

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

APRIL 30TH - MAY 1ST, 2022 // BOOK OF 1 CORINTHIANS

## CONCERNING SPIRITUAL GIFTS (1 CORINTHIANS 12:1-7)

When it comes to the topic of "spiritual gifts," these believers weren't "lacking" (1:7), but Paul doesn't want them to be "uninformed" or "ignorant" (vs. 1).

- Sadly, many believers today are ignorant concerning the spiritual gifts, becoming either materialists (denying the supernatural) or superstitious. When we have a biblical understanding of the spiritual gifts, we understand their source (God), purpose (for glorifying Christ & building up the Church), and their place (within the biblical guidelines).

### 3 THEOLOGICAL VIEWPOINTS ON THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. **Cessationist.** The Holy Spirit indwells and works in the lives of all believers at the time of salvation, but the "sign gifts" (healing, prophecy, tongues, miracles) **ceased with the apostolic age and the canonization of Scripture** (1 Corinthians 13:8)
2. **Charismatic/Pentecostal.** The Holy Spirit is emphasized, as are the miraculous gifts. **The Holy Spirit is received at a later time than salvation** ("2nd blessing"); **tongues are seen as the "evidence" of the Holy Spirit** (or even salvation) [Acts 2:4].
3. **Continuationist.** Holy Spirit comes into believers on the day of redemption, but continual and fresh "indwellings" are sought (Ephesians 5:18). **All of the gifts mentioned in Scripture are still available for the Church** and distributed to different members of the Church as God sees fit.

The Corinthians were **uninformed** because of their background- most were pagans (vs. 2).

- Our background or past teachings **may give us a poor understanding of the Holy Spirit** - that's why we must put aside our biases and search out the Scriptures!
- The **broad principle** for relating to spiritual gifts is given in vs. 3 - how does that gift glorify Jesus? Does it promote the true Christ or a false Jesus?

### "A VARIETY OF GIFTS, SERVICE, & ACTIVITIES..." (VS. 4-6)

The word "gifts" is a broad definition for **supernatural endowments from the Holy Spirit** for ministry.

- "Service" refers to standing offices or positions within the church (e.g., **apostles, teachers, helping, administrating, etc.**).
- "Activities" refers to miraculous workings of power at a particular time and place (**healing, tongues, etc.**).
- All of these things are given by the same "Spirit," "Lord," and "God."

### WHY ARE THE GIFTS GIVEN? (VS. 7)

A manifestation is an event, action, or object that **clearly shows** or embodies an abstract idea.

- The Holy Spirit is **always present** in and among Christians, however, at some times the Spirit's presence is **more apparent** than at others.
- These "manifestations" are given for the common good - to **benefit the whole church family**, not just a particular individual.

### GIFTS BY THE SAME SPIRIT (1 CORINTHIANS 12:8-11)

In the NT, there are **five passages** (1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:11; Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 7; 1 Peter 4:10-11) that mention spiritual gifts in types of lists.

- At least **19 gifts** are mentioned - some are repeated, some aren't, and there **some places that mention gifts** as being whatever the Lord gives us to serve Him (1 Peter 4:11).
- Paul begins to list **some ways that the Holy Spirit** gives His gifts to believers.

### "...THE UTTERANCE OF WISDOM" (VS. 8)

The utterance of "Sophias" means the speaking of practical skill, clarity, or insight.

- This is the unique ability to **speak forth the wisdom of God**, especially in a critical situation.

### "...THE UTTERANCE OF KNOWLEDGE" (VS. 8)

The ability to declare knowledge that could only be revealed supernaturally, as shown in the ministry of Jesus (Matt. 17:24-27), or Paul (Acts 27).

### "...FAITH" (VS. 9)

Every believer has been **given faith to believe and be saved** (Ephesians 2:8), but the gift of faith is supernatural ability to trust God against all circumstances (Matthew 14:22-33, George Mueller).

### "...GIFTS OF HEALING" (VS. 9)

The manifestation of God's power, either given or received for **someone's healing** (Acts 3:1-8).

### "...THE WORKING OF MIRACLES" (VS. 10)

"Dynamis," **works of power** - when the Holy Spirit chooses to override the laws of nature (as a pilot might use the manual controls), working in or through a person.

### "...PROPHECY" (VS. 10)

The Greek word used for prophecy is defined as "the gift of communicating and enforcing revealed truth."

- Prophecy is when God reveals something to someone that is **intended to share for the purpose of communicating truth**.

### "...THE ABILITY TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN SPIRITS" (VS. 10)

This is the supernatural **discernment, insight, and knowledge** involving the activity of demonic spirits, the activity of the Holy Spirit, & the hidden character of another person's spirit.

- Many times, **God can give this gift to someone to reveal to them the source of something** - what's really going on and operating behind the scenes.

### "VARIOUS KINDS OF TONGUES..." (VS. 10)

Acts 2:6-12 (**actual language** for evangelism), 1 Corinthians 14:2, 13:1 (**heavenly language** for personal prayer).

- The gift of tongues is the Holy Spirit giving the supernatural ability to speak in an **unknown tongue** that one has no knowledge or ability to speak on their own.
- Not everyone is **given this gift** (vs. 30), this ability isn't the evidence of the filling of the Holy Spirit (the "fruit" is), and this might have a **large role** in the devotional life of the believer, but a **small role** in the corporate life of the church.

