

## Spiritual Gifts

I Cor 12: 1-12

8/19/01

- Africa Team
- Growth Groups

.....  
Intro

Paul now takes up the next question asked by the church at Corinth. This one had to do with the use of spiritual gifts. Apparently there was misuse of some type, though it's not exactly clear what the misuses were.

Some suggest that the churches misuse of the gifts was causing some people there at Corinth to say that those who were operating by the Spirit were opening themselves up to demonic forces. *That rumor is still around today.* In fact Paul starts out by saying, "I don't want you to be ignorant concerning the Spirit's gifts."

Interesting that the church today needs to be reminded of these same things. This is probably one of the most controversial and divisive issues within the church today.

Some were feeling superior because they had spiritual gifts that others did not. Others were saying it was actually Satan at work in the church. Some that had the gifts were misusing them.

The section is about the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

**I. Let us not be ignorant of the gifts of the Spirit.**

A. Even today there is a balance between the two extremes.

- Within certain Pentecostal churches, there can be abuses of the gifts of the

Spirit because people are ignorant of their true operation.

- Within very conservative churches, the gifts are dismissed as not being possible today.
- I'm not comfortable with either extreme.

***Illus- That's actually how I came to Calvary Chapel. I wanted to find a church that believed the scriptures as they were written.***

B. There was a rumor going around that if someone opened themselves up to the Spirit that they could be used of Satan instead.

***Illus- Jesus said to His disciples in Luke 11:11-13, "If your son asks for an egg you would not give him a scorpion instead." If one of God's children asks for the Spirit would he give him a demon instead?***

Vs 1-3

- Paul clarifies and says, "No one speaking by the Spirit can say, 'Jesus is accursed.'"
- Further, Paul gives the other side of that coin by saying that no one can truly call Jesus their Lord unless the Spirit is within Him.

C. Interesting that the demonstration of the presence of the Spirit is not in a gift, but rather that someone has Jesus as Lord.

- Some say that **evidence of the Holy Spirit** is in speaking in tongues. But the

emphasis should be on having Jesus be Lord.

- **Maturity in the Spirit** is better seen in the fruit of the Spirit. Gifts must be matured and developed, but fruit that is seen has been ripened on the vine.

**II. The Spirit's manifestations are given for the common good. (Vs 4-7)**

A. Some feel superior if they have a certain gift.

- This is actually due to ignorance.
- And evidence that one can have a gift and not be mature.

B. There are a variety of gifts, ministries, and effects (operations).

Vs

- So we should not think that the Spirit operates the same in each person.

*Illus—Some try to imitate the experience of others. Someone is praying on their face, under the piano and gets this warm feeling starting at their head....*

C. The Spirit gives gifts for the common good.

- They are not given for our personal manipulation.

*Illus- He wouldn't give a word of knowledge so someone would know the winning Lotto numbers.*

**III. The gifts are distributed throughout the church.**

A. Word of Wisdom.

- The gift of wisely applying knowledge of God's principles and His Word.

*Illus – Sometimes in counseling I have no idea what to say until God reveals it.*

*Illus- Jesus and the woman caught in adultery and paying taxes.*

B. Word of Knowledge.

- Knowing what's really happening in a situation.

*Illus- Jesus and the woman at the well.*

C. Faith.

- It's not our faith, but His – Acts 3

*Illus – "Lord I believe, help me in my unbelief."*

**Conclusion**

**The Spirit distributes as He wills. Our part is to be focused on the Lord, not on the gifts.**

**Also, if we be focused on other's needs, then the Lord wants to help us in our desire to minister to others.**

**Sometimes, we're way too self-focused and we need to remember that we each have a role in the church.**