

## 8. About Spiritual Gifts And Who Needs Em'

Each Christian is provided a primary gift at the time of salvation to be used to serve

others through the Church. Some people try to avoid this topic due to extreme emphasis by some Churches. The Bible should be used to verify all the information being presented in this course. These gifts are different from natural talents but may be complementary to pre-salvation talents. For example, a new Christian that has music talent may also be spiritually gifted to use that music as a service gift.

- Spiritual Gifts are given by the Holy Spirit at the time of Salvation to All Christians
- Spiritual Gifts are Different from Natural Talents
- We do not Choose our Spiritual Gift(s), The Holy Spirit Determines Who Gets Which Gift(s)

1 Corinthians 12: 7  
1 Corinthians 12: 11



Gifts 1

The Christian does not scan a menu to choose the spiritual gift he wants. The Holy Spirit distributes the gifts as He sees the need in Churches.

1 Corinthians 12: 7

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit (Spiritual Gift) is given for the common good.

1 Corinthians 12: 11

All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and He gives them to each one, just as He determines.

- Gifts Listed in the Bible:
- Prophesying
- Serving
- Teaching
- Giving or Contributing
- Leadership
- Showing Mercy

Romans 12: 3 - 8



As indicated earlier, each Christian is provided a principle gift but may also have several others to be used in lesser application. For example, Papaw

Gifts 2

**Romans 12: 3 – 8**

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If it is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is servicing, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

• Gifts Listed in the Bible:

- Wisdom Apostleship
- Knowledge Teaching
- Faith Servicing
- Healing Administration
- Miraculous Powers
- Prophecy
- Distinguishing Spirits
- Tongues
- Interpretation

I Corinthians 12: 8 – 10 and 28 - 30



believes his spiritual gift is teaching but he also serves and gives through other ministries of his Church.

The writer of the Book of Romans and I Corinthians cautioned Christians about

the way to employ their spiritual gifts. We are always to do so in love. There is no place for selfish ambition or attracting attention to self in the use of spiritual gifts.

The gifts are always to be exercised to enhance or build up the effectiveness of the Church.

**I Corinthians 12: 8 – 12**

To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that same Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and He gives them to each one, just as He determines. The body is a unit, through it is made up of many parts; and through all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ.

**I Corinthians 12: 28 – 30**

And in the Church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues.

Spiritual Gifts are distributed throughout the Church to build up the Church as the Body of Christ in a local community. The gifts should work together just like the members of the body (hands, eyes, ears, etc.) work together.



• Gifts Listed in the Bible:

- Apostleship
- Prophecy
- Evangelism
- Pastoring-Teaching

Ephesians 4: 11



Gifts 4

**Ephesians 4: 11**

It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to *prepare God's people for works of service*, so that the body of Christ (the Church) may be built up *until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*



• How to Effectively Use Spiritual Gifts:

- With an Attitude of (Agape) Love:

Agape Love is an all giving love with no expectation of anything in return.  
God agape loves YOU.

1 Corinthians 13



**1 Corinthians 13: 1 - 12**

If I speak in tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

The way to properly exercise Spiritual Gifts is always in Love.

During this life, we will never attain full knowledge but when we face Christ face-to-face, we will know fully.

This slide points out some ways that a Christian can identify his spiritual gift. Employment of spiritual gifts will

*How to Know your Gift:*

1. Believe you are gifted. Spiritual Gifts are for Everyone
2. Pray for Discernment About Your Gift(s)
3. Study the Bible to Learn More About the Gifts
4. Accept Responsibility; All are Commanded to evangelize, show mercy, encourage, give and help
5. Consider Your Desires; What do You Enjoy Doing?
6. Accept the Confirmation of Others
7. At What are You Successful? What Bears Much Fruit?

always bring a sense of accomplishment in ministry. The ministry will be successful in the eyes of the Lord and the Christian should see results (fruit) from the exercise of his spiritual gifts. Please note the emphasis of spiritual gifts in the Church. They are not intended for individual benefit but for the whole Church community.

# You Are the Body of Christ

Now You Are the Body of Christ and Each One of You Is A Part (Member) of It.

Christ is the Head

1 Corinthians 12:27  
Romans 12: 3 - 13



I Am

Arm  
Eye  
Ear  
Nose  
Toe

Reflect on the earlier illustration of the Church being the Body of Christ and each member being an important part of the overall function of the Church. Spiritual gifts are specifically given so that the Christian can effectively serve in the local Church.

Gifts 6

## 1 Corinthians 12: 27

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

## Romans 12: 3 - 6

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and in each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us.

God is a God of diversity. No two humans are exactly alike. No two Churches are alike. He has purposely given a variety of Spiritual Gifts so that we will perform different functions through the Church.



The fruit of the Spirit is not the same as spiritual gifts. The fruit of the Spirit is the character of the Holy Spirit. With the Holy Spirit living in the Christian, His character will be emanated or radiated by the Christian. These are the character traits that all Christians should be changing into. This is not the typical characteristic of non-Christians or of a Carnal Christian.

**Fruit (character) of the Spirit**

The Character [Fruit] of the Holy Spirit in the Christian is:

1. Love
2. Joy
3. Peace
4. Longsuffering [Patience]
5. Gentleness [Kindness]
6. Goodness
7. Faith [Faithfulness]
8. Meekness
9. Temperance [Self Control]

Galatians 5:22 

The mature Christian, who is filled with the Holy Spirit, should spontaneously display these character traits all of the time.

The difference between a Christian and a non-Christian should be obvious. This last chart identifies the differences between the two ways of life.

**Galatians 5: 22 - 23**

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

The Fruit of the Spirit is the Character of the Holy Spirit who lives in the Christian. Thus, these character traits should radiate from each Christian.

Self-Control means that our physical body should always be under the control of the Spirit within us.

**Contrasts in Ways to Live**

| Old Life in Adam   | New Life in Christ   |
|--|--|
| <p><u>Worldly:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pride</li> <li>2. Envy</li> <li>3. Jealousy</li> <li>4. Covetness</li> <li>5. Lust</li> <li>6. Greed</li> <li>7. Anger</li> <li>8. Anxiousness</li> <li>9. Selfish</li> </ol> | <p><u>Christian:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Love</li> <li>2. Joy</li> <li>3. Peace</li> <li>4. Patience</li> <li>5. Kindness</li> <li>6. Goodness</li> <li>7. Faithfulness</li> <li>8. Gentleness</li> <li>9. Self Control</li> </ol> |

Galatians 5:22 

Following the session on Spiritual Gifts, continue daily Bible reading and prayer (pray that God's Holy Spirit will reveal your spiritual gift and point out how you can use your gift in your church.) Purposefully perform a kind deed for someone else in your neighborhood.

