

What Spiritual Gifts Do I have? And Am I Using Them? **1Corinthians 12:1-11**

Having been saved by God's grace, left here upon the earth, then having been added by the Lord to His church, we now ask the question: "*What Spiritual Gifts Do I have*"? **AND** "*Am I Using Them*"? We as God's true Church, must not shy away from what the Scriptures say concerning this matter. Long have we shied away from things because of the misuse of Scriptures by false teachers/religions. Pentecostals, un-holy rollers, and pseudo-charismatics have satanically perverted the gifts of the Holy Spirit unto His church. Satan attempts to counterfeit everything the Lord does. As Paul stated, "*Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant*"--**1Cor.12:1**. Therefore, let us examine these things in the light of the question: "*What Spiritual Gifts Do I have*?" **AND** "*Am I using Them*?"

Not Ignorant of Spiritual Gifts

We have in Vv.1 "*spiritual*" and in Vv.4 "*gifts*". The word "*spiritual*" = pneumatika, meaning non-carnal, supernatural, regenerate, religious. Scofield says "*matters fo or from the Holy Spirit*". The word "*gifts*" = *charisma*, meaning, a divine gratuity, a free gift.

The idea conveyed here is "*spiritual manifestations; there are different ways in which the Spirit of God is manifested, and we should not be ignorant of these*". They are called gifts because they are freely-bestowed by the ascended Christ Jesus through His Spirit for the edification His church, as well as, to assist in the proclamation of the gospel to the lost (**Eph.4:1-16**). It is quite clear from this passage of Scripture that the Lord has "*given every one of us*" grace so that we may minister the gift(s). Every member of the Lord's church—every member of *The Bible Baptist Church of Plant City, FL* has a spiritual gift. Do you know what it is? Are you bestowing that gift upon the other members of this church? Are you exercising that gift in the assembly for the glory of God and the edification of His saints? Are you using that gift for the furtherance of the gospel? Everyone of us has a gift (**Eph.4:7; 1Cor.12:7**).

We must realize that these gifts are bestowed upon saints *in* the church. Since one of the purposes of these gifts is to edify the body of Christ (His "*my church*"), why would the Lord bestow a gift upon those who have nothing to do with His "*my church*", are not members of His "*my church*" and supply nothing spiritually to His "*my church*"?

The Purpose of Spiritual Gifts or manifestation of the Spirit

The Lord does nothing without a purpose. We are mindful of what Satan has done with these gifts. He has caused falsehoods to be proclaimed, folks to be carried away with demonic things, the flesh is puffed up (**Rom.12:3-8 (Vv.3)**).

Unlike the Satan worshipers, the un-holy rollers of our day, these gifts are not given for the lifting up of the flesh. I would have you to remember John the Baptist. He was always pointing to the Lord and not to himself. Observe what John said: "*John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me*" (**Jn.1:15**); "*The next day john seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world*" (**Jn.1:29**); "*He must increase, but I must decrease*" (**Jn.3:31**). You see, we find John the Baptist always pointing to the Lord. And so too will those who are exercising the gifts, the manifestation of the Spirit that has been given unto them.

So what is the God-given purpose of these gifts? Our text shows that these gifts are "*given to every man to profit withal*" (**1Cor.12:7; see 1Cor.14:26-31**). The phrase "*profit withal*" literally means to contribute. We ask ourselves, "*what spiritual gift is being contributed through me*? This contribution is quite evident from **Eph.4:16**—"*that which every joint supplieth*". So, again, "*what are you supplying, SPIRITUALLY? What gifts that are listed here in 1Cor.12: are you supplying for the*

edification of The Bible Baptist Church?” When we “compare Scripture with Scripture” we find that these gifts are spoke of by Paul unto the Ephesian Church. In this passage of Scripture Paul again_ enumerates the purpose of these *spiritual manifestations or gifts Eph.4:7,8, 11-16*. That these gifts are “for” or “because of” a number of things:

- 1) The perfecting of the saints (**Vv.12**)
- 2) the work of the ministry (**Vv.12**)
- 3) the edifying of the body of Christ (**Vv.12-16**)
- 4) Glorifying His Name **Eph.3:21**

We must realize, *without* these gifts it would be impossible to carry on the work of the Lord. We must remember that we are in a “*spiritual war fare*” and just as our weapons are not carnal (**2Cor.10:4**), neither are the gifts given unto the members of His “*my church*”. “*Without these gifts, we would not prosper in the work of the Lord. Without these gifts, we would be unable to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We would not have the ability to know and understand the truth, discern the influence of seducing spirits, avoid the deceitfulness of false prophets and teachers, or shun the false doctrines and fables of men's imaginations. Preachers could not preach without the gift of the Holy Spirit enabling them to do so. Teachers could not teach without “the word of knowledge” given unto them by the Spirit. Song leaders, instrumentalists, and administrators and helpers in the church are all dependent upon the gifts of the Holy Spirit to accomplish anything that is profitable in the work of the Lord*” [**taken from T.J. Hille: Lessons on the Holy Spirit**]. As the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ, we see that the words of which Christ spake to His church are so true: “*I am the vine, ye are the branches: he that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing*” (**Jn.15:5**).

