

“Finding And Using Your Spiritual Gifts!”

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

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Teaching Aim: To understand the Holy Spirit has given every born-again Christian at least one spiritual gift at the moment of regeneration, most have received more than one gift, nobody has received all of the spiritual gifts. To recognize God has designed the church family to be interdependent upon one another and upon Him. To realize we are to use our spiritual gifts for the building up of the body of Christ to the fullness of Christian maturity!

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

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

1. In **1 Corinthians 12**, Paul discusses the giving of spiritual gifts to every born-again believer for the building up of the church body. A spiritual gift is something that you didn’t have before becoming a Christian, it is a gift God the Holy Spirit has given to you. As we come to **verse 1**, the Corinthians were apparently ignorant when it came to this particular topic; it was Paul’s intent to correct this ignorance. What do we mean when we say someone is “*ignorant*”? (See Dictionary) Would you be offended if someone called you ignorant? Why? As Christians, should we always be willing to learn and stretch ourselves in areas that we know little of?

2. According to **verse 2**, what had negatively influenced the way many Corinthian believers lived their lives before they came to Christ? What do many pagans worship without even realizing it? (See **1 Cor. 10:20**) Do beliefs in our society negatively affect us today? If so, how?

3. What do we mean when we say someone is “*deaf and dumb*” (**vs. 2**)? (See Dictionary) Why is this especially true when it is said of idols (**vs. 2**)? (**See Psa. 115:4-8**) What is an idol? Do you have any idols in your own life? If so, what has elevated itself above your relationship with God?

4. What are some ways that people misuse the name of the Lord Jesus Christ today without even realizing it? (**vs. 3**)? According to **verse 3**, where does this kind of talk not come from? Have you ever heard the name of the Lord Jesus being used in place of a curse word? How did you feel? Did you say anything to the person? 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 3:3,5**) How has your view of Jesus changed since coming to faith in Him?

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

1. What is a "*spiritual gift?*" (Hint: Search Online) Why do you think God gives different spiritual gifts to different people (**vs. 4**)? Should Christians be jealous of the spiritual gifts God has given to others? Why or why not? What is the purpose behind the giving of spiritual gifts? (See **Ephesians 4:11-13**) What are some ways that you've been blessed by the spiritual gifts of others?
2. How many spiritual gifts can you find in the following Bible verses: **1 Cor. 12:8-10,28; Rom. 12:6-8; Ephesians 4:11-13; and 1 Peter 4:10-11**? Are these the only spiritual gifts available, or is it possible there are more that are not listed here?
3. What do you consider to be your three strongest spiritual gifts? How have you used these gifts in ministry? Is it possible God has given you more spiritual gifts than you've actually discovered? How can you find out if you have additional spiritual gifts?
4. What are some of the "*ministries*" in your local church that interest you (**vs. 5**)? Which ministries have you served in? Which ministry or ministries would you like to serve in if you had the opportunity to do so? Do these ministries fit your spiritual gifts? If so, what is stopping you from trying? Note: Christians can become frustrated in ministry when they are working in areas that they are not gifted for.

5. “Activities” (NKJV) or “workings” (NIV) come from the Greek word that means “power”. Which member of the Godhead empowers us to use our spiritual gifts in ministry? (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 each other or are they strictly for our own pleasure? Can you think of a time in your own life when you experienced God’s blessing while using your spiritual gifts? What did it feel like? How did using your spiritual gifts affect others?
2. Both spiritual gifts mentioned in **verse 8** are “speaking gifts”. What is meant by speaking “the word of wisdom through the Spirit?” How is the “the word of wisdom” different from “the word of knowledge?” How can both gifts be used for building up the body of Christ?
3. Is “the spiritual gift of faith” mentioned in **verse 9** a reference to “saving faith” or to another kind of faith? (See **Eph. 2:8-9; 1 Cor. 12:12-14**) In what way is the supernatural gift of “faith” different from having a normal, everyday kind of faith? Can you give an example of someone who either had or has now the supernatural spiritual “gift of faith?” How did he or she use this gift to build up the body of Christ? How did their faith bring glory to God?
4. What is 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? What are your thoughts on modern televangelist faith healers? Have you ever wondered why they do their healings on a stage and not in a hospital?
5. What is the definition of 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 behind the three groupings of miracles?

6. What is the gift of *“prophecy”* (**vs. 10**)? (See Dictionary) How is this gift demonstrated in two ways? (See **Acts 11:28; 21:10-11; 1 Cor. 14:29-30; Acts 13:1-2**) Which of the two aspects of prophecy is demonstrated the most today?
7. What is the gift of *“spiritual discernment”* (**vs. 10**)? Why is this spiritual gift so important to the health of the local church? What makes this gift different from having a good sense of 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 possibly both (See **1 Cor. 13:1**)? What does **1 Cor. 14:39-40** teach us about speaking in tongues? What is the spiritual gift of *“interpretation of tongues”*? Why is this gift a blessing to the local church body?
9. What does **verse 11** teach us about unity and diversity when it comes to spiritual gifts? What can we learn about the distribution of spiritual gifts from **verse 11**? According to **verse 11**, how many spiritual gifts does each believer possess? Name all of the spiritual gifts that you think you have.
10. Only born-again believers in Jesus Christ receive spiritual gifts from the Holy Spirit. Have you received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord? If not, why not do so in prayer right now?

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- Every believer in Jesus Christ receives at least one spiritual gift at the moment of regeneration (or 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, you will experience a healthy and growing local church!

To find your spiritual gifts, please click on the following link:

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