

40 Days *WITH* the HOLY SPIRIT

Small Group Curriculum

Session One CONCERNING THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

In Paul's letter to the Corinthian Church, he addresses a number of issues that were affecting the unity within the church. In particular in chapters **12-14** Paul gave practical instructions on how to use spiritual gifts.

1 Corinthians 12:1-11 (nkjv) Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant: ² You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led. ³ Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. ⁴ There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. ⁶ And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. ⁷ But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: ⁸ for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

In summary, Paul was explaining that the Holy Spirit distributes various Spiritual Gifts to continue the miraculous ministry of Jesus through His Body (the Church) on earth.

In 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 the apostle Paul lists these gifts into three categories.

- **Gifts of REVELATION** Word of Wisdom - Word of Knowledge - Discerning of Spirits.
- **Gifts of POWER** Faith - Healing - Working of Miracles.
- **Gifts of UTTERANCE** Tongues - Interpretation of Tongues - Prophecy.

Paul encourages the Church to use these gifts from the Holy Spirit in its ministry.

IGNORANCE

Paul begins his teaching with these words: “Now concerning **spiritual** gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be **ignorant**.” *1 Corinthians 12:1 (nkjv)*

The gifts were present in the church at Corinth. “...you don’t **lack in any gift**” *1 Corinthians 1:7 (gw)*

But they were deficient in their **UNDERSTANDING** of the proper use of these gifts, which is to encourage the church members (*1 Corinthians 12:7*), through an attitude of love (*1 Corinthians 13*).

1 Corinthians 12:1 reveals two things;

- i. Spiritual gifts exist.
- ii. There is a lack of understanding (*ignorance*) concerning these gifts.

Original Greek word for “**ignorant**” is ‘**agnoeo**,’ which means ‘not to know.’ The English word agnostic comes from agnoeo.

An agnostic person confesses that they simply do not know whether something is true or not.

Paul’s discussion of spiritual gifts in chapters *12, 13, 14* is essentially addressed to those who are unsure about how to properly use the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

SPIRITUAL

The phrase “Now concerning **spiritual** gifts,” reveals that these gifts are not borne from human **KNOWLEDGE** or **INTELLECT**.

Greek word for spiritual is “**pneumatikos**.” ‘**Pneuma**’ can either mean ‘wind or breath of the Spirit.’

The English word pneumatic is derived from this. A pneumatic tyre is filled with ‘wind’ or ‘breath’ – air!

A pneumatic gift is filled with the ‘Holy Spirit’. The point is that spiritual gifts are spiritual - not natural or psychological.

If the Holy Spirit is **NOT** present, the gift is **NOT** present!

MOTIVATION

1 Corinthians 12:31b “...and now I will show you the most excellent way.”

12:31 is directly followed by *1 Corinthians 13* which is known as the ‘love chapter.’

- **LOVE** must be our **MOTIVATION** for **OPERATING** the Gifts of the Spirit.
- There is **no** place for **selfishness** use of the gifts of the Spirit.
- Love is the vehicle in which the gifts of the Spirit travel best.
- The gifts of the Holy Spirit are a practical expression of the love of God reaching out to minister to people in need.

1 Corinthians 12:7 (nkjv) But the manifestation (gifts) of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:

Our motivation for operating in the gifts of the Holy Spirit is not as a badge of superiority or importance.

Rather, we are to be an open channel of loving ministry to meet the needs of people.

We are to be an **ENCOURAGEMENT** and **BLESSING** to others for their “common good”.

DISCUSSION

- **What is or has been your attitude toward spiritual gifts?**
 - a. For pastors only.
 - b. For all believers.
 - c. For mature believers.
 - d. Those were for Bible times.
 - e. I've never really had a clear understanding of spiritual gifts.
- **Can you describe the role of the Holy Spirit in the use of spiritual gifts as listed in 1 Corinthians 12?**
- **Can you share an experience when you have witnessed a spiritual gift in operation as listed in 1 Corinthians 12?**
- **Why should love must be our motivation for operating the gifts of the Spirit?**

PRAYER

Please take time before you finish your discussion to pray for any needs that those in your group may have.

FURTHER STUDY

1 Corinthians 12:18 God has **arranged** the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.

1 Corinthians 12:28 God has **appointed** these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.

The words “arranged” and “appointed” is translated as the same Greek word, **‘Tithemi.’** ‘Tithemi’ means: ‘to put, or to set in place, to establish, to institute, or to ordain.’

From these two verses we can identify two ways “Tithemi” is used.

- As a **RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION.**
- Used in relation to the **HUMAN BODY.**

“Tithemi” used as a Religious Expression.

In *12:28* Paul uses ‘tithemi’ in its general use in the Greek-speaking world of that time.

Paul use the Gk word “Tithemi” in relation to the Church, where God has **set in place** in the church the power of the Holy Spirit who is expressed through various spiritual gifts.

Paul, in effect, is saying, *“The Church is the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit and His gifts. Just as the Greek temple was the dwelling place for their sacred idol.”*

1 Corinthians 12:2 (niv) You know that when you were pagans, somehow or other you were influenced and led astray to mute (dumb) idols.

At one time the Corinthians went to the temple to worship a dumb idol! It had eyes but it could not see. It had a mouth, but it could not speak. It had ears but it could not hear. It had hands but it could not touch.

Imagine Paul declaring, “You don’t come now to worship a dumb idol in a pagan temple, but you now come to a God who speaks to His people, through these gifts and expressions of the Holy Spirit that He has placed in His church.”

This should be a challenge for us **NOT** to allow the Gifts of the Spirit to cease and no longer be used as a means for God to express Himself.

“Tithemi” used in Relation to a Body.

In **12:18** Paul uses the analogy of the human body to describe how God has **“set or arranged”** (*tithemied*) the gifts of the Holy Spirit into the church just as He has **“arranged”** our limbs in your body.

This verse says that just as the limbs and organs of our body are vitally important, so are the gifts of the Spirit vitally important in the church.

If the gifts are as important to the church as our limbs are to our bodies, then there is no such thing as a healthy, thriving church that is empty and void of the power of the Holy Spirit and His gifts!

If this were the case, then the Church would not be a true representation of God’s all-powerful Church.