

1 Corinthians 12:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

Analysis

And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all—Energēmatōn (ἐνεργημάτων, "workings" or "operations") stresses the effects or results of gifts. The root energēō means "to work effectively, to produce results." God the Father is the ultimate energizer of all spiritual activity —**which worketh all in all** (ho energōn ta panta en pasin).

This completes Paul's Trinitarian framework: the Spirit distributes gifts (v.4), Christ assigns ministries (v.5), the Father energizes operations (v.6). The threefold repetition of "**the same**" (auto) hammers home unity amid diversity. The Father's sovereign working "in all" persons and "all" situations means no gift, ministry, or result occurs independently of divine empowerment. Human agency cooperates with divine energy—we minister, but God produces fruit. This guards against both laziness ("I don't need to exercise my gift") and pride ("Look what I accomplished").

Historical Context

Greek philosophical thought debated the relationship between divine and human causation. Paul affirms both: humans exercise gifts, yet God energizes the outcome. This differs from pagan ecstatic religion (which obliterated human will) and from mere human effort (which claimed autonomous achievement).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does understanding God as the one 'energizing' all gifts affect your confidence in ministry?
2. Where do you see the Trinity working cooperatively in the church's ministry today?
3. How can Christians balance human responsibility in using gifts with dependence on God's empowerment?

Interlinear Text

καὶ διαιρέσεις ἐνεργημάτων εἰσίν τὰ δὲ αὐτός
And diversities of operations there are which but the same
G2532 G1243 G1755 G1526 G3588 G1161 G846

ἐστιν θεός τὰ ἐνεργῶν τὰ πᾶσιν ἐν πᾶσιν
it is God which worketh which all in all
G2076 G2316 G3588 G1754 G3588 G3956 G1722 G3956

Additional Cross-References

Colossians 3:11 (Parallel theme): Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

1 Corinthians 3:7 (References God): So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

1 Corinthians 12:11 (Parallel theme): But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

John 5:17 (Parallel theme): But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.

Hebrews 13:21 (Parallel theme): Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Colossians 1:29 (Parallel theme): Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

Ephesians 4:6 (References God): One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

1 Corinthians 15:28 (References God): And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

Philippians 2:13 (References God): For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Job 33:29 (References God): Lo, all these things worketh God oftentimes with man,