

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

QUESTIONS CHRISTIANS HAVE

6 October 2023

When Jesus ascended to heaven, He promised to send the third member of the Godhead (1 Jn 5:7), the Holy Spirit of God, called the Comforter, to live inside the born-again believer (Jn 14:26, 15:26). Not only that, but when the Holy Spirit came, He brought gifts to help believers live the Christian life.

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

1-3 The Lord doesn't want us to be in the dark concerning spiritual gifts. He has made it easy to understand.

He reminds us of our sinful ways before Jesus saved us: bowing to idols and cursing Jesus.

4-6 God has provided every believer with gifts and abilities that they didn't have before they were saved. These gifts not only enable you to do things you couldn't do before, but they make it possible for you to stop doing (harmful, addictive) things that you couldn't stop before.

"Diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit." Believers don't have every gift or the same gifts.

"Diversities of operations." Even if you have the same gift as another brother or sister, you don't use the gift in the same way.

"Differences of administrations." You might use your gift in a different location or capacity than another believer would.

The gifts don't make a group of Christians the same. They help to make them better Christians.

Vs 7 These spiritual gifts are given to us **"to profit withal."** They are not for our own personal profit, but for the benefit of others. When you don't go to church, you are withholding your gift from the rest of the church, and everyone will be affected by your absence.

8-11 **"For to one (not to everyone) is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom...another knowledge, another faith."**

Knowledge: look and see what the scriptures say about a situation.

Wisdom: this comes with age and experience. What have you learned in your life?

Faith: these are people who will encourage you to pray and trust God.

Healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment, tongues, interpretation. **"Dividing to every man severally as he will."** The Holy Spirit doesn't give everyone the same gifts. We depend upon every other believer and their gift for the most effective overall ability to minister and live the Christian life.

1 Corinthians 12:28-30

Here is more emphasis on the fact that all believers are not going to receive the same gifts. Key words are "some" and "all." Some are apostles, some are prophets, some are teachers, etc., not all.

- This shows why it is important for all believers to be present and actively participating in church fellowship. The whole church suffers when you withhold your gift by laying out of church.
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Ephesians 4:7-16

“But unto every one of us is given grace...” Here is a gift of the Spirit that every believer received: Salvation.

But this passage also lists gifts that differ. Not every Christian will have every gift.

- The gift you received is for the purpose of perfecting the saints.
- When you do what you can for Jesus, you contribute to the perfecting of all the saints in your church.
- Hearing someone **speak the truth in love** (vs 15) will be helpful for your Christian growth.
- Hearing **“every wind of doctrine”** (vs 14) will push you in a different direction.
 - You need to counter the negative preaching of the world. You do that by listening to preaching every day, fellowshiping with other believers, bible study and reading, etc.
 - The world preaches negatively to you every day. You shouldn’t invite it voluntarily during your free time (TV, music, internet, worldly acquaintances).
 - One sermon a week isn’t enough to neutralize the negative stuff.

“The whole body fitly joined together and compacted...” (vs 16). A church body that is missing body parts is not going to be effectual in making **“increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.”**

- Christians who used to be in church contribute to the crippling of Christianity today.
- Selfish people drop out of church, saying, *“It won’t hurt me.”* The problem is that it hurts others.

1 Corinthians 14:1-5, 12

Our gift ought to edify, exhort, and comfort others in the church (vs 3, 12).

- Christians should be looking for ways to serve in the church, not for ways the church can serve them. Look for ways to benefit others with your spiritual gift.
- When you are invested in your church, you will enjoy it more.

What makes a great church? When everyone in the church is doing everything they can for other people; not for themselves. That is a church where everyone will be growing as they benefit from one another.