

Spirit Empowered – Spiritual Gifts
1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Main Point: Spiritual gifts are given by God and are to be eagerly pursued and used within the church today.

I. Why has God given Spiritual gifts?

“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” (1 Corinthians 12:7)

“So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.” (1 Corinthians 14:12)

“...When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.” (1 Corinthians 14:26b)

Application Questions.: Have you looked down on Spiritual gifts because of past experience or fears of abuse? How does the purpose of God’s Spiritual gifts help posture you to embrace them?

II. What are Spiritual gifts?

“Gifts are God going public among His people.” (Sam Storms)

A. Gifts of Revelation:

1. Word of wisdom: the sudden miraculous giving of wisdom to meet a given situation, or answer a particular question.
2. Word of knowledge: the sudden and supernatural revelation of facts about a person or situation, not learned by efforts of the natural mind.
3. Discerning of spirits: the gift to distinguish between the influence of the Holy Spirit and the influence of demonic spirits in a person’s life.

B. Gifts of Power:

1. Gift of faith: “that mysterious surge of confidence that rises within a person in a particular situation of need or challenge and which gives an extraordinary certainty and assurance that God is about to act through a word or an action.” (Sam Storms)
2. Gifts of healing: the supernatural healing of diseases and infirmities for the glory of God through willing human agents.
3. Working of miracles: the supernatural intervention of the Spirit of God to the natural order for the glory of God.

C. Gifts of Communication:

1. Gift of prophecy: the human report of a divine revelation that God has spontaneously brought to mind.

“Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.” (1 Corinthians 14:1)

2. Kinds of tongues: spontaneously inspired utterance of a language spoken or sung that is unlearned by the speaker which gives glory to God.
3. Interpretation of tongues: a supernatural revelation enabled by the Holy Spirit to enable a Christian to communicate in the language of the listeners a divinely inspired tongue.

Application Question: When was the last time you eagerly asked the Spirit of God to empower you to bless others?

III. How should we pursue Spiritual gifts today?

A. Humbly believe

B. Humbly ask

“Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you.” (1 Timothy 4:14)

C. Humbly serve

D. Humbly give thanks