

We have gifts which differ

Spiritual gifts are the LORD's secret weapon for preserving the unity of the body of Christ.

The spiritual gifts provide spiritual power for serving one another.

Last time, we began our series on spiritual gifts. Recall:

/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.

This is where we are now.

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

Let's pick up where we left off in 1 Corinthians 12. Again, 1 Corinthians gives the most extensive teaching on the subject of spiritual gifts. Three chapters.

1 Cor 12:4-6

*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 spiritual gifts are miraculous from start to finish.

We examined how all three members of the Trinity are involved with 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. He establishes the opportunities to serve others with our gifts.\

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

We ended last time with 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 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:

/

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

We will return to these passages when we examine the individual gifts and their categories.

/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 which 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.\

MORE VARIETY

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;***

There are different measures of faith.
There are different measures of grace.

VARIETY!

Different kinds of service
Different approaches to teaching
Different audiences to teach to
Different expressions of giving
Different ways to encourage

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.

/That means each and every born again Church age believer gets one spiritual gift.\

It is so important that the believer understands this that the New Testament includes this statement three other times in these major passages that describe the spiritual gifts:

Look at verse 11:

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

*/Eph 4:7 But **to each one of us** grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. *

*1 Peter 4:10 As **each one** has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

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

*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.

THE manifestation – one spiritual gift

*/“manifestation” is from the Greek word *phanerosis* which means a visible display,*

an exhibition, an appearance.\

/The Holy Spirit is made visible, is on display, makes an appearance, is on exhibit, when believers operate in their spiritual gifts to serve the body of Christ according to the workings of God.\

Let me say this more forcefully:

/Our spiritual gift is the Spirit of God ministering to the Body, using the believer to accomplish it, rather than the believer doing something and asking God for help.\

A spiritual gift is a channel through which the Holy Spirit ministers to the Body. A gift is not an end in itself.

/ 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.\

1 Peter 4:10

As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

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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.\



Paul proceeds to describe in detail how unity and variety are fundamental to the spiritual gifts. It's right down the road from here.

1 Cor 12:12-31

For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

The body is one. That speaks of unity.

Yet it has many members. That speaks of variety.

And the marriage of unity and variety is beautiful, even with the human body.

How much more then is the beauty of the body of Christ. It has many members, yet one body.

One Spirit baptized all of us into one body. Notice the variety here. Jews and Greeks – nationalities. Slaves and free – different statuses. Yet we were all made to drink of the one Spirit.

Next, Paul returns to the human body. He describes different members of the human body.

14 For the body is not one member, but many. 15 If the foot says, "Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. 16 And if the ear says, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body," it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be?

Here Paul makes the point that variety is necessary for the proper functioning of the human body.

18 But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. 19 If they were all one member, where would the body be? 20 But now there are many members, but one body. 21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; or again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

This variety is by God's design. And the fact is that a body is not a body without variety in the members of that body. This is just as true of the body of Christ if not more so.

22 On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; 23 and those members of the body which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our less presentable members become much more presentable, 24 whereas our more presentable members have no need of it.

Some members seem to be weaker.

This is true of the human body.

The little toe seems to be weaker than the big toe. But the little toe is necessary to the proper functioning of the foot. If it is missing, it makes it harder to walk. And that in turn affects the entire body. Less walking means less aerobic exercise. That affects the heart and lungs. And so forth.

Some members of the human body we deem less honorable than others. We bestow more abundant honor on them.

Consider which body parts we clothe. When we go swimming, which body parts do we typically cover? The reproductive organs and the organs of digestion and elimination.

The focus has shifted from the human body to the body of Christ.

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.

Notice the end of this long sentence. God has composed the body so that the members may have the same care for one another.

This is no longer about the human body.

God has so composed the body of Christ so that there may be no division .

In other words, God has designed the body of Christ to preserve the unity.

How? He has given more abundant honor to that member which lacked.

Notice: GOD has given the honor. We do not.

God has given more honor to the weaker and less presentable members of the congregation.

How has He provided this more abundant honor? Through the giving of spiritual gifts.

Paul said something similar back in 1 Corinthians 1:26-30.

1 Cor 1:26-30

26 For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; 27 but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, 28 and the base things of the world and

the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, 29 so that no man may boast before God.

This is not a salvation passage, though many try to make it so.

It is about election, but not at all the way the Calvinists would have election be.

It is about God electing believers.

God has chosen the foolish believers in the eyes of the world to shame the wise.

He has elected to have spiritual gifts of prophet and teacher and wisdom

He has chosen or elected the weak believers to shame the things that are strong.

He gives the poor believer the gift of giving or the gift of administration and leadership.

He has chosen the despised believers, so that He may nullify the things that are.

Some members of the congregation are weaker than others.

In 1 Corinthians 8:7, the weak are immature Gentile believers. Then in 1 Corinthians 12:13, Paul refers to the Jew and the Gentile. Some in the congregation were thinking less of the immature Gentile believers.

In the same way, Paul talks about slave and free.

The slave was deemed (again, by men) as less honorable and less presentable.

God has given the more important gifts to men who were weaker and less honorable.

That includes the apostles.

1 Cor 4:9-13

9 For, I think, God has exhibited us apostles last of all, as men condemned to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.

