

Lesson 14 & 15: The gifts of the Holy Spirit

- 1 Corinthians chapter's 12-14 are the primary chapters of the Bible dealing with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

- 1 Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.
- 2 Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led.
- 3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and *that* no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.
- 4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.
- 5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.
- 6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.
- 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.
- 8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;
- 9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;
- 10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another *divers* kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:
- 11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

A. The definition of a spiritual gift

Definition: A supernatural ability given by Christ through the Holy Spirit to the believer at the moment of his salvation.

1. The distinction between the gift (singular) of the spirit and the gifts (plural) of the spirit

- The **gift** of the Spirit is His abiding presence, His permanent indwelling – **John 14:16** **And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;**
- The gift of the Spirit was first given at Pentecost – **Acts 2:38** Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, **and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**

2. The gifts of the spirit

- **Gifts** are given after Pentecost on an individual basis to each believer. They are given at the Holy Spirit's discretion. **1 Corinthians 12:4-11**
- **Gifts** are given to the believer to give him the power to do the work that the Lord wants him to do.

B. The extent of spiritual gifts

1. Each believer possesses at least one spiritual gift

- This gift was given at the moment of salvation when the Holy Spirit was received.
1 Peter 4:10: As every man hath received the gift, *even so* minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.
Ephesians 4:7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.
1 Corinthians 7:7 For I would that all men were even as I myself. But every man hath his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that.
1 Corinthians 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.
1 Corinthians 12:11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

2. No believer has all the gifts

- **Romans 12:5-6** So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;
- **1 Corinthians 12:29-30** Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? 30 Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?

3. The possession of a spiritual gift does not mean one is necessarily spiritual

- **1 Corinthians 1:7** So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:
- The Corinthian Church members had all the gifts but they were carnal and unspiritual.

4. Spiritual gifts are to be stirred up and used

- **Spiritual gifts can be neglected:**
 - **1 Timothy 4:14** Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.
 - **2 Timothy 1:6** Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.
 - **1 Peter 4:11** If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.
 - **Romans 12:6-8** Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; 7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; 8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.
- So, according to these verses it is possible for us to neglect, forget, not “stir up,” not “speak,” and not “minister.” What good are the gifts if they are not used?
- **Outline from AT Pierson**
 - Everyone has a gift, therefore all should be encouraged.
 - No one has all the gifts, therefore all should be humble.
 - All gifts are for one body, therefore all should be harmonious.
 - All gifts are from the Lord, therefore all should be content.
 - All gifts are mutually helpful and needful, therefore all should be studiously faithful.
 - All gifts promote the health and strength of the whole body, therefore none could be safely dispensed with.
 - All gifts depend on His fullness of power, therefore each should keep in touch with Him.

C. How to discover one’s spiritual gift

1. Study

- 1 Corinthians 12 – speaks of the spiritual gifts
- Romans 12 – speaks of gifts of grace and traits of a true Christians
- Ephesians 4:4-13 – speaks of the gifts within the local church body
- 1 Peter 4:4-10 – speaks of proper stewardship of the gifts of the Spirit

2. Desire

- Do we desire to do a certain thing in the ministry?

1 John 5:14-15: And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: 15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

3. Ability

- Ability improves with practice. Do not give up if it seems you aren't "perfect." God does not call the qualified, he qualifies the called. Our desire is to be obedient and pleasing to the LORD by using our spiritual gifts to the best of our ability.
 - We must be patient, God is not in a hurry. "Perfecting" takes time.
Ephesians 4:11-12 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 **For the perfecting of the saints**, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

4. Ask God

- Ask as Solomon did. 1 Kings 3:1-15 – Solomon asked for wisdom and it pleased the LORD and he gave him wisdom.
- 1 Corinthians 12:31 – tells us to "*covet earnestly the best gifts.*"
- 1 John 5:14-15 (as listed in section 2 – Desire)

5. Ask a mature Christians

- Mature Christians may have some observation. Don't underestimate the help of more mature Christians. They have been around a while and have experienced a lot of things and have a deeper understanding. Always glean from your elders.

6. Take part in different church ministries

- Spend time with other Christians who have known gifts.
- Take a part in different ministries within the Church.

D. The purpose of spiritual gifts

1. To glorify the Father

- **Psalms 34:3** O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.
- **Psalms 69:30** I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving.
- **Revelation 4:11** Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

2. To edify the church

- **1 Corinthians 14:12** Even so ye, forasmuch as ye are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that ye may excel to the edifying of the church.
- **Ephesians 4:11-12** And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 **For the perfecting of the saints**, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

E. The abuse of the spiritual gifts

1. Not using those gifts imparted to us

- **1 Timothy 4:14** Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.
- **2 Timothy 1:6** Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

2. Counterfeiting the sign gifts

- **Proverbs 25:14** Whoso boasteth himself of a false gift is like clouds and wind without rain.

3. Not using the gifts in love

- **1 Corinthians 13:1-3** Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

F. The description of the spiritual gifts

1. The number of spiritual gifts

A. Where to find in Scriptures

- **Romans 12:6-8** Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; 7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; 8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.
- **1 Corinthians 12:4-11** Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. 8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; 9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; 10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: 11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.
- **1 Corinthians 12:28** And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.
- **Ephesians 4:11** And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;
- **Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, Ephesians 4:11** have lists of the gifts. There are 20 gifts all together. 16 gifts that are still relevant for the Church today and 4 gifts that were temporary sign gifts given to the Apostles for the Jews in the Early New Testament Church.

B. Temporary sign gifts for the Jews:

- **1 Corinthians 1:21-22** For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. 22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:
 1. Miracles
 2. Healing
 3. Tongues
 4. Interpretation of tongues.

C. Remaining permanent gifts – in alphabetical order:

1. Administration: organizing people and ministries effectively
2. Discernment: distinguishing spiritual truth from error or heresy
3. Evangelism: sharing the gospel effectively and passionately
4. Exhortation: encouraging others as they follow Jesus
5. Faith: seeing God's plan and following it with passion
6. Giving: investing with unusual sacrifice and joy in God's Kingdom
7. Governing: steering the ministry in the right way
8. Helping: giving assistance wherever needed; sick, needy, widows, orphans, etc.
9. Knowledge: discerning and sharing the deep truths of God's word and will
10. Mercy: showing God's grace to hurting people with unusual passion
11. Ministering: religious service of various kinds
12. Prophecy: preaching the word of God with personal passion and effectiveness
13. Serving: meeting practical needs with unusual sacrifice and joy
14. Shepherding: helping others grow spiritually, overseeing the flock
15. Teaching: explaining God's word and truth with unusual effectiveness
16. Wisdom: relating biblical truth to practical life with great effectiveness

2. The history of the sign gifts

A. Given to the nation of Israel

- Sign gifts were given to the Nation of Israel: **Exodus 4** God gave the sign gift of miracles so they may believe that the God of their Father's has also appeared unto Moses.

B. The nation of Israel began with signs

- Moses and his staff turning into a serpent.

C. Purpose of the sign gifts

- For the Jewish Apostles to preach unto the Jews to confirm the words of Jesus.

D. The sign gifts and use of by the apostles in the gospels

- **Mark 16:15-18** And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. 17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

E. Continued use of the sign gifts by the apostles in the early chapters of the book of Acts

- Early in the Book of Acts the Apostles had the gifts of healing.