

## Our Gift-Giving Savior

1 Corinthians 12:1-11 – <sup>1</sup> Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. <sup>2</sup> You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup> and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup> and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. <sup>7</sup> To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. <sup>8</sup> For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup> All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

**Introduction:** The Corinthian church members were placing value on one another based on their performance and gifts. Paul now levels the playing field by highlighting the equality in Jesus of each of the members and what God has provided to serve the community.

1. Gifts have been graciously \_\_\_\_\_ to the body of Christ (12:1-7).

a. <sup>1</sup> Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed.

b. In the midst of our achievement culture, Paul calls for an entirely different way of thinking about God’s gift-giving culture of grace: <sup>2</sup> **You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led.** <sup>3</sup> **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.**

c. Much of what Christians think of as temperament, natural ability, good upbringing, & college education are actually gifts from Jesus for the good of the church: <sup>4</sup> **Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup> and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup> and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.**

2. Various gifts have been \_\_\_\_\_ for the good of the body of Christ (12:7-10).

a. Everyone has received a spiritual gift (or gifts) from God. <sup>7</sup> **To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.**

1 Peter 4:10-11 – <sup>10</sup> As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: <sup>11</sup> whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To Him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

b. A grace gift is uniquely fitted by the Lord to each individual: <sup>8</sup> **For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.**

c. Speaking gifts are abilities to understand and articulate truth. These include **the utterance of wisdom** (v. 8), **the utterance of knowledge** (v. 8), **prophecy, distinguishing between spirits** (v. 10), **tongues**, and **interpretation** (v. 10), and other examples in the New Testament such as evangelism (Eph. 4:11), teaching (12:29), and speaking (1 Peter 4:10-11).

d. Serving gifts are abilities to understand and supply needs. These include encouragement or exhortation (Romans 12:8), pastoring (Eph. 4:11), serving (Rom 12:7), sharing (Rom 12:8), mercy (Rom 12:8), helping (Rom 12:28), and **healing and working miracles** (12:9-10).

e. Leading gifts are abilities to understand direction and group needs. These include pastor, evangelist (Eph 4:11), leadership (Romans 12:8), and administration (12:28). Paul is not referring to **faith** in salvation, or even faithfulness, but rather the ability to envision a goal clearly. It can also include a strong trust in God in the midst of difficult circumstances.

f. A basic guide to determine one's spiritual gifts might be to ask about one's affinity (what do you love?) and ability (what are you good at?).

### 3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of grace gifts to the body of Christ (12:4-6, 11).

a. The answer to the problems of both gift-grabbing and gift-copout is focusing on the gift-giver: <sup>4</sup> **Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; <sup>5</sup> and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; <sup>6</sup> and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.**

b. Jesus perfectly achieved what sinners never could, so that they are free to receive the gift they could never deserve. He overturned the culture of achievement and created the culture of giving in salvation.

c. The Spirit is in a perpetual state of self-giving; He **apportions** [gifts] **to each one individually as He wills, empowering** those to whom He gives His gifts (v. 11).