

# Spiritual Gifts

(PART 2)

1 Corinthians 12-14

Romans 12

Ephesians 4

1 Peter 4



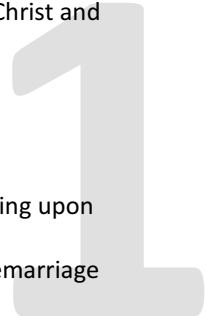
## Why Another Seminar?

### Why So Much Confusion?

- ★ **We have inherited *lies*.** (Jeremiah 16:19; Matthew 24:4, 5, 11, 24; 2 Timothy 3:13; 2 Peter 2:1-3)
- ★ We live “our Christianity” by the teachings of men, traditions, and/or our own lusts and desires - NOT on every **written** Word. (Luke 4:4)
- ★ We have heard and repeat lies that now people and we believe to be the truth. This is one of the most difficult things that pastors have to deal with it in our days. How to convince people what the truth is when they think you are preaching something contrary to truth!!!
- ★ **We are under the judgment of God.** (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12)
- ★ Satan is the greatest counterfeiter. (2 Thessalonians 2:6-10; 2 Corinthians 2:13-15; 11:3; Revelation 12:9)
- ★ We no longer “contend earnestly for the faith (truth)”. Truth has perished and thrown out unto the street to be trampled. (Jude 3; Jeremiah 7:28; 9:3; Isaiah 59:4, 14)
- ★ And we love it this way!!!!!!! (Jeremiah 5:30-31)

### Reason for Letter(s)

- The Corinth Church was “a mess”! It needed Paul’s exhortations in dealing with:
  - disunity; factions; “cliques”; divisiveness
  - theological problems (i.e. the resurrection of Christ and believers)
  - tolerating gross immorality
  - flaunting their freedom “in Christ”
  - abuse of the Lord’s Supper
  - misunderstanding what the church is
  - misunderstandings/abuse of spiritual gifts/taking upon themselves “showy” gifts.
  - misunderstandings about marriage/divorce/remarriage
  - members suing one another



- selfishness
- roles men and women in the church
- head coverings in worship
- stewardship/tithing

★ **THE CHURCH OF THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY HAVE THE SAME PROBLEMS TO A GREATER DEGREE THAN THE CHURCH at CORINTH.**

## 1 Corinthians 12-14: Background – IT IS IMPORTANT!

- Bringing the ways of the world into the Church

### Spiritual Gifts vs. Counterfeit Gifts

- A **counterfeit** by definition is a **copy** of the genuine and is designed to **deceive**.
- Satan has been successful in deceiving many because the church lacks discernment. (Jude 4)
- **Reasons for a lack of discernment within the church:**

### NOW, Concerning Spiritual Gifts (1 Corinthians 12:1)

- “I do not want you to be ignorant”
- As Christians we are NOT to be **ignorant** of the teachings of God, but we are to **know** and **understand** the truth of God’s Word.

### You Were Gentiles (1 Corinthians 12:2)

### No One Speaking by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:3)

### Different Gifts (1 Corinthians 12:4)

- The diversity of the lists of gifts in the New Testament are **categories** – God gives His gifts in different ways and in different “quantities” to His people.



- Spiritual gifts are like fingerprints or snowflakes or DNA or part of a body– they are “individualized” for each person to fulfill God’s purpose for that person, church, and time.

- Each believer is **uniquely** equipped by God. No two believers are equipped in the same way.

### **Different Ministries** (1 Corinthians 12:5)

### **Different Activities** (1 Corinthians 12:6)

### **Different BUT ONE Source** (1 Corinthians 12:7)

### **GOD Does Whatever He Pleases - “as He wills”** (1 Cor 12:11b)

- When it comes to His spiritual gifts He will gift a believer as **HE WILL**  
– NOT as man wills. **GOD IS SOVEREIGN OVER THE WORLD and HIS CHURCH.**

### **One Baptism; One Spirit; One Body** (1 Corinthians 12:13)

- Literally, “with one Spirit” - Christ is the One who baptizes (Matthew 3:11; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; Romans 8:9-14)
- EITHER a person is baptized with the Holy Spirit or he/she is baptized with fire (judgment). **CHRIST IS THE BAPTIZER of BOTH.**
  - ★ Just as one is “born-again” or “born from above” ONCE, so, too, one is baptized by Christ with the Spirit ONCE. There is no such thing as a “second blessing”. The Church is not made up of “elite” Christians and “normal” Christians. ALL Christians receive the WHOLE Spirit at rebirth.
  - ★ There is NO COMMAND in the New Testament that commands Christians to seek a second blessing.
- (Ephesians 4:4-6) There is ONE Body, ONE Spirit, ONE Lord, ONE faith, **ONE baptism**, ONE God and Father . . .
- One is baptized by Christ with the Spirit when one believes. (Ezekiel 36:26-27; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; 5:5; Romans 8:9-16; Galatians 3:26-27)

