

SPIRITUAL GIFTS AND THE COMMON GOOD

1 Cor 12:1-11

Main Point: Christians Are to Use Their God-given Spiritual Gifts to Serve Others and Build Up the Church.

1. The Holy Spirit Enlightens and Enables All Believers to Confess Jesus as Lord. (12:1-3)

¹ Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed.

² You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led.

³ Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit.

2. The Holy Spirit Gives All Believers a Variety of Spiritual Gifts. (4-6)

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;

⁵ and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord;

⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.

James Merritt: “Spiritual gifts, simply put, are supernatural endowments that enable us to carry out God’s work in God’s way. They are provided by the grace of God, and they are powered by the Spirit of God. Spiritual gifts are not given out arbitrarily, by flipping a coin, drawing lots, or playing favorites. They are given out under the sovereign control of the Holy Spirit, who controls specifically how they are distributed. In other words, God has made us different that he might make us one. The gifts serve to help show us we are a puzzle made up of different pieces. When we exercise our gifts within a local context, we find that we fit together perfectly and create a beautiful representation of God’s greater family.”

3. Spiritual Gifts Are Given to Each Believer to be Used for the Common Good of the Church. (12:7-11)

Vv. & 11:

⁷ **To each** is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

¹¹ All these are empowered by **one and the same Spirit**, who apportions **to each one individually as he wills**.

Vv. 8-10:

1. **Wisdom:** ^{8a} For to one is given through the Spirit **the utterance of wisdom**,

2. **Knowledge:** ^{8b} and to another **the utterance of knowledge** according to the same Spirit,
3. **Faith/Faithfulness:** ^{9a} to another **faith** by the same Spirit,
4. **Healing:** ^{9b} to another **gifts of healing** by the one Spirit,
5. **Miracles:** ^{10a} to another **the working of miracles**,
6. **Prophecy:** ^{10b} to another **prophecy**,
7. **Discernment:** ^{10c} to another **the ability to distinguish** between spirits,
8. **Speaking in an unknown tongue:** ^{10d} to another **various kinds of tongues**,
9. **Interpretation/translation of an unknown tongue:** ^{10e} to another **the interpretation of tongues**.

CONCLUSION & FINAL APPLICATION

1. **Humbly give thanks and praise God:**
 - That, by the Spirit, you were enlightened to understand, believe in, and proclaim Jesus as Lord.
 - For ALL the gifts the Spirit has given you.
2. **Develop and use your spiritual gifts:** to serve God and serve others.
3. **Honor, and give thanks for, and receive the spiritual gifts God has given other believers.**
4. **Remember: Jesus is our savior and our example.** Love like he loved you.