

BECOMING THE CHURCH

“God’s Favorite Gift” (1 Corinthians 12:1-31; Romans 12:4-8)

Did you play sports? Football? 11 players on field: Offense (Center, QB, CB, HB, OL) Defense (DT) Special Teams (kicker)

=Different parts. Each vital (if let down, affects whole team). BUT SAME Jersey. SAME Team. Same purpose. 1 Coach IF you are ON the team, you are vital. Not everyone plays same position (chaos). Everyone plays at least 1 position
MAIN POINT: Since every Believer is indwelled by the Holy Spirit, we are each given at least one main spiritual gift with which to bless the Church, which stresses God’s creative sovereignty, the Church’s unity and the need for diversity.

READ 1 Corinthians 12:1-31

“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be unaware. ² You know that when you were ^[a]pagans, you were led ^[b]astray to the mute idols, however you were led. ³ Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking ^[c]by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus is ^[d]accursed”; and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except ^[e]by the Holy Spirit. ⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. ⁶ There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. ⁷ But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; ⁹ to another faith ^[f]by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of ^[g]healing ^[h]by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ and to another the ^[i]effecting of ^[j]miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the ^[k]distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He ^[l]wills. ¹² For just as the body is one and yet has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. ¹³ For ^[m]by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴ For the body is not one part, but many. ¹⁵ If the foot says, “Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body,” it is not for this reason ^[n]any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear says, “Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body,” it is not for this reason ^[o]any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But now God has arranged the parts, each one of them in the body, just as He desired. ¹⁹ If they were all one part, where would the body be? ²⁰ But now there are many parts, but one body. ²¹ And the eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you”; or again, the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²² On the contrary, ^[p]it is much truer that the parts of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; ²³ and those parts of the body which we ^[q]consider less honorable, ^[r]on these we bestow greater honor, and our less presentable parts become much more presentable, ²⁴ whereas our more presentable parts have no need of it. But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that part which lacked, ²⁵ so that there may be no ^[s]division in the body, but that the parts may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ And if one part of the body suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if a part is ^[t]honored, all the parts rejoice with it. ²⁷ Now you are Christ’s body, and individually parts of it. ²⁸ And God has ^[u]appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then ^[v]miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, and various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not workers of ^[w]miracles, are they? ³⁰ All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they? ³¹ But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And yet, I am going to show you a far better way.” = The greater gifts are LOVE, mercy, gentleness, graciousness, long-suffering. =being

Vs. 1: “Now concerning spiritual gifts, (pneumatikon = things of the Spirit) brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be unaware. ² You know that when you were ^[a]pagans, you were led ^[b]astray to the mute idols, however you were led. ³ Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking ^[c]by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus is ^[d]accursed”; and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except ^[e]by the Holy Spirit. Paul is making a distinction between what is dead and what is alive. Between what is silent and what has true voice. Idols/false gods are not real. They lead to death. But the living God is Spirit and gives to us His Spirit. The ministry of the Holy Spirit: Seals, Indwells, Fills us daily, Anoints

- Eph. 1:13 “In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation, having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of the promise.”

- 2 Cor. 1:21-22 “Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge” (first installment = deposit of what it to come.)

- Confer Romans 8:9-17 on the Spirit indwelling all Believers. *As part of the infilling of Jesus, all holiness, Christ-likeness, all praise, honor & worship come from the Spirit in us. **Salvation & Worship** = come from Spirit

Vs. 3: and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit. – we can’t be saved without the Spirit’s help.

= God’s Spirit Draws us to Himself; the Spirit regenerates our hearts (death to life); Spirit enables repentance

Vs. 4: Now there are varieties of gifts, but the **same Spirit**. = ONE God, one Spirit who gives (a division of, an apportion of, a distribution of gifts (**SPIRITUAL** gifts): *Charismata* = Grace gifts (gift of grace). *gift/tools/shoe fit

Vs. 5: And there are varieties of ministries, and the **same Lord**. Ministries = *diakonion* -service (table waiter)restaurant

Vs. 6: There are varieties of effects (energy=works) but the **same God** who works all things in all *persons*. ⁷ **But to each one** is given the manifestation (appearing/revelation/disclosing) of the Spirit for the common good(*lost world*)

***Cessationism vs. Continuationism** – The same Holy Spirit, same gifts. But different season (not Acts); unevangel
*[Some scholars hold that Temporary gifts were signs to confirm God's Word 1c13:8; Permanent gifts to Edify Church]

*Three Categories: Church Offices/Church Gifts/Supernatural Gifts(authority to messenger, authenticity to message)

A. First Category: Supernatural Gifts different needs in the early church, pagan world, to establish the church

⁸ For to one is given the word of **wisdom** through the Spirit, N.T era (Revelation?)/=applying truth in practical life

& to another the word of **knowledge** according to the same Spirit; Perceiving God's revelation, making truth known

⁹ to another **faith** ^[d]by the same Spirit, (diff. than saving faith) = special ability to trust God in prayer, promises & encourage others to hold fast to God's presence, His person, and His provision in especially difficult circumstances.

