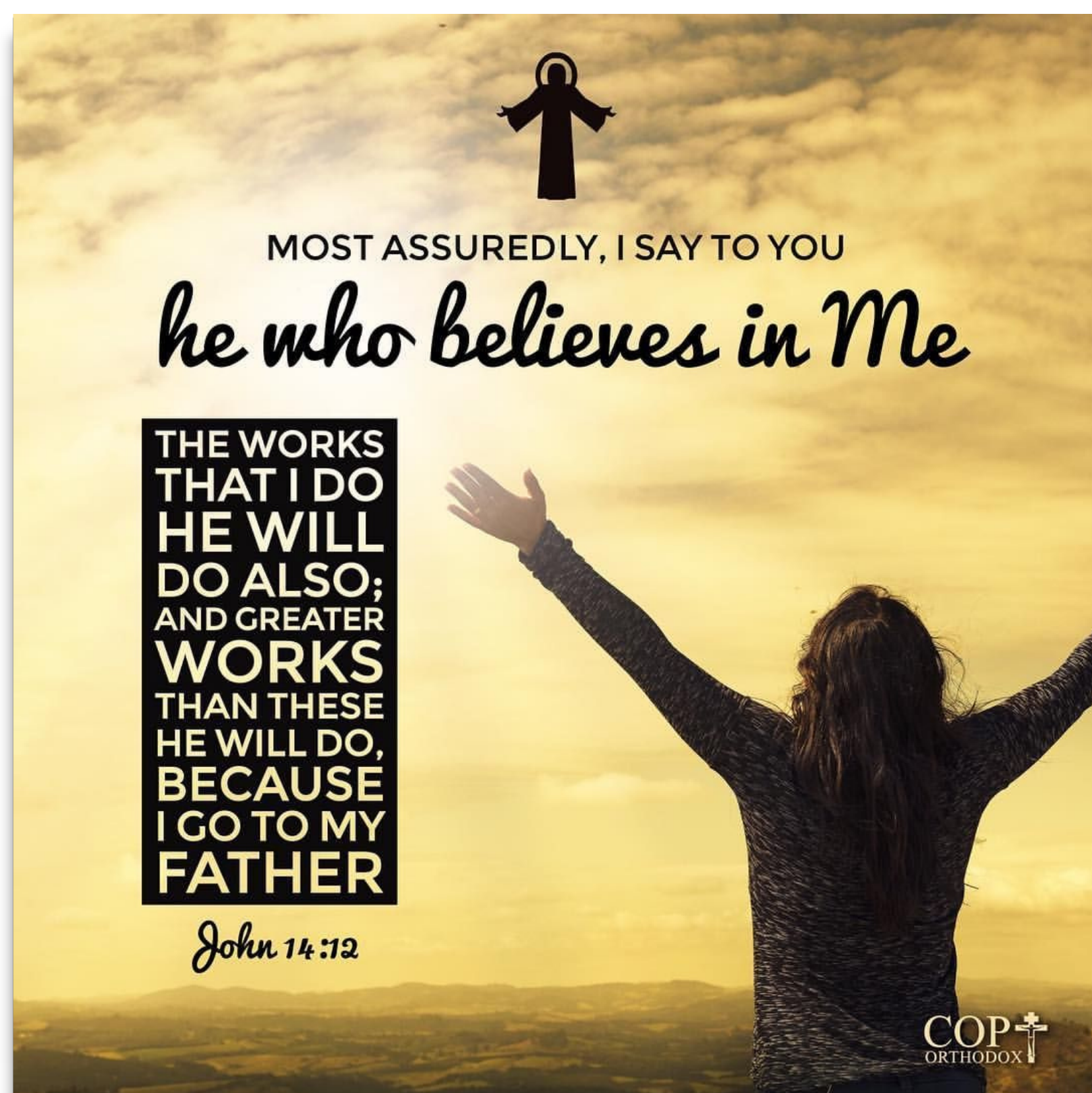


There are also different ministries - “apostles, prophets, teachers; as well as bishops, priests, deacons, etc. who are qualified, not by themselves, but through the call of the Lord Jesus Christ to them”, and different activities - “performing miracles, driving out demons, healing the sick, raising the dead”.

God grants us these gifts to benefit others, not just ourselves (see 1 Peter 4:10).

And if you want, you can ask God to reveal to you what gift He has given you, so that you can use it to benefit others.

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, **“he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father” (John 14:12).** And also, **“Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give” (Matthew 10:8).**



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