

The Empowering Presence of the Holy Spirit (part 2)

Text: 1 Corinthians 12

I. What are *gifts of the Spirit*? (1 Corinthians 12:1-6)

A. vs. 1: CSB “About **matters of the spirit**: brothers, I do not want you to be unaware.”

B. vs. 4: “There are different kinds of **gifts**, but the same Spirit.”

C. vs. 5: “There are different kinds of **service**, but the same Lord.”

i. Sam Storms: “All spiritual gifts are designed to serve and help others....The point is that spiritual gifts are less privileges than responsibilities. Gifts are not for personal adornment, status, power, or popularity.”

ii. 1 Peter 4:10 “Each one should use whatever gift he has received **to serve others**, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.”

D. vs. 6: “There are different kinds of **working**, but the same God works all of them in all men.”

i. CSB: “And there are different **activities**, but the same God **is active in everyone and everything**.”

ii. NET: “And there are different **results**, but the same God who **produces all of them in everyone**.”

E. All of this precludes any spiritual elitism.

i. Gordon Fee: “The unity of God does not imply uniformity in gifts; rather, the one and the same God is responsible for the variety itself.”

F. **Defining a spiritual gift**: “a God-given, and therefore gracious, capacity to serve the body of Christ. It is a divinely empowered or spiritually energized potential to minister to the body of Christ by communicating the knowledge, power and love of Jesus.”
(Sam Storms)

II. Is there anything unique about the gifts listed here? (1 Corinthians 12:7-11)

A. Is there something different about these?

- i. Gordon Fee: *“What distinguishes this listing is the concretely visible nature of these items...”*
- ii. They are more controversial...so need some explaining.
- iii. God sets them apart here for some purpose...even if we can't say exactly why.

B. The list:

i. the message of wisdom

- a) Fee: *“The ‘utterance of wisdom’ that comes ‘through the Spirit’ probably refers to an utterance that proclaims Christ crucified into this highly ‘wisdom’-conscious community.”*

ii. the message of knowledge

iii. Faith

iv. gifts of healings

- a) Fee: *“Jesus, Paul, and the rest of the early church lived in regular expectation that God would heal people's physical bodies.”*

v. miraculous powers: lit.: workings of miracles.

- a) Fee: *“The present context suggests that it covers a broad range of supernatural events that ordinary parlance would call miraculous.”*

vi. prophecy

- a) Joel 2:28-30 was fulfilled in Acts 2

b) Defined in 14:3

vii. distinguishing between spirits

a) A special ability to discern /distinguish between activity that is the Holy Spirit and that which is demonic or merely human in nature.

viii. speaking in different kinds of tongues

a) languages of men or angels?

b) 13:1

ix. the interpretation of tongues

III. Desire Earnestly Spiritual Gifts (1 Corinthians 12:31; 14:1)

A. No one has every gift, but everyone should desire spiritual gifts.

i. 2 Timothy 1:6

B. How might we desire earnestly spiritual gifts? Fan into flame?

i. Pray and ask for how you can bring edification to the church.

ii. Prepare for care group and church. (1 Corinthians 14:26)

iii. Obey the Lord and ask for prayer when sick. (James 5:14)

iv. Pray for the sick.

v. Stay in the Word! Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.