God Sovereignly Dispenses These Gifts

1Cor.12:11—“*But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as HE WILL*”. The Amplified Bible, “*All these [achievements and abilities] are inspired and brought to pass by one and the same (Holy) Spirit, WHO apportions to each person individually [exactly] as He chooses.*” We have zero, zip, zilch say in what our gifts are.

No more can the clay say to the potter, “*What makest thou?*” No more can we whom the Lord has added, who have voluntarily submitted to His word, putting our lamp upon the lamp stand say to the Lord, why did you make me a hand? I wanted to be the foot? He sets us in the body as it pleases Him (**1Cor.12:18**). Well might the LORD say to some as He did to Job “*Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?...Where was thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? Declare, if thou hast understanding*” (**Job.38:2,4**). We don't have any say in the matter do we?

Notice, 1Cor.12:8-11—“*For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom, to another...by the same Spirit; ...by the same Spirit;...by the same Spirit; But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to ever man severally as he will*”. The Holy Spirit is the source and the controller of these gifts. No matter the gift, the ?Spirit is the Giver, according to His own Sovereign Will and the sovereign plan and purpose of God. Everyone does not receive the same gift. Imagine if we were all left hands. Imagine if your body, your physical body was nothing but left hands. You wouldn't get anything done would you? So too, if we all had the same gifts. The Lord distributes these gifts by the Holy Spirit as he determines is most profitable for the church and the work He has given her.

God Sovereignly Commands These Gifts Be Used

Lk.6:46—“*And why do you call me, Lord, Lord, [Sovereign, Sovereign] and do not the things which I say?*” **1Cor.14:32**—while we have zero, zip, zilch say in what our gifts are, the Bible clearly

states that we are wholly responsible for the use of these gifts. They are subject to us. The Satanical folks of our day say they have no control over the manifestations of the so-called Holy Spirit. Scripture says, “*And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets*” (**1Cor.14:32**). Rather, these un-holy rollers of our day manifest that they are NOT subject to the Holy Spirit, but rather demonically possessed (**Matt.5:1-7**—This looks more like the pentecostals of our day than it does the Holy Spirit of God as described in the Bible).

Lk.12:48—“*...for unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.*” So too will the Lord. You have been given a gift or gifts by God—the Christ, through the Holy Spirit. Are you exercising it?

How may I discern My gift

As it is the duty of each member of *The Bible Baptist Church* to exercise the gift(s) given unto him/her, we should know what that gift is or have some sense of it.

It seems to me, that the first thing we must recognize is what **ARE** the gifts of the Holy Spirit unto the church. How quaint, convenient then that we given a list right here in our text. Do not think that your “gift” is showing up to church, for if it is some of you do NOT exercise it very well. Do not think that your “gift” is giving in tithes and offerings, for that is not a gift of the Holy Spirit.

We must examine the Scriptures: **1Cor.12:-10** for here is a catalog of the gifts as well as the exposition of them. We find them also in other places of Scripture: **Rom.12:3-8; Eph.4:7-16**. I would encourage you to spend some time seeking the Lord, asking, seeking, knocking in prayers, in fastings, in study of the Scripture over what gift(s) God has bestowed upon you. Perhaps there may need to be some repentance of our ignorance and not using our gift(s) as the case may be.

I will tell you this, if you are about the work of the Lord, declaring the gospel, making disciples (not proselytes), but disciples; if you are “active and upright” as the word “set” in **1Cor.12:18** means, it's going to be a lot easier to discern your gift. If you are just showing up to church, not praying, not studying your Bible, just going through the motions, you are going to have a difficult time. Do you know why? “*...thou savorest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men*” **Mk.8:33**. These gifts are spiritual and they come from God and you don't savor them. Ye are carnal, as Paul said to the church at Corinth.

Concluding Thoughts

Why did God leave me here upon the earth after He saved me? To add you unto His church through voluntary submission to His word by putting your lamp upon the lamp stand through the door of the church, which baptism is a per-requisite. Why did God add me to His church? To bestow gifts of the Holy Spirit upon you, for the manifestation of His Spirit through you that the church, (look around this room, look at one another in here and ask yourself what have I spiritually bestowed upon these here in this room) would be edified and the Lord glorified.