### **“A” List of Gifts** (1 Corinthians 12:8-10)

- In this list, one or several in the New Testament, Paul seems to divide spiritual gifts into two major groupings: Gifts of **speaking** and gifts of **service**. Though speaking gifts are to be used in serving others.
- “Word of Wisdom” – communicating wisdom. Wisdom is the ability to make **wise** application with the knowledge one has. Wisdom is the proper use of knowledge. The person with this gift knows, understands, and communicates applications of God’s Word to

**lead others into holy living. “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom . . .”** (Proverbs 9:10) If one does not fear the LORD he/she is not a wise person. If a person does not do all that Christ commands he/she is not a wise person. (Matthew 7:24-27)

- “Word of Knowledge” - the gift to understand the Word of God. God gives some of His saints the special ability to study and communicate His Word effectively. **“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge . . .”** If one does not fear the LORD then he/she does not have this gift.
- “faith” - an intense ability to trust God in difficult times. Example: Acts 27:22-24. Every believer is commanded to “Trust in the LORD with all your heart . . .” (Proverbs 3:5-7; Psalm 37:3-5; 2:10-11; Isaiah 26:3-4; Jeremiah 17:7-8; Ephesians 1:12)
  - ★ God uses the faith of these “gifted” saints **to encourage others to persevere.**
- “gifts of healing” – this is a gift that is wickedly abused, misused, and counterfeited today.
  - ★ When Christ and apostles healed someone the healing was **immediate, thorough, and complete.**
  - ★ We do not argue that God cannot heal today. But we must be very, very careful in discerning those who say they have this supernatural gift - as used/described in the Word of God.
  - ★ God gave this gift to His apostles to testify to their preaching His Word.
  - ★ Why should someone be healed? To serve God.
- “working of miracles” - a miracle is a supernatural intrusion of the natural. Again, we do not argue that God can do miracles today. Again, this gift was given to edify the Church. (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:7; John 20:30-31) We know that Satan will use signs and wonders to deceive many. (2 Thessalonians 2:9-12)
- “prophecy” – “to speak publicly”; “to speak forth”. The gift of prophecy is to proclaim **the Word of God** for the edification, exhortation, and comfort of the saints. All “prophecy” must be in line with the **written** Word of God. (1 Corinthians 14:3).
- “distinguishing of spirits” – the gift of spiritual discernment. The ability to know that something is true or false. Examples: Acts 16:16-17. They are able to spot a **counterfeit** when others may not be able to do so easily.
- “tongues” and “interpretations” - the ability to speak in a different language to communicate the Gospel - the wonderful works of God. Paul gives five rules for speaking in tongues in the Church. There

needs to be a reason why someone would speak in another language in a Church service.

- Because the Corinth church was abusing this gift, the Holy Spirit moved Paul to outline rules for speaking in tongues in the Church:
  - ❶ (1 Cor 14:26) Everything is to be done for edification. The primary goal of any church must be its edification. (Spiritual growth/maturity) - Ephesians 4:11-16  
See Romans 15:2-3; 14:19; 1 Thess 5:11.
  - ❷ (1 Cor 14:27) Only two, at the most three, are to speak.
  - ❸ (1 Cor 14:27) Each tongue speaker must speak in turn.
  - ❹ (1 Cor 14:27) "Let one interpret". The word "one" in the Greek is in the emphatic position indicating that two or three may speak but only one was to interpret.
  - ❺ (1 Cor 14:13, 28) **If there is no one to interpret, then all were to remain silent. BEFORE** a tongue speaker could speak he had to make sure that there was an interpreter.
- Every time (and there were only a few) "tongues" was used in the NT it was a known understandable language.
- (1 Corinthians 14:21-22) *Unknown* tongues was a sign of the coming judgment of God as God had ordained.
  - Isaiah 28:11-12; Deuteronomy 28:15, 49; Jeremiah 5:14-15
  - (1 Cor 14:22) "Tongues" are for a sign, not to those who believe but to those who do not believe/obey.
- If a person speaks in an unknown tongue (unknown language) he is the test the spirit and what is being said. If he himself cannot understand what is being said he cannot test it by the Word of God. Just because a person speaks in an unknown tongue does not mean that what he is saying is from the Holy Spirit.

