

## One body, different gifts

*2 Cor 8:14 at this present time your abundance being a supply for their need, so that their abundance also may become a supply for your need, that there may be equality; 15 as it is written, "HE WHO gathered MUCH DID NOT HAVE TOO MUCH, AND HE WHO gathered LITTLE HAD NO LACK."*

/Here we have the principle of NOT I BUT ONE ANOTHER.\

One another. Here, one another includes you. Not I - the focus is not on myself. But one another. The focus is on all of us as a body. So I – you – are included here.

/We bless others - and, in turn and in time, we are blessed by them.\

At the present time, your abundance being a supply for their need,  
So that their abundance also may become a supply for your need.

“Lean on me.....”. Ain’t gonna sing it this time. If you’re desperate, the video from two weeks ago is our web site.

/This is certainly the case in the Spirit’s design for our spiritual gifts.\

*1 Cor 12:24-26*

*But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked, 25 so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.*

We saw this principle at work in the book of Ephesians; Ephesians 4:32 through 5:2. We find this principle again and again in the New Testament scriptures.

*Eph 4:32-5:2*

*32 Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.*

*5:1 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; 2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.*

I want to tell you that this passage follows a discussion of spiritual gifts, in chapter 4:11-16.

*Eph 4:11-16*

*11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. 14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.*

We will wrap up our series on NOT I BUT OTHERS in the book of Romans chapter 12.

This chapter contains one of the four major passages on the subject of spiritual gifts. It appears on Romans 12:4-8. Today we will also read what follows after that.

*Rom 12:4-16*

*4 For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; 7 if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; 8 or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.*

*9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; 11 not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;*

*12 rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, 13 contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.*

*14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. 16 Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation*

Not I but sin. Not I but Christ. Not I but one another. A life of humility and forgiveness and love.

/The one another commands in Ephesians 4, 1 Cor 12, and Romans 12 appear side-by-side with Paul's teaching on the spiritual gifts given to the church.\

This tells us something vital: the spiritual gifts are the LORD's secret weapon in preserving the unity of the body of Christ . They in effect supercharge the body. They multiply our impact.

/The spiritual gifts provide spiritual power for serving one another.\

During the recent Barah Ministries conference on evangelism, I gave a brief overview of spiritual gifts.

So now I am going to teach you about spiritual gifts, this time in the context of the unity of the body of Christ.

### **Spiritual gifts to the church**

/Four major passages in the epistles teach the subject of spiritual gifts.\

They are:

/Romans 12:4-8

1 Corinthians 12-14 (three chapters)

Ephesians 4:1-16

1 Peter 4:7-11\

We will spend time in each of these.

But I need to define what a spiritual gift is for you.

First, a couple of building blocks...

/a. A spiritual gift is a unique ability sovereignly given to each believer by God the Holy Spirit at the moment that person believes in Christ as his or her Savior.\

/b. These gifts are for the purpose of serving the Lord and edifying the body of Christ, not bringing glory to self.\

/A spiritual gift is a God-given supernatural ability to serve the church effectively.\

We received this gift from the Holy Spirit by grace when we believed in Christ.

A spiritual gift is a channel through which the Holy Spirit ministers to His Church.

/The purpose of spiritual gifts is ultimately to glorify God the Father by celebrating the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross.\

So..... here is the full definition:

/A spiritual gift is a supernatural ability graciously given by God the Holy Spirit to each believer ( without regard to merit) at the moment of salvation so that the Holy Spirit might manifest Himself in effective service for the benefit of the body of Christ, so that in all things God the Father may be glorified through our Lord Jesus Christ.\

All three members of the Godhead are involved when it comes to our spiritual gifts.

*1 Cor 12:4-7*

*4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. 6 There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. 7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*



/God the Holy Spirit distributes the gifts to each believer individually.\

*1CO 12:11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.*

/Our Christian service is driven by the exercise of our gift.\

And we have the choice about whether we exercise our gift or not.

We are stewards of the many-faceted grace of God.

*1 Peter 4:10-11*

*As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 11 Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever.*

*Amen.*

/Our spiritual gift in action is a direct manifestation of the Spirit working through us.\

Our spiritual gift in action is actually the Spirit of God working through us to accomplish His task, rather than the us doing something and asking God for help with the job.

/Next Sunday, we will seek to understand the overall framework of spiritual gifts.\

We will see that some gifts were temporary. They only functioned during the first generation of the church.

There are also permanent spiritual gifts. These are the ones that are distributed to our congregation today.

The permanent gifts of the church age first emerged with the ministry of the apostle Paul. They will be in effect until the rapture of the church.

We will briefly look at the temporary gifts. Then it will be on to the permanent gifts. We'll spend the bulk of our time on these permanent spiritual gifts, since they pertain directly to us.

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Framework:

Temporary versus Permanent

Temporary: Foundation, Sign, Revelatory

These temporary gifts operated during the first generation of the church - the era of the apostles. This era began with public ministry of Jesus and ending with the death of the last apostle, John. This era lasted about 60 years: AD 30 to AD 90.

Timeline: The chronological order of the epistles and the book of Acts

Sign gifts seem to have ended before 70 AD when the Romans completely demolished Jerusalem and sent the Jews into exile. Sign gifts are prominent in the first half of the book of Acts, but much less so in the second half.

It's notable that the sign gifts are not mentioned in any epistle later than the book of 2 Corinthians. Even in 2 Corinthians, they are spoken of as past occurrences.

*2 Cor 12:11-13*

*I have become foolish; you yourselves compelled me. Actually I should have been commended by you, for in no respect was I inferior to the most eminent apostles, even though I am a nobody. 12 The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.*

Paul includes no sign gifts in his teaching on spiritual gifts in Romans 12.

In the book of Romans, Paul says that he was given sign gifts in order to complete his mission of preaching the gospel . He speaks of the sign gifts in the past tense.

*Rom 15:18-20*

*18 For I will not presume to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me, resulting in the obedience of the Gentiles by word and deed, 19 in the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit; so that from Jerusalem and round about as far as Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.*

Paul wrote the book of Romans in Corinth in AD 57. After that, none of his letters mention the sign gifts.

There is a brief mention of signs in the book of Hebrews, looking back to the past.

*Heb 2:1-4*

*2 For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it. 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, 3 how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, 4 God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.*

Permanent: Speaking and Serving

These gifts are for the church. They began with the public ministry of Paul (about 40 AD) and will continue to operate until the rapture (which could happen at any time).