



The Gifts of the Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:1-11 | Ryan Pfeiffer | 5/5/24

INTRO. Welcome to new series— The Gifts of the Spirit- a continuation last yr

- Last yr: Who Holy Spirit is and how the Spirit transforms + Spirit Heals.

1. This series explores what the gifts are, why they matter, how to grow

So why study this? Make minor things major? Going charismatic? Get weird?

1st... Paul v1 Now about the gifts of the Spirit... I don't want you to be uninformed.

Because when there's a vacuum of truth... disorder & misuse.

Which is partly why Paul is writing this letter to the Church in ancient Corinth

There was division & elitism not because of the gifts... lack of understanding!

2nd... Guess? How many times the NT ref Spiritual gifts...155. + 65 stories illustrate... Total of 220.

- For a reference pt — 235 direct ref to “love” in NT. It matters!

Spiritual gifts are essential to revealing the good news of Jesus in power.

So we're going to study Ch's 12,13,14 to learn about these powerful tools.

FOCUS. Ch12 learn What are the gifts? How does God give them to us? How can we receive them?

WHAT ARE THE GIFTS?. 4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

The Church in Corinth had gotten overly fixated on just a few gifts- (Tongues)

- The affect — create a hierarchy around those who had certain abilities.
- This kind of fixation caused disunity, division, and feeling of inferiority.

Paul works to restore health & unity in three moves.

1. There are many gifts but all given by the same Spirit. (Serving=Healing)
2. Clarifies purpose of the gifts is 2-fold- God's glory + the common good.

7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

Paul “Hey this isn't about proving how spiritual you are its about manifesting the many forms of God's goodness and serving others in need.”



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Tim Keller- "Gifts are abilities God gives us to meet the needs of others in Christ's name".

3. Rather than minimizing gifts- he blows roof off- lays out vast variety of gifts

PPT. LIST OF GIFTS. VSS 8-11 & 28-31. Serving is just as spiritual as healing!

Gifts are essential tools that build up human lives, Church, human society.

Focusing on a few gifts & ignoring rest is like a carpenter trying to build a house with only a hammer.

ILLUS. Imagine a trying to build a home w/ only a hammer! Circular Saw, Miter Saw(?), Table saw, Nail Gun, Cordless Drill, Router?

So we can't say: v15 "I don't belong" V21 "I don't need you!"

HOW DOES GOD GIVE THEM? 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

First... Gifts aren't achievements they are given by the Holy Spirit.

As we mature in a conscious, cooperative relationship w/ the Spirit... we learn to use these gifts...

ILLUS. Praying for someone to be healed at Pancake house.

Secondly... Gifts are given to each one... So we shouldn't think some get gifts some don't... The Spirit distributes them for all not a few!

While no one gets all of them- everyone gets some... Everyone gets to play!

The question isn't do I have a gift... rather... am I receiving and using them?

1 Peter 4:10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

Thirdly... we receive gifts according to determination and will of the Spirit.

In other words there is wisdom and purpose in how God gives them.
The Spirit gives abilities for a moment & others for a lifetime... diff degrees!



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HOW CAN WE RECEIVE THEM? Vs29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? 31 Now eagerly desire the greater gifts.

Paul says “Now eagerly desire the greater gifts” ... by greater gifts he means whatever gift allows for the most useful loving service to others...

The key here is to EAGERLY DESIRE the gifts...

He repeats this in Ch14:1 Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit...

It’s the same greek word- zēloo (ζηλόω). “To have a strong affection for, to ardently yearn, to zealously long for... to be enthusiastic, excited, to strive toward.

Let me highlight 2 implications:

- Sam Storms, Understanding Spiritual Gifts: “The solution to the abuse of spiritual gifts is not disuse but proper use.”

Who here has seen someone use a spiritual gift in an unhelpful way?

The temptation is to throw the baby out with the bath water.

2. By cultivating interest, curiosity, and desire for these gifts we prepare ourself and others to receive them.

As a desire for a gift grows in us it becomes contagious...

ILLUS. UCSD evangelism... yr1 2 people came to faith.... Yr 4 100+!

3. Apathy leads to atrophy... ILLUS. losing Spanish! Alpha w/ Tongues.

2 Timothy 1:6 For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

NEXT STEPS:

1. (1) Begin Reading (2) Asking God (3) Stoke your curiosity.
2. Let love guide you... where do you need more power to serve and love?
3. Let us lay hands on you and pray over you?

PPT. LIST OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS (not exhaustive)



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Prophecy	Discerning of spirits
Service	Tongues
Teaching	Interpretation of tongues
Exhortation	Apostolic leadership
Giving	
Leading	Administrating
Word of knowledge	Evangelism
Word of Wisdom	Pastoring
Faith	Teaching
Healing	Discerning of spirits
Miracles	

Examples of Others not listed in Bible:

- Intercession
- Deliverance