

“Finding And Using Your Spiritual Gifts!”

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

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Teaching Aim: To explore the topic of “*spiritual gifts*” and to understand God’s purpose in giving one or more spiritual gift to every Christian. To learn how to discover our own spiritual gift (or gifts). To be willing to use these gifts for the glory of God and the building up of the body of Christ, the Church!

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)

Part I: Distinguishing true “*spiritual gifts*” from the counterfeit manifestations of false religions (1 Cor. 12:1-3)

1. Paul addresses yet another major problem in the Corinthian church as he begins **chapter 12**. What is it (**vs. 1**)? What is meant when a person is called “*ignorant*”? (See Dictionary) Would it offend you if somebody called you ignorant? Why or why not? What topic is Paul not wanting the Corinthians to be ignorant of? Should we be?

2. According to **verse 2**, what had negatively influenced many Corinthian believers before they came to Christ? Where did this influence come from? (See **1 Cor. 10:20**) What are some negative ways our society influences Christians today?

3. What is meant by the phrase “*deaf and dumb*” today (**vs. 2**)? (See Dictionary) Is this true of idols (**vs. 2**)? (See **Psa. 115:4-8**) Name a few things that can easily become idols in our lives today?

4. What are some ways people (*including some “Christians”*) curse the Lord today and may not even realize it (**vs. 3**)? According to **verse 3**, where does this kind of talk not come from? How do you feel when you hear the name of the Lord Jesus used in place of a curse word? According to **verse 3**, “*no one can say that Jesus is Lord* (and mean it from their heart) *except by the Holy Spirit*”. Why? (See **John 3:3**) How has your view of Jesus changed since coming to Him as Savior and Lord?

Part II: Understanding the Oneness of the Godhead and the diversity of our spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12:4-6)

1. What is a “*spiritual gift*?” Why does God give so many different kinds of “*spiritual gifts*” (vs. 4)? What is God’s purpose in distributing spiritual gifts to every Christian? (See **Ephesians 4:11-13**) What are some ways that you’ve been blessed by the spiritual gifts of another Christian?
2. Make a list of as many spiritual gifts as you can from the following texts: **1 Cor. 12:8-10,28; Rom. 12:6-8; Ephesians 4:11-13; and 1 Peter 4:10-11**. How many spiritual gifts did you find?
3. What do you consider to be your two strongest spiritual gifts? How have you used these spiritual gifts? Is it possible that you still have more spiritual gifts that you haven’t discovered yet? How can you know if you have a spiritual gift or not?
4. What are some of the “*ministries*” in your local church that interest you (vs. 5)? (Make a list.) Which ministries have you served in? Which ministries with the local church would you like to serve in if the opportunity arose? Do these ministries fit your spiritual gifts?
5. “*Activities*” (NKJV) or “*workings*” (NIV) come from the Greek word for “*power*”. Which member of the Godhead empowers us to use our spiritual gifts? (See **1 Cor. 12:7**)

Part III: Understanding the “*sign gifts*” (1 Cor. 12:7-11)

1. According to **verse 7**, are we to share our spiritual gifts with others or are we only to use them for our own pleasure? Can you think of a time in your own life when you have experienced God’s blessing while using your spiritual gifts? How did using your giftedness affect you? How did the use of your gifts affect others?

2. Both spiritual gifts mentioned in **verse 8** are “*speaking gifts*”. What does it mean for someone to speak “*the word of wisdom through the Spirit?*” How is the “*the word of wisdom*” different from “*the word of knowledge*”? How can both be used today for building up the body of Christ?
3. Is the “*faith*” mentioned in **verse 9** a reference to “*saving faith*” or something else? (See **Eph. 2:8-9; 1 Cor. 12:12-14**) In what way is the supernatural gift of “*faith*” different from saving faith, or simply having regular faith? Can you give an example of someone who had the supernatural spiritual gift of “*faith*”? How did he or she use this gift to build up the body of Christ and to give glory to God?
4. What does it mean for someone to have the spiritual gift of “*healings*” (**vs. 9**)? Name some people in the New Testament who had this spiritual gift. Were these individuals able to heal everyone they came into contact with? (See **Gal. 4:15; 1 Tim. 5:23; 2 Tim. 4:20**) What does this teach us about the gift of healings?
5. What is a “*miracle*” (**vs. 10**)? (See Dictionary) In what three periods of biblical history do we find flurries of miracles taking place? (See **Exod. 9:8-12; Josh. 6; 1 Kin. 17:13-14; 2 Kin. 4:38-41; Luke 7:11-15; Acts 9:36-43**) What was the purpose of these miracles?
6. What is the gift of “*prophecy*” (**vs. 10**)? (See Dictionary) Name the two ways we see this gift being used in the New Testament. (See **Acts 11:28; 21:10-11; 1 Cor. 14:29-30; Acts 13:1-2**) How do we see this gift being practiced today?
7. What is the gift of “*spiritual discernment*” (**vs. 10**)? Why is this gift necessary for the health of any church? What makes this gift different from simply knowing the difference between right from wrong? (See **2 Cor. 11:13-15; Gal. 5:22-23**)

8. What is Paul referring to when he speaks of the spiritual gift of “*tongues*” (**vs. 10**)? Is Paul speaking of “*actual human languages*” (See **Acts 2:5-13**), “*a heavenly language*”, or both (See **1 Cor. 13:1**)? Explain your position. What does **1 Cor. 14:39-40** teach us about speaking in tongues? Why is the spiritual gift of “*interpretation of tongues*” so important to the spiritual health of the local church body?
9. What does **verse 11** teach us about unity and diversity in the spiritual gifts? What can we learn about the distribution of spiritual gifts from **verse 11**? Do you know what your spiritual gifts are? According to **verse 11**, how many spiritual gifts does each believer possess?
10. Only believers in Jesus Christ receive spiritual gifts today. Have you received Jesus as Savior and Lord? If not, why not do so in prayer right now?

MINER’S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- Every believer in Christ receives at least one spiritual gift at the moment of regeneration (salvation), most receive more!
- The Holy Spirit distributes spiritual gifts to each believer as He pleases for the building up of the body of Christ – the Church!
- Nobody receives all the spiritual gifts; God has designed the church body to be interdependent upon one another!
- In order to find our spiritual gift (or gifts), we need to be willing to step out and try new areas of ministry!
- Spiritual gifts are to be shared with others, not kept to ourselves!
- When members of the Church are humbly working together using their spiritual gifts, we have a healthy and growing church!

To find your spiritual gifts, try one of the online “Spiritual Gifts Assessment Tests” below:

<http://www.ewhopenews.org/spiritualgifts/> (Under the Resource link)

<https://uniquelyyou.org/catalog/online-profiles/combined-profiles> (\$18.00)