10 We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are prudent in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are distinguished, but we are without honor. 11 To this present hour we are both hungry and thirsty, and are poorly clothed, and are roughly treated, and are homeless; 12 and we toil, working with our own hands; when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure; 13 when we are slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become as the scum of the world, the dregs of all things, even until now.

Paul said he was the least of the apostles.

1 Cor 15:9-11

or I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet

not I, but the grace of God with me. 11 Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Paul also considered himself the least of all saints.

In spite of this, or indeed because of this, he was given the great gift – the abundant honor - of preaching to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ.

Eph 3:6-10

to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel, 7 of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power. 8 To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ, 9 and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been

hidden in God who created all things; 10 so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.

Paul was the worst sinner who ever lived.

1 Tim 1:12-17

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service, 13 even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief;

14 and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus. 15 It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. 16 Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe

in Him for eternal life. 17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

The worst sinner who ever lived. Yet the grace of our Lord was more than abundant.

Let's return to 1 Corinthians 12:24.

24 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.

Here we see the purpose behind God giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked.

He composed the body in which a way that there may be no division in the body.

“That that they may all be one”.

And what does that look like?

The members 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.

27 Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it.

28 And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers,

Here Paul speaks of men who have the gift. There is a definite order here. The order is based on their importance in establishing (apostles) and building up (prophets, then teachers) the church.

then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues.

Here Paul speaks of the gifts themselves.

The word for “then” can mean after that, in the sense of time, as well as in importance.

Tongues is last on the list. It has the least utility and value in building up the congregation.

Then Paul recaps the vital importance of the varieties of gifts.

29 All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not workers of miracles, are they? 30 All do not have gifts

of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they? 31 But earnestly desire the greater gifts.

And I show you a still more excellent way.

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Let's return to 1 Corinthians 12:4. You need to understand something else about your spiritual gift.

1 Cor 12:4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.

In verse 4 we first find the word "gifts" which comes from the Greek word

charisma

NT:5486

χάρισμα

charisma (khar'-is-mah); from NT:5483;\

/the root word *charis* means “grace”.\

When you add the suffix "ma" it means receivers of grace.

/a gift of grace; a favor which one receives without any merit of his own; in the N. T. (where (except 1 Peter 4:10) used only by Paul) the gift of divine grace (
(from Thayer's Greek Lexicon\

a gift of grace, a gift involving grace" (charis) on the part of God as the donor,\ is used (a) of His free bestowments upon sinners, Rom 5:15,16; 6:23; 11:29; /(b) of His endowments upon believers by the operation of the Holy Spirit in the churches, Rom 12:6; 1 Cor 1:7; 12:4,9,28,30,31; 1 Tim 4:14; 2 Tim 1:6; 1 Peter 4:10;

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Before the NT the word apparently occurred only rarely. P

(from Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament © 1990 by William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company. All rights reserved.)

a (divine) gratuity, i.e. deliverance (from danger or passion); (specifically) a **(spiritual) endowment**, i.e. (subjectively) religious qualification, or (objectively) **miraculous faculty**:

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NT:5486

Charismata (the plural form)

1 Cor 12:9,28,30;

So technically we call charisma spiritual gifts.

Recall what grace is.

Grace is undeserved favor from God

/Grace is free, limitless, unmerited blessing to helpless, undeserving sinners from the loving God who is completely satisfied by the Person and Work of the Lord Jesus Christ.\

Grace is God's policy towards us and all that He is free to provide for us.

Thankfully it's not about what we earn and certainly not what we deserve ([ROM 11:6](#)).

*/Rom 11:6 But if it is by **grace**, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.*

God's grace is abundant and He desires to shower us with it ([EPH 2:7](#)); it's our job to simply say yes and receive His highest and best.

Eph 2:3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

*Eph 2:7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His **grace** in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*

Please notice the word “show” here.

God wants to SHOW the surpassing riches of His grace toward you and me.

/The Greek verb here is NT:1731

endeiknumi (en-dike'-noo-mee);

and it means to show, demonstrate, prove.

It means to show ONESELF in something.
It means to manifest, to display, to put forth.\

God wants to SHOW Himself in the operation of your spiritual gift.
To manifest, to display, to put forth.
Display WHAT?
The riches of His grace toward YOU!!

God does all the work and we receive the benefits!

/And a powerful outpouring of the grace of God occurred when He decided to give us our spiritual gift.\

/ grace means God does all the work and man receives the benefit.\

God has already given us everything we desire to attain.

/God has already blessed us with everything we will ever need for time and for eternity.\

Our problem is that we think we have to work for it when in fact God has already given it to us.

/4. This word shows the nature of spiritual gifts, that they are given in grace, are entirely undeserved, and their power and operation is due to God alone.\

This grace aspect of spiritual gifts is emphasized in several places in the New Testament.

*Eph 4:7 But to each one of us **grace** was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.*

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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,*

*/1 Peter 4:10 As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the **manifold grace of God.***

pneumatikon tells us that spiritual gifts come from the Holy Spirit. *charisma* teaches us that they are gifts of God's grace.

They are not something we earn or deserve.

All gifts are “charismatic” because all gifts are freely given by a gracious God.

[NEXT: The purpose – Master pp 171-176

The gifts themselves – Master pp 176-177 plus “One Body, different gifts pp.10-14

[Temporary / Permanent]

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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).