### "...THE INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES" (VS. 10)

The gift given to **interpret** what's being said when someone gives a public message in tongues.

- It's given to benefit those other than the speaker, as **others hear the interpretation** and agree with the tongue-speaker's words to God. All of these gifts are given by "**one and the Same Spirit**," and God will give them as "He wills" for His purposes, not ours (vs. 11).

### ONE BODY, MANY MEMBERS (1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-26)

The human body is a **singular entity**, even though it has many parts.

- Just as a **human body has many parts**, so it is with the body of Christ (vs. 12, 14).
- Not every **part of the body looks the same or has the same function**.
- So, it is with the body of Christ! **Jews, Greeks, slaves or free** - all in Christ are joined together in one body by the same Spirit (vs. 13).

If it takes **all parts of our physical organs and members working together** to keep our body healthy, it's the same with Christ's body, the Church.

- Parts of the body **shouldn't think too lowly of themselves** because they don't look or function like another part (vs. 15-16).
- Each part of the body makes a **unique contribution** that is incredibly important (vs. 17).

God is the **architect and designer** of the physical body's function - and God is the one who has given **spiritual gifts and roles within the church for the church to function** (vs. 18).

- If everybody had the same role, function, and gift within the church, **where would the body be?** (vs. 19).
- God has given us **different roles, gifts, and functions** - but we're all in the same body (vs. 20).

When someone **understands the basic functions of human anatomy**, it's ridiculous to imagine certain body parts **questioning the value of others** (vs. 21-24a).

- The **eyes need the hands**, and the head needs the feet! Parts of the body which may appear "**weak**" are actually "**indispensable**." The church shouldn't play favorites, and **it should give special honor to its members** that may not normally get noticed.

From God's perspective, there **should never be any reason for division** in the body.

- Why? Because we're **one** body, connected by **one** Spirit - the Holy Spirit (vs. 25).
- So, we care for each other- if one of us suffers, we all suffer together. **If one of us is honored, we all rejoice together!** (vs. 26)
- We don't split into **cliques, factions, or silos** - we're united and working together!

We all have **different gifts** given to us by the Holy Spirit and different roles to play within the church.

- Our gifts are different - **but my gift isn't more important than yours**, and your gift isn't more important than mine. If the members of the body are not serving, ministering, or **using the gifts that God has given them** - the body isn't functioning as healthy as it needs to be.

### DIVERSITY & UNITY (1 CORINTHIANS 12:27-31)

Paul reiterates his previous point in vs. 27- just like a **human body is a unified whole** with different parts, so also is the church - the body of Christ.

- Now Paul will list **8 gifts/leadership roles** that God has given to the church.
- The first three listed seem to be **defined leadership roles** within the church, while the remaining five are important, but are maybe not recognized "**offices**" in the church.

### "FIRST, APOSTLES..." (VS. 28)

An apostle is an "**ambassador**" sent by God to do a specific work in a nation, church, or locality.

- Paul and others within the early church had a **unique, apostolic authority** where they were given the special task to build the foundation of the church (Ephesians 2:20).
- This gift today doesn't carry with it **the same authority as the original apostles**.

### "SECOND, PROPHETS..." (VS. 28)

Those called by God to **speak revealed truth**.

- There was also a **unique, foundational authority to this gift** (Ephesians 2:19-20).
- God still raises up those to speak revealed truth to **the church and the world** with a special power.
- **However** - if anyone claims or receives that title of "**prophet**" - they must be held the biblical standard (100% accuracy, Deuteronomy 18:20-22).

### "THIRD, TEACHERS..." (VS. 28)

In Ephesians 4:11, Paul associated the office of teacher with that of a pastor- an office not of special revelation, but an **office of interpreting and teaching Scripture** (special revelation).

- "**Workers of miracles, gifts of healing...**" (vs. 28)
- God gives some within the church gifts to be used for the supernatural working of power - by **God's initiative**, not the initiative of the individual.

### "HELPING, ADMINISTRATING..." (VS. 28)

Someone with the gift of "**helping**" has the Spirit empowered desire and sensitivity to **help, or assist, others in doing the work of the Lord**.

- Someone with "administration" has the **Spiritual gift of organization, delegating, or guiding others** together in a work of ministry.
- It's interesting that Paul then mentions tongues again - as if to say, "**helping and administering in ministry are just as spiritual of gifts as speaking in tongues!**"

In verses 29-30, Paul issues a series of **rhetorical questions** to which the obvious answer is "NO!"

- No **gift is possessed** by everyone in the church!
- Not everyone is a **prophet, or a teacher, and not everyone speaks in tongues!**
- Just as the **human body consists of different but interdependent parts**, so does the body of Christ.
- We all are different, but **we're in the same body**.

### HOW DO I GET SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

- Repent of your sins, **receive Christ as Lord and Savior**, and receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38)
- Be **filled** with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)
- Pray and ask the **Lord to give you (or reveal to you) the gifts you need (or already have)** to serve and live for Him (James 1:5; 1 Corinthians 12:31)
- Surrender **your life and your heart to God fully** (Romans 12:1) - don't grieve or quench the Spirit.