

Messy

Part Fourteen: *spiritual gifts*

August 7, 2022

The Christians that made up the church in Corinth did not understand how to use their spiritual gifts. Some church members did not know they had spiritual gifts, some church members were either not using or misusing their spiritual gifts, and some church members were desiring spiritual gifts they did not possess. The Corinthians confusion about spiritual gifts was disrupting their church service and causing division in their church.

- **In 1 Corinthians Chapter Twelve, Paul gives an overview of spiritual gifts.**

1st - Paul gives the Corinthians a test to determine if someone is a false teacher. Vs. 1-3

Before Paul gives an overview of spiritual gifts, he gives the Corinthians a way to determine if someone is teaching truth or teaching lies. Paul tells the Corinthians that no one speaking by the Holy Spirit will curse Jesus. Teachers led by the Spirit of God teach and live under the Lordship of Jesus Christ!

2nd - Paul gives the source and purpose of spiritual gifts. Vs. 4-7

The Holy Spirit gives Christians supernatural abilities so they can better serve others. There are different kinds, or varieties of spiritual gifts, but the Holy Spirit is the source of all of them.

3rd - Paul lists some temporary and some permanent spiritual gifts. Vs. 8-11

When the Christian church was very young, God gifted some men and women with temporary spiritual gifts (Sign Gifts) to authenticate they were speaking for Him (Acts 3). The Sign gifts ceased when the Apostles died off. By then, the Word of God was in written form, and the Sign gifts were no longer needed.

Christians today receive at least one of the permanent spiritual gifts that Paul lists in Romans 12:6-8. The seven permanent spiritual gifts Paul lists in Romans 12 are **prophecy** (declaring biblical truth), **teaching** (causing people to learn the Bible), **exhortation** (using the Bible to encourage action), **leadership** (guiding people to use their gifts), **servicing** (helping people use their gifts), **giving** (giving money and other resources to meet needs), and **mercy** (helping the hurting heal). The seven permanent spiritual gifts are divided into two categories: speaking gifts and serving gifts (1 Peter 4:10-11).

4th - Paul shows how the spiritual gifts are dependent on each other. Vs. 12-27

As your physical body has different parts that work together to accomplish tasks, so our church has different people with different spiritual gifts that work together to accomplish our church's mission to help people know Jesus, grow to be like Jesus, and show Jesus to the world!

5th - Paul tells the Corinthians they should desire the greater spiritual gifts. Vs. 29-31

Paul tells the Corinthians if they are going to keep desiring spiritual gifts they do not possess (and cannot possess), they should desire the most helpful gifts like prophecy, teaching, and exhortation. At least they would be coveting the permanent speaking gifts!

Here is today's lesson...

Every Christian needs to use their God given spiritual gift(s) to help others.

What are spiritual gifts?

- Spiritual gifts are special abilities given by the Holy Spirit to each believer at their conversion to help them do ministry.

12 truths about spiritual gifts:

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| 1. Only believers have spiritual gifts. | 1 Corinthians 2:14 |
| 2. Every Christian has at least one gift. | 1 Cor. 7:7; 12:7; 1 Peter 4:10 |
| 3. No one receives all the gifts. | 1 Cor. 12:27-30 |
| 4. No single gift is given to everyone. | 1 Cor. 12:29-30 |
| 5. You can't earn a spiritual gift. | Ephesians 4:7 |
| 6. The Holy Spirit decides what gifts you get. | 1 Cor. 12:11, 18 |
| 7. The gifts you're given are permanent. | Romans 11:29 |
| 8. You are to develop the gifts God gives you. | 1 Timothy 4:14 |
| 9. It is a sin to waste the gifts God gave you. | 1 Cor. 4:1-2; Matthew 25:14-30 |
| 10. Using your gifts glorifies God and grows you. | John 15:8 |
| 11. Spirituals gifts are for the benefit of others. | I Cor. 12:7 |
| 12. Spiritual gifts produce maturity and stability in the church. | I Cor. 12:25 |

Some cautions about spiritual gifts:

1. Don't confuse your spiritual gifts with your natural talents, or the Fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23).
2. Don't expect others to use their spiritual gifts in the same way you do and with similar results.
3. Don't feel your spiritual gift(s) makes you superior to others (1 Cor. 12:21).
4. It is worthless to use your gifts without love (I Cor. 13:1-3)!
5. It is easier to discover your spiritual gift(s) while doing ministry.

Spiritual Gift Definitions

Prophecy is the ability to proclaim the Word of God with divine anointing that brings conviction to the hearers so they recognize it is the Word of God and they must respond to it (Acts 2:37–40, 7:54, 26:24–29; 1 Cor. 14:1–3; 1 Thess. 1:5).

Ministry/Helps is the ability to invest your talents in the life and ministry of other members of the body, enabling them to increase the effectiveness of their own spiritual gifts (Mark 15:40–4; Acts 9:36; Rom. 16:1–2; 1 Cor. 12:28).

Teaching is the ability to employ a logical, systematic approach to Biblical study and to communicate information relevant to the health and ministry of the body and its members in such a way that others learn (Acts 18:24–28, 20:20–21; 1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11–14).

Exhortation is the ability to minister words of encouragement, consolation, comfort, and motivation from God's Word to help others complete their tasks and be all that God wants them to be (Acts 4:32–37, 14:22; Rom. 12:8; 1 Tim. 4:13; Heb. 10:24–25).

Giving is the willingness and ability to contribute material resources to the work of the Lord with liberality and cheerfulness (Mark 12:41–44; Rom. 12:8; 2 Cor. 8:1–7, 9:2–8).

Leadership/Administration is the ability to set goals in accordance with God's purpose for the future and to communicate those goals to others in such a way that they voluntarily and harmoniously work together for the glory of God (Luke 14:28–30; Acts 6: 1-7; 15:7–11; Rom. 12:8; I Cor. 12:28; 1 Tim. 5:17; Heb. 13:17).

Mercy is the ability to feel genuine empathy and compassion for individuals who suffer distressing physical, mental, or emotional problems, and to translate that compassion into deeds, which reflect Christ's love (Matt. 9:35–36; Mark 9:41; 1 Thess. 5:14).