### "ANOTHER" List of Spiritual Gifts (Romans 12:1-8)

- ★ These are "grace gifts" – gifts bestowed upon Christians by God for the purpose of equipping His saints to do the works He saved them unto. (Ephesians 2:10)
- ★ These gifts **cannot** be earned or deserved. They would not be gifts of grace if this was so.
- ★ These are **sovereignly** bestowed by God and cannot be chosen by an individual.
- ★ EVERY Christian is GIFTED (Equipped) by God as it pleases God for God's purposes.

- ★ Each member is entitled to the gifts of all other members (Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:7)
- ★ Every member is to USE his/her gift as good stewards of the grace given to them by God. (1 Peter 4:10-11)
- ★ Christians cheat each other when they do not **diligently** use their gifts in the Body.
- ★ We cheat ourselves when we do not depend on the gifts of other members.
- ★ (Romans 12:9-21) These are marks of a genuine, spirit-filled Christian.
- ★ **Seven Gifts of Romans 12:6-8**

① **PROPHECY** - literally “one who stood in front of another person and spoke to him” or “one who spoke forth”.

- In NT context it is one who PROCLAIMS (speaks forth) the Word of God.
- It is the gift of preaching.
- See 1 Corinthians 14:3 – One who speaks for edification, exhortation, and comfort.
- One who speaks the “utterances of God” (the Word of God). (1 Peter 4:11)
- The gift of preaching (prophesying) is to be God’s spokesman for instructing, admonishing, warning, rebuking, correcting, challenging, comforting, and encouraging the people of God. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 4:1-4)
- Preachers/teachers come under “greater condemnation” than others. (James 3:1)
- **God’s standard for gift of preaching:** 2 Timothy 2:15 - NOTE the words “all diligence”; or “be diligent”; or “make every effort”.
- This gift is also effective when directed to unbelievers – see 1 Corinthians 14:24-25 – **NOTE** the results – the worship of God.
- In the 16<sup>th</sup> century pastors in Zurich gathered together weekly for what they called “prophesying”. They shared expositional and practical thoughts they had discovered from the Scriptures. They used their gifts to **edify** each other.
- “according to the proportion of **the** faith” – “faith” is preceded by the **definite** article, such as, Jude 3. One’s preaching (prophesying) is **limited** the what has already been revealed.

- Paul warned us in Galatians 1:8 that if **anyone** preached another gospel that he was accursed!
- Pastors are charged to preach (*kerusso* - “herald with authority”) “**the** Word of God . . .” (2 Tim 4:1-2)

② **SERVICE** – all Christians are to **serve** each other in the Body of Christ.

- Christ is our supreme **example**. (Matthew 20:28)
- Christ called on His disciples to be **slaves** in serving one another. (Matthew 20:26-27; Mark 9:35)
- This is a broad gift that one is to **use** in the ministering to others.
- One serves, in the strength and ability given to him/her by God, for the purpose of bringing glory to God in fulfilling God’s purpose. (1 Peter 4:11)

③ **TEACHING** – the gift to properly interpret and present God’s truths in an understandable way. It is the ability to **systematically** teach the **truths** of God’s Word and exhort God’s people to **obey** them.

- The Church is **commanded to teach** all the commandments of Christ. (Matthew 28:19-20)
- The early church **devoted** themselves to the apostle’s **teaching**. (Acts 2:42)
- Teachers are to teach the **commandments** of God. (**Isaiah 48:17-18**)
  - ★ Parents are to **teach** their children. (Deuteronomy 6:7)
  - **דָּרַשׁ** (“teach”) – “to drill into”; “to keep on repeating”; “to pierce”; “to inculcate - instill an idea and/or habit by persistent instruction”.

- An **elder** is required **to teach**. (1 Timothy 3:2)
- An elder is be able to **exhort** in sound doctrine and **refute** those who contradict. (Titus 1:9)

④ **EXHORTATION** – παρακαλέω “one who comes along side” In the New Testament it has a wide range of meaning including, advising, pleading, encouraging, warning, strengthening, and comforting.