=Those with the gift of Faith are particularly effective prayer warriors. "Faith of mustard seed, move mtns" Mt 17:20

-and to another gifts of healing (plural =diff. healing gifts to diff. illnesses) by the one Spirit, (=rare, abused)hospital

¹⁰ and to another the ^[d]effecting of ^[d]**miracles**, (supernatural intrusion into natural world), (rare, misunderstood)

B.B. Warfield "miracles were a part of the credentials of apostles as authoritative agents of God in founding the Ch."

-and to another **prophecy**, Giving and describing the revelation of God to the Church; foretelling OT/=Forthtelling

-and to another the ^[d]distinguishing/**discernment** of spirits, separating out for examination real/false-devil Jn 8:44

-to another various kinds of **tongues**, =so controversial **Ch.14**; (*genus*: classification of group or family of lang.

=kind or Family of countries/tongues. =known tongue (*unknown to spkr*), supernatural, Vs.28 not all have,=for lost

-and to another the **interpretation of tongues**. =obv. **NOT** a private prayer lang. ?heart lang. wanted to give a word

B. Second Category: Church Gifts (not exhaustive)

READ Romans 12:4-8 "For just as we have many parts in one body and all ^[d]the body's parts do not have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually parts of one another. ⁶ However, since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, *each of us is to use them properly*:

if **prophecy**, ^[d]in proportion to *one's* faith; ⁷ if ^[d]**service**, in the *act of serving*; or the one who **teaches**, in the *act of teaching*; ⁸ or the one who **exhorts** (encourages), in the *work of* ^[d]exhortation; the one who **gives**,

with ^[d]generosity; the one who ^[d]is in **leadership**, with diligence; the one who shows **mercy**, with cheerfulness."

Ch. Gifts: =in full use everyday in the church. (1-Prophecy (preaching), 2-Service, 3-Teaching, 4-Encouragement, 5-Giving, 6-Leadership, 7-Mercy. **Vs. 28.** 8-Administration/Leadership & 9- Helps (follower/helper/willing)

These Church gifts are used primarily to organize and administrate the church so that it may best carry out its responsibilities to encourage Believers & help them grow into spiritual maturity (Eph. 4:13)

Vs. 11: But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one *individually* just as **He wills**.

=Sovereignty, Unity, Diversity = accomplishing the work and the will of God **IN** each of us & Through each of us.

²⁷ **Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it.** One Body =unified. One Head = One leader, one direction, one submission to the headship and Lordship of Christ. We are part of the body. Each of us IS a part (we belong to Jesus, we belong to His Body, we have a function and an importance for the rest of the Body.) Our function is different (some more prominent, some less = BUT equally vital/important) **Enzyme (digestion/malnutrition Amylase/Lipase/Protease (Pancreas) - Gas = your body letting you know the enzymes are doing their job.**

Vs. 12: For just as the body is one and *yet* has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. ¹³ For ^[m]by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴ For the body is not one part, but many. ¹⁵ If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not a *part* of the body," it is not for this reason ^[d]any less a *part* of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a *part* of the body," it is not for this reason ^[d]any less a *part* of the body.¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole *body* were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But now God has arranged the parts, each one of them in the body, just as He desired. ¹⁹ If they were all one part, where would the body be? ²⁰ But now there are many parts, but one body. ²¹ And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again, the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² On the contrary, ^[d]it is much truer that the parts of the body which seem to be weaker are

necessary; ²³ and those *parts* of the body which we ^lconsider less honorable, ^lon these we bestow greater honor, and our less presentable parts become much more presentable, ²⁴ whereas our more presentable parts have no need *of it*. But God has *so* composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that *part* which lacked, ²⁵ so that there may be no ^ldivision in the body, but *that* the parts may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ And if one *part of the body* suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if a part is ^lhonored, all the parts rejoice with it. ²⁷ **Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it.** -Prominent or hidden gifts, each is God-given & critical =Glory

C. Paul then moves to the **Offices of the Church: (Apostles, Prophets, Pastor/Teachers, Elders, Deacons)**

²⁸ And God has appointed in the church, first **apostles** (Church Planters), second **prophets** (Preachers), third **teachers** (Elders), then **miracles**, then gifts of **healings, helps** (Deacons/service), **administrations** (leaders =steer ship), *and various* kinds of **tongues**. (= notice tongues is appointed last of all)

-Eph. 4:11-13 "And He gave some as **apostles**, and some as **prophets**, and some as **evangelists**, and some as **pastors and teachers**, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the ^lknowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature ^lwhich belongs to the fullness of Christ."

