

# Disciple

## Functioning in the Gifts of the Spirit

Romans 12:4-9; **1 Corinthians 12:1-11**

Now about the gifts of the Spirit, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed.

<sup>2</sup> You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute idols. <sup>3</sup> Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

<sup>4</sup> There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. <sup>5</sup> There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

<sup>7</sup> Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. <sup>8</sup> To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup> to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

Spiritual Gifts are distributed by God as he chooses, not as we desire.

### I. Purpose of the Gifts

**Ephesians 4:11-13** So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup> 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.

- **To Equip the Church** – “to provide someone with what they need to fulfill their purpose in life.”
- **Unity of Faith** – Believers stop rejecting and dividing each other just because someone disagrees with someone else on an issue.
- **Knowledge of Jesus Christ** – to have the truth, information of Jesus.
- **Become Mature** – requires a radical reordering of one’s priorities, changing over from pleasing self to pleasing God and learning to obey God. The key to maturity is consistency, perseverance in doing those things we know will bring us closer to God. No longer fans but followers (disciples) of Jesus.
- **Attaining the Whole measure of the fullness of Christ** – Being all that God our Father has intended us to be, alive and flourishing in Christ.  
Be Fruitful, Multiply and have dominion (authority) the earth. Gen. 1:28

II. What are the Gifts of the Spirit for?

**To Equip (build) the Local church.**

**Ephesians 4:12-14** Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ.

<sup>13</sup> This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth.

**1 Corinthians 14:12** So it is with you. Since you are eager for gifts of the Spirit, try to excel in those that build up the church.

The spiritual gifts are not to be used to draw attention to oneself or put on a showy display. This was part of the problem in the church in Corinth.

Members were exercising their spiritual gifts to edify themselves.

All gifts are given by grace from God through the Holy Spirit (Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:4; Hebrews 2:4).

**Romans 12:6** We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith;

Different people are given different gifts. Not everyone receives the same gift. (1 Corinthians 12:4).

III. How to Operate in the Gifts.

**1 Corinthians 14:1** Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy.

Seek to operate in the gifts of the Spirit for the blessing of others, not yourself. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak and move through you for the benefit of others around you.

We must not become conceited, prideful, or envious of other people's gifts. So much harm comes to the body through the misuse and abuse of the gifts of the Spirit.

**The Gifts of the Spirit are:**

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| 1. Prophecy (Ephesians 4:11)    | 11. Healing (1 Corinthians 12:9)                |
| 2. Serving (Romans 12:7)        | 12. Miracles (1 Corinthians 12:10)              |
| 3. Teaching (Romans 12:7)       | 13. Discerning of spirits (1 Corinthians 12:10) |
| 4. Exhortation (Romans 12:8)    | 14. Tongues (1 Corinthians 12:10)               |
| 5. Generosity (Romans 12:8)     | 15. Interpretations of Tongues (1 Cor. 12:10)   |
| 6. Leadership (Romans 12:8)     | 16. Mercy (Romans 12:8)                         |
| 7. Administration (Romans 12:8) | 17. Word of Wisdom (1 Corinthians 12:8)         |
| 8. Evangelist (Ephesians 4:11)  | 18. Word of Knowledge (1 Corinthians 12:8)      |
| 9. Apostle (Ephesians 4:11)     | 19. Faith (1 Corinthians 12:9)                  |
| 10. Pastor (Ephesians 4:11)     |   |