- ★ At one time the gift can be used to warn and another time to encourage.
- We see Paul and Barnabas (“Son of Encourager”) using this gift on one of their mission trips. See **Acts 14:21-22**.
- Elders, in the preaching of God’s word, must use this gift. (2 Timothy 4:2)
- All Christians are to do this to each other. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

- ⑤ **GIVING** – μεταδίδωμι metadidomi {met-ad-id'-o-mee} this is an intensified form of the normal verb “to give” δίδωμι – the giving of oneself sacrificially.
- ★ Consider 1 John 3:16.
  - ★ Consider where this verb is used – Luke 3:8, 11
  - ★ Consider carefully Ephesians 4:28.
- Paul was an example of this giving when he gave **himself** to the saints at Thessalonica. (1 Thessalonians 2:8)
  - “liberality” is ἀπλότης haplotēs {hap-lot'-ace} and means “singleminded” and “sincere”.
    - It gives the idea of one giving of himself without any hidden motive. He gives for the glory of God.
  - (2 Corinthians 8:1-5) The saints of the churches of Macedonia were examples of this kind of giving:
    - ★ Paul wrote to make known **God’s grace** (v. 1)
      - ① They gave in the midst of great trials of affliction.
      - ② They gave with great joy.
      - ③ They gave in their great poverty.
      - ④ They gave with “liberality” – “not self seeking, openness of heart manifesting itself by generosity”.
      - ⑤ They gave beyond their ability.
      - ⑥ They gave freely willing.
      - ⑦ They urgently begged to give.
      - ⑧ They first gave themselves to the Lord!
  - (2 Corinthians 9:6-7) The Holy Spirit uses Paul to teach us that we ought to give bountifully and cheerfully.
- ⑥ **LEADERSHIP** – προϊστέμμι proistemi {pro-is'-tay-mee} “to stand before”.
- A church needs **strong servant leaders**.
    - ★ Without good leaders then everyone will do what is “right in his own eyes”. (Judges 17:6; 21:25; Deuteronomy 12:8)f
  - Leaders are SERVANTS. (Matthew 20:26-28)
  - Leaders are to be **diligent** in their leading. This excludes laziness, idleness and procrastination.
  - Elders are not the only leaders in a church. We have leaders in Sunday school, nursery, worship, youth groups, etc. – all **leaders** are to be **diligent** in their leading.
- ⑦ **SHOWING MERCY** – ἐλεέω eleeo {el-eh-eh'-o} – the gift of sensitivity to be able to see needs and pains before others.
- It is the ability to notice hurting people and to actually help those people.



- It is not only feelings of sympathy but also to give or get practical help.
- This “grace” is the enablement to come alongside someone who is hurting or in need and to **cheerfully** listen and help.
  - ★ “cheerfully” is ἠλαρότης hilarotes {hil-ar-ot'-ace} from which we get our English word “hilarious”.

## Stewardship of God’s Grace/Gifts (1 Peter 4:10-11)

- (1 Peter 4:10) We are to be **good stewards** of the **manifold** grace of God.
  - “**each one**” – ALL Christians are recipients of God’s grace.
  - “gift” – God gives gifts. **He does not offer gifts.**
  - “**minister to each other**” – Gifts are to be used to minister to others.
  - **Steward:** One appointed to manage or look after the property of another. (Joseph; Genesis 39:1-6)
    - ★ Grace belongs to GOD and is **given** to us. (1 Cor 15:10)
  - **Good:** excellent, surpassing, precious, commendable
    - ★ Matthew 25:14-30; 2 Corinthians 5:9
  - **Manifold:** (Acts 17:25) Life (time), breath, and all things are GIFTS from God! They are expressions of His GRACE towards us! All that we have is from God and we are to be **good** stewards of them. (1 John 3:16)
  - Manifold grace is all that God gives us – life, breath, and everything! (Acts 17:25)
  - Whatever talent, gift, resources, etc. which has been given to us we are to use it in serving others.
  - Paul labored because he received grace from God. (1 Cor 15:10)
  - Paul was a STEWARD of God’s grace given to him – see the words “for you” - Colossians 1:24-27 also see Ephesians 3:1; 3:13.
  - Each member of the Body is to use his/her gifts for the edification of the Body. (Ephesians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 12:7)

## Faithful and Good Servants (Matthew 25:14-30)

- Just as the “chef” or “boss” delivered “talents” to each of his servants, so, too, God has bestowed upon His children certain “gifts”.
- Just as the “chef” expected his servants to “invest” that which he gave, so, too, God expects His children to use the gifts that He has given.

- The promises:
  - ❶ Those who use what is given will be given more (more responsibility).
  - ❷ They will hear, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.”
  - ❸ BUT – “Cast out the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

### **IT IS GOD – NOT MAN** (1 Corinthians 12:11)

- GOD **works** all these things! – Consider Philippians 2:13.
  - ★ Spiritual gifts are God’s enablements for His saints to accomplish **HIS** purpose.
- GOD **distributes** HIS gifts **individually** as HE WILL.
- GOD **gifts** each member to make the Body complete.
- Consider Matthew 20:15; Romans 12:6; 1 Peter 4:10-11.