Vs. 29: All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not *workers of* ^lmiracles, are they? ³⁰ All do not have gifts of healings, do they? **All do not speak with tongues, do they?** All do not interpret, do they? ³¹ But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And yet, *I am going to show you a far better way.*"

MAIN POINT: Since every Believer is indwelled by the Holy Spirit, we are each given at least one main spiritual gift with which to bless the Church, which displays God's creative sovereignty, the Church's unity and the need for diversity.

APPLICATION: Are you spirit-filled? (vs. grieved/quenched). ***Is our Church Sp. Filled vs. Spirit-controlled?**

- We do not choose our spiritual gift(s). God does.
- We are called to earnestly desire the greater gift of love – which trumps any “work” done in Christ’s name.
- We each have at least one spiritual gift. That gift and anointing of God to use it may change in time/season.
- No one has all the gifts, though we may have more than one. We can discover them and ask God to help us.
- Spiritual gifts are given to help the Church be a better church; to bless & serve others; & to evangelize w/power

1 Peter 4:8-11 "Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins. ⁹ Be hospitable to one another without complaint. ¹⁰ **As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the** ^l**multifaceted grace of God.** ¹¹ Whoever speaks *is to do so as one who is speaking* actual words of God; whoever serves *is to do so as one who is serving* ^lby the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and ^ldominion forever and ever. Amen.

= As a part of the Body of Christ, as members within the church, we are ALL called to lead well and serve others – by discovering and using our spiritual gifts to edify the body.

Community Groups Discussion Questions:

1. **What are Spiritual Gifts?** Is there a difference between gifts for the Common Good and those for the Church?
2. **Who gets Spiritual Gifts?** Why do we have them? Eph. 4:13-15
3. **When do you receive them?** Rom. 12:11
4. **Do we all share the same gifts?**
5. **How many does each person get? What is the proper way to use them?**

What are the SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

- 1) Every Christian has been given the gift of the Holy Spirit's presence (1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 1:13)
- 2) Every Christian has been given a spiritual gifting in order to build up, encourage, and edify (inform, educate, and improve) the local church.
 - Ephesians 4:7 "*But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.*"
 - 1 Corinthians 12:7 it says "*To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*"
 - 1 Cor. 12: 11 "*But one & the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.*"
 - 1 Corinthians 14:12 "*So also you, since you are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek to abound for the edification of the church.*"
 - 1 Peter 4:10 "*As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*"
- = Therefore our goal should be to establish, build, and uplift the church with our gifts.
- 3) No Christian has all the spiritual gifts.
- 4) BUT Each Christians has at least one spiritual gift. God has called us to KNOW & USE our gifts
- 5) Gifting, like God's anointing, can and does change in our lives depending on the Spirit's working to accomplish the Father's purpose.

3 Categories of Spiritual Gifts (A. Offices; B. Common/Church Gifts C. Miraculous Gifts)

- A. The Establishing Gifts & Callings = **OFFICES** (Ephesians 4:11 and 1 Corinthians 12:29): Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, and Pastor-Teachers (Elders) and Deacons (1 Tim. 3:8-13). These gifts are used primarily for planting and growing churches. These are both **offices** within the Church, but are giftings for effectiveness and are also callings for each of these.
- B. **The 9 Church SUPPORTING Gifts** (Romans 12:3-8): Gifts = **CHARISMATONS** (gifts of grace **to the Church**)
1-Prophecy (preaching), 2-Service, 3-Teaching, 4-Encouragement, 5-Giving, 6-Leadership, and 7-Mercy.
1 Cor. 12:28 also mentions: 8-Administration & 9- Helps,
***These gifts are used primarily to organize and administrate the church so that it may best carry out its responsibilities** to encourage Believers & help them grow spiritually.
- C. **The 9 Miraculous Gifts** (1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 27-31): **Pnuemotikos** = (Sp. gifts & miraculous signs **to the Lost world** to show the authority of Apostles & to authenticate their message of the gospel)
1-Wisdom, 2-Knowledge, 3-Faith, 4-Healing, 5-Miracles, 6-Prophecy (prophetic), 7-Discernment, 8-Speaking in Tongues (various/*Genus* -kinds of tongues), and 9-Interpreting Tongues.
***The Miraculous gifts** as defined by Scripture are *mainly* given as testimony of an all-powerful and supernatural God to **authenticate the gospel message to the lost** and show **the authority of Scripture for the gospel witness**. These signs and powerful gifts were used by the Apostles to evangelize & establish the Church.

