



13) The Gifts of the Spirit #1 (1 Co 12:8-11)

Section 3: Christian Service Handout

Spiritual gifts are God’s diverse means to uniquely pour out His grace to each genuine believer in Christ, empowering them so they have special opportunities to extend God’s grace to others. The Apostle Paul perfectly explained the purpose of spiritual gifts for 3 purposes: 1) for the perfecting of the saints, 2) for the work of the ministry, 3) and for edifying the body of Christ.

A) God’s Distributed Spiritual Gifts (1 Cor 12:8-11)

“8 For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.”

- V.8 reminds us that God distributes these spiritual gifts for His purposes. These gifts do not create our spiritual life but rather define our unique areas of service. A certain gifting implies the Spirit’s commitment to regularly and uniquely work in each believer.
- It also reveals that the Spirit of God will pass special insight and wisdom to certain believers so that they make wise decisions and communicate to others why these decisions are the best.
- The Spirit of God also distributes God’s knowledge to His believers so that they can optimally serve and care for others.
- V. 11 reveal that God is the one responsible for the distribution and direction of these gifts. The gifts are not given because one is better but rather outfitted by God’s sovereign choice.

<i>Spiritual Gifts -- Spirit</i>	<i>Working Gifts -- Father</i>	<i>Equipping Gifts -- Son</i>
1 Corinthians 12:8-11	Romans 12:3-8	Ephesians 4:7-13
1. Wisdom	1. Prophecy	1. Apostles
2. Knowledge	2. Serve	2.
3.	3.	3.
4.	4.	4.
5.	5.	5.
6.	6.	
7.	7.	
8.		
9.		

- V.8 the gift of wisdom seems to be the ability to make decisions and give guidance that is according to God’s

- will. A message from God about the future. Example, Agabus predicting a drought in Acts 11:28.
- V. 8 the gift of knowledge is the ability to have an in-depth understanding of a spiritual issue or situation. A message about the past or present from God. Example, Jesus knowing about the woman's perversion in John 4:18.
 - V. 9 the gift of faith is being able to trust God and encourage others to trust God, no matter the circumstances. Example, Peter walking on the water in Matthew 14:29.
 - V. 9 the gift of healing is the miraculous ability to use God's healing power to restore a person who is sick, injured, or suffering. Example, Jesus healing the blind man in John 9:1-12.
 - V. 10 the gift of miracles is being able to perform signs and wonders that give authenticity to God's Word and the Gospel message.
 - V. 10 the gift of prophecy is being able to proclaim a message from God. Example, Paul telling the jailer he and his whole household were going to be saved in Acts 16:31.
 - V. 10 the gift of discerning spirits is the ability to determine whether or not a message, person, or event is truly from God. Example, Paul rebuking the evil spirit out of the girl who told the future in Acts 16:17-18.
 - V. 10 the gift of tongues is the ability to speak in a foreign language that you do not have knowledge of, in order to communicate with someone who speaks that language.
 - V. 10 the gift of interpreting tongues is the ability to translate the tongues speaking and communicate it back to others in your own language.

Summary: Christians can be unaware of how the Holy Spirit specially equips them for service that they might serve not from the flesh but from the purpose, power and design of God to accomplish His specific purposes.

B) God's Distributed Working Gifts (Rom 12:3-8)

3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. 4 For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; 7 if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; 8 or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.) (Rom 12:3-8)

- V. 4 uses the functions of a physical body to describe how each person's spiritual gifts service is important to the health of the whole church body.
- V. 6 each believer receives spiritual gifts but each has different gifts. Not everyone has the same gift(s). All are a mark of spirituality if rightly used by the Spirit for His glory.
- The parts of the body don't work against each other, but rather they support each other. Therefore the different parts of the Body of Christ shouldn't be jealous or divisive with each other but rather be supportive of each part. The spiritual gifts are never for selfish purposes and whenever we find jealousy, pride, "better than" attitudes, Satan is trying to derail our gifts.

Summary: The discovery of and use of our spiritual gifts remains to be a great way to bring God's grace into our midst. We need to value everyone's gift and receive as well as give.

C) Equipping Gifts (Ephesians 4:7-13)

Ephesians 4:7-13 identifies "equipping" gifts which are often associated with positions or responsibilities in the church that are foundational in establishing God's people in the Word of God.

"7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore it says, "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES, AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN." ...11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we all

attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. ”

- V. 7-8 identifies spiritual gifts as part of the anointing of the Holy Spirit.
- “He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers” (11) describe how God specially outfits and calls some believers to be ‘equippers.’
- “For the equipping of the saints” (12) distinguishes these gifts/calls designed to equip saints.
- “For the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ” (12): Equipping gifts have a special purpose of building up the body of Christ unto full maturity.

Summary: These particular gifts are often associated with full-time service because they become so dominant in a person’s life that it becomes a call, desire, and purpose.

Conclusion: God uses the Spirit of Christ to uniquely anoint each believer with a special gift to give the believer an opportunity to minister to the body of Christ. No believer lives by him or herself. We are members of one body and are made to serve one another through general love acts and specifically through our spiritual gifts.

Discussion Questions:

1. If you are a believer, you have been blessed with at least one spiritual gift. Do you know what that might be? Please share with the group and the reason why you think so.
2. Are any gifts a sign of more spiritual maturity? Explain
3. <http://lighthousefgc.org/take-a-spiritual-gifts-profile-today/>

