

## Now, concerning spiritual gifts

We will wrap up our series on NOT I BUT ONE ANOTHER 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.\

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.

/First, we will go to these passages to learn the characteristics of spiritual gifts. \

We begin in 1 Corinthians 12:1.

/1 Corinthians gives the most extensive teaching on the spiritual gifts. This letter devotes three chapters to the subject of spiritual gifts.\

*1 Cor 12:1-6*

*12 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware. 2 You know that when you were pagans, you were led astray to the mute idols, however you were led. 3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed"; and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.*

*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.*

/The first noteworthy thing is that all three members of the Trinity are involved with the spiritual gifts.\

/The Spirit gives the gifts.  
He decides which gift goes to each believer.\

/The Lord Jesus Christ governs the ministries in which believers use their gifts.\  
After all, the Lord is the head of the body.

*Col 1:18*

*18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.*

/God the Father determines the effects that each ministry will have. \ He is in charge of the results.

It fits closely with what the Lord said about His word in Isaiah 55:10-11.

*Isa 55:10-11*

*10 "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,*

*And do not return there without watering the earth*

*And making it bear and sprout,*

*And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater;*

*11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth;*

*It will not return to Me empty,*

*Without accomplishing what I desire,*

*And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.*

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Let's go back to 1 Corinthians 12:4-6.

This time, I want you to notice the word "varieties".

*1 Cor 12:4 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.*

/ The Holy Spirit emphasizes that spiritual gifts are marked by VARIETY.\

We clearly have that here in 1 Cor 12:4-6.

No believer is a carbon copy of another when it comes to spiritual gifts.

/Now verses 4-6 are also emphasize unity. \  
the same Spirit. The same Lord, the same God.

Unity and variety actually complement one another.

/Variety is what makes unity so vibrant. Unity is what makes variety so beautiful.\

The passages on spiritual gifts in the New Testament make this point about the great variety.

/For instance, there are several lists of spiritual gifts in the four passages.\

Let me give those passages to you again, along with the number of gifts each lists:

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<b>Passage</b>	<b>Number of gifts mentioned</b>
<b>Romans 12:4-8</b>	7
<b>1 Corinthians 12, 13, 14</b>	13
<b>Ephesians 4:1-16</b>	4
<b>1 Peter 4:7-11</b>	2



/What's so interesting is that no two lists of spiritual gifts are the same!\

Variety.

/And each passage (with the exception of 1 Peter 4 since it gives categories rather than gifts) has at least one gift that none of the others have.\

Variety.

/Sometimes they talk about people who have the gift (prophets, pastors and teachers) while other times they talk about the gifts themselves (mercy, helps).\

/Here in 1 Cor 12:4-6 we see varieties of gifts, ministries and effects.\

/Romans 12 speaks of different measures of each gift.\

*Rom 12:3-6*

*3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as **God has allotted to each a measure of faith.** 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;***

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OK. Let's head back over to 1 Corinthians 12:7.

*1 Cor 12:7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*

/Verse 7 is a very significant verse. This one verse gives three important elements of a spiritual gift.\

***But to each one***

First, each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit.

/If you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit gave you a spiritual gift at the moment you first believed.\

***But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit***

Second, each gift is a manifestation of the Spirit. Each person is supernaturally gifted with a unique ability.

/ A spiritual gift is a unique supernatural ability sovereignly given to each believer by God the Holy Spirit \

***7 But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.***

/Third, God the Holy Spirit gives these gifts for a particular purpose.\

They are given for the common good.

/Your spiritual gift is not for private gain or enjoyment, but for the good of the team, the body of Christ, the congregation.\

Not I but one another.

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.\

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*8 For to one is given the word of wisdom through **the Spirit**, and to another the word of knowledge according to **the same Spirit**; 9 to another faith by the **same Spirit**, and to another gifts of healing by the **one Spirit**, 10 and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the **same Spirit** works all these things, **distributing to each one individually just as He wills.***

/Fourth, God the Holy Spirit decides who gets what gift.\

/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.\

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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.\

*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).