=The miraculous gifts today are to be exercised as a witness *to the lost* to demonstrate the power of the gospel (1 Corinthians 14:22) and are *rarely* intermingled within a church service, unless specifically regulated through the biblical principles outlined in 1 Corinthians 14:26-40.

If you would like to know what you have been gifted in, take a FREE online Spiritual Gifts Test at:

www.spiritualgiftstest.com

GLOSSARY OF SELECTED SPIRITUAL GIFTS

APOSTLESHIP: A New Testament office represented today by the Spirit-given ability to minister missionally and cross-culturally with the goal of carrying out the Great Commission to make disciples & plant healthy, sustainable churches that plant other new churches (1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11).

PROPHECY: The special ability to boldly cause the authoritative Word of God's truth to shine, be understood, and applied through preaching (2 Peter 1:19; 1 Cor. 12:10; 14:3; Rom. 12:6). It includes congregational preaching and lay teaching which explain and apply God's revelation for edification, conviction of sin, and correction towards righteousness (2 Timothy 4:2).

EVANGELISM: The special ability to act as a productive instrument of God in soul-winning through sharing the gospel. God gifts his church with evangelists to lead others to Christ effectively and enthusiastically (Eph. 4:11).

SHEPHERDING: The special ability to effectively guide, feed, and protect a flock of followers in Christ. The gift of shepherding is manifested in persons who look out for the spiritual welfare of others. Although pastors, like shepherds, do care for members of the church, this gift is not limited to a pastor or staff member (Eph. 4:11).

TEACHING: The special ability to give a detailed understanding and application of biblical truth to those willing to learn by doctrinally edifying, unifying, and maturing believers. (1 Cor. 12:28; Rom. 12:7; Eph. 4:11).

EXHORTATION: The special ability to come alongside another in need of encouragement, to lovingly challenge another and give earnest, biblical advice. Members with this gift are good counselors and motivate others to service (Romans 12:8).

KNOWLEDGE: The special ability to teach and train believers in discipleship. It is the God-given ability to learn, know, and ably explain the precious truths of God's Word (1 Cor. 12:28).

WISDOM: The special ability to use knowledge effectively coupled with a reverential awe of God to discern and apply the work of the Holy Spirit and God's Word to the needs of the body (1 Cor. 12:28).

HELPS/SERVICE: The special ability to provide timely assistance and recognize practical needs in the body and joyfully give assistance to meeting those needs. Christians with this gift do not mind working behind the scenes (1 Cor. 12:28; Rom. 12:7).

HOSPITALITY: The special ability to provide an open home to those in need of food, lodging, and fellowship, or a refuge to a hurting soul. Those with this gift have the ability to make visitors, guests, and strangers feel at ease and easily integrate new members into the Body (1 Pet. 4:9).

GIVING: The special ability to leverage gifts, times, resources, money, and experiences to serve the Body. These know how to steward and manage God's gifts well and wisely give for the Lord's work (Rom. 12:8).

ADMINISTRATION: The special ability of working with and through followers toward achieving biblical goals and organizational objectives while helping use everyone's gifts (1 Cor. 12:28).

MERCY: The special ability to see, recognize, and aid the suffering or undeserving with acts of compassion. Persons with this gift aid the body by empathizing with hurting members. They keep the body healthy and unified by keeping others aware of the needs within the church (Rom. 12:8).

FAITH: An unusual ability to trust in the presence, power, and promises of God and to act on this trust through prayer. Faith trusts God to work beyond the human capabilities of the people. Believers with this gift encourage others to trust in God in the face of apparently insurmountable odds (1 Cor. 12:9).

DISCERNMENT: The special ability to distinguish between truth and error, good and evil, the Spirit of God and the spirit of Antichrist. Discernment aids and protects the body by recognizing the true intentions of those within or related to the Body of Christ. (1 Cor. 12:10).

LEADERSHIP: The special ability to set goals, direct, and motivate members towards unity in their accomplishment of God's Mission for the Church (Rom. 12:8).

*God has gifted you with an expression of His Holy Spirit to support His mission of the church. It is a worldwide Mission to reach all people with the gospel of Christ. As His servant, God desires that you know how He has gifted you. This will lead you to where you can faithfully & meaningfully serve God